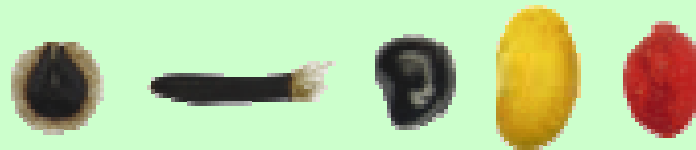


# Achievements of the European Native Seed Conservation Network ENSCONET

[www.ensconet.eu](http://www.ensconet.eu)



Dr Ruth Eastwood, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



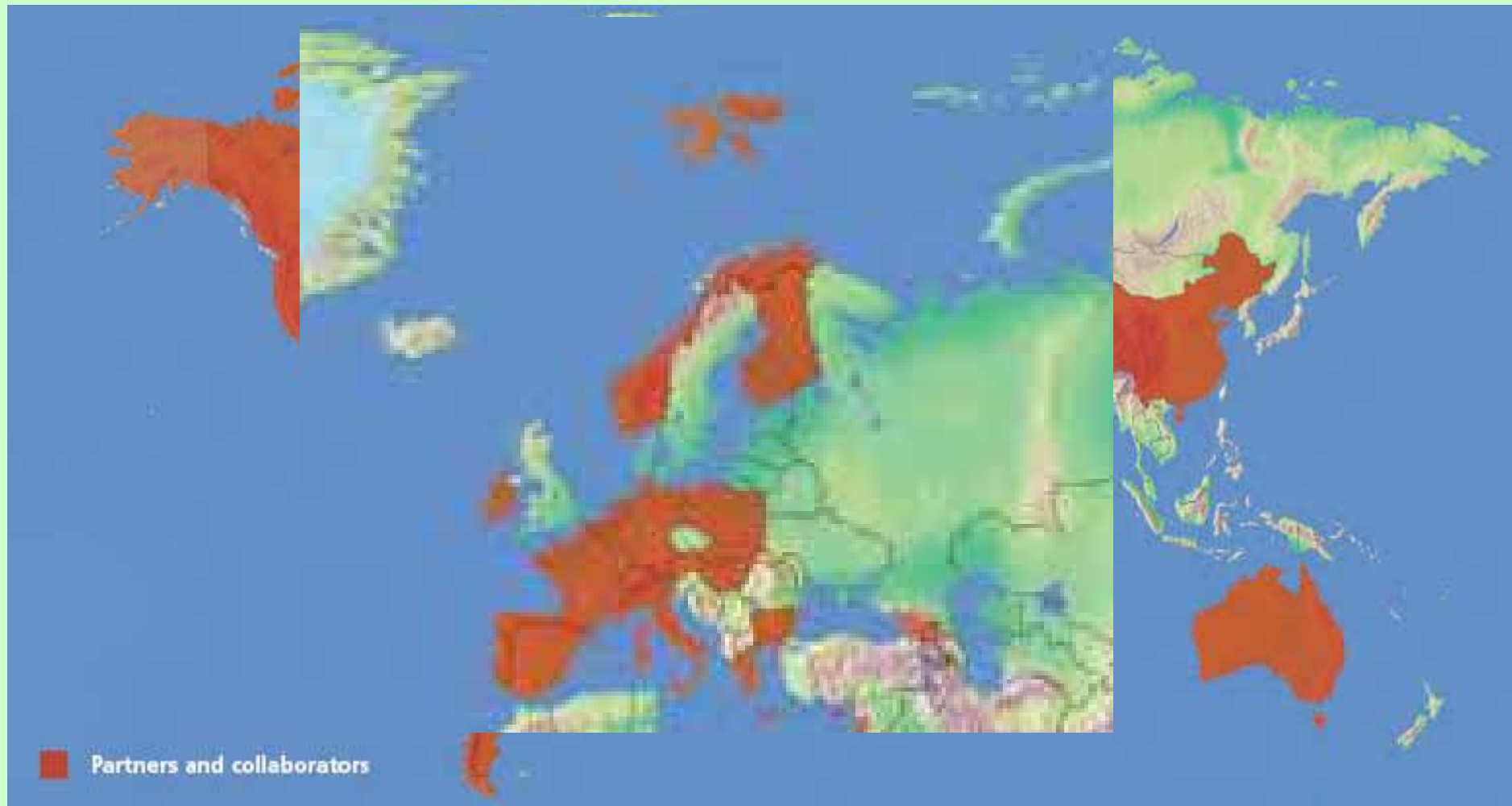
# Introduction to ENSCONET

(**E**uropean **N**ative **S**eed **C**onservation **N**etwork)

# ENSCONET

- FP6 Coordination Action
- €2.5 million contribution
- Nov 2004 - Oct 2009
- initiated and co-ordinated by the  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

## ENSCONET & the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP)

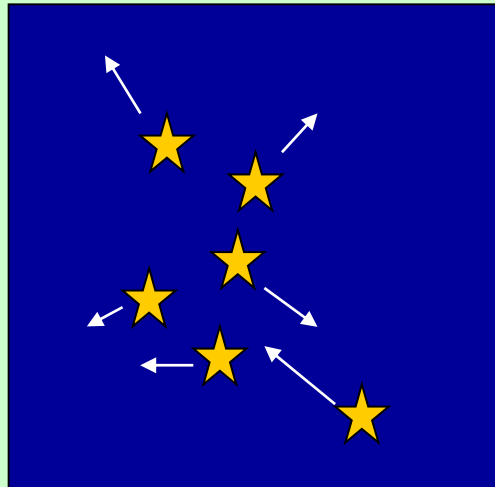


# ENSCONET purposes

- Improve quality, co-ordination and integration of European seed conservation practice, policy and research for native plant species
- To assist EU conservation policy and its obligations to the CBD and its Global Strategy for Plant Conservation



# ENSCONET purposes



Bring together isolated activities and institutions to maximise effect





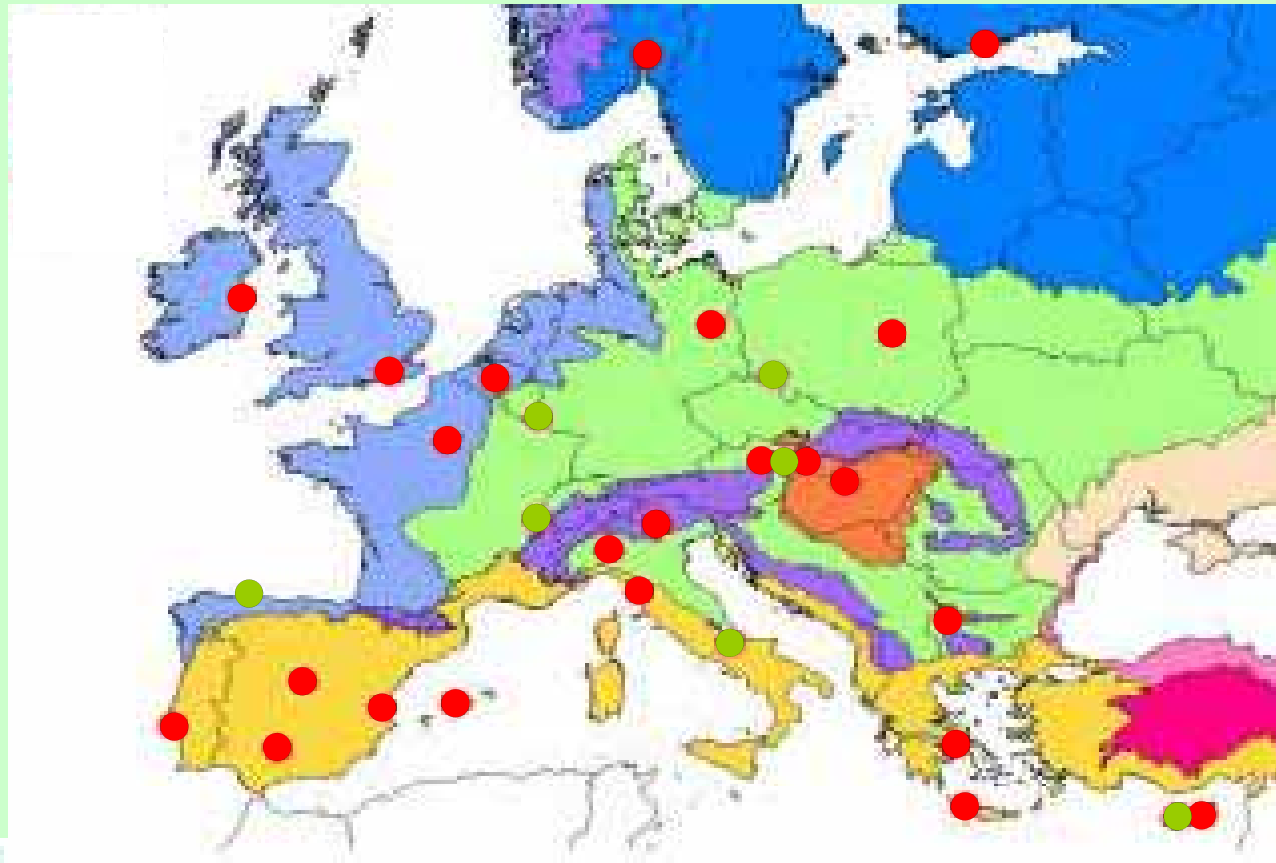




# ENSCONET Participants

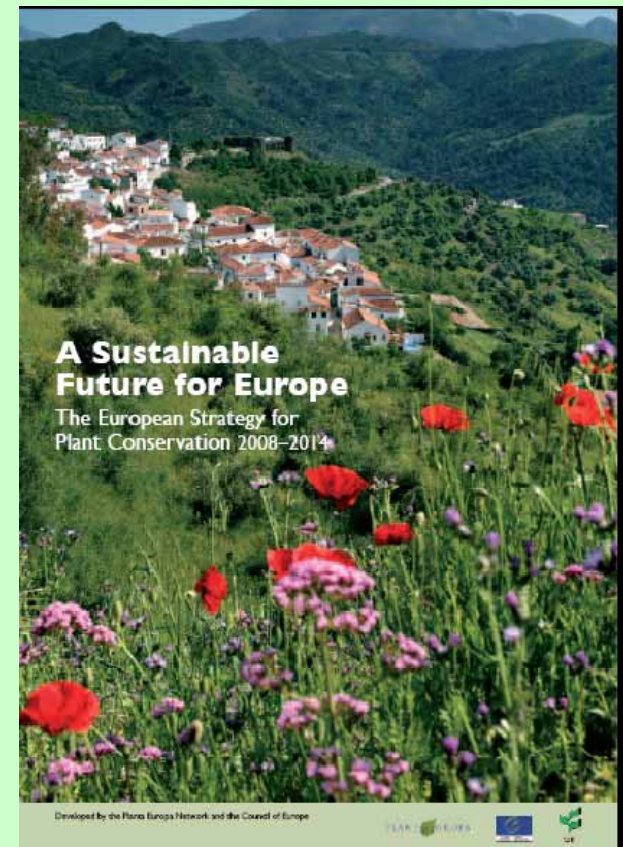
(24 full members & 7 associates)

-  Alpine
-  Anatolian
-  Arctic
-  Atlantic
-  Black Sea
-  Boreal
-  Continental
-  Macaronesian
-  Mediterranean
-  Pannonian
-  Steppic



# ENSCONET & the European Strategy for Plant Conservation (2008-2014)

- Lead Partner
- Targets 3.1 & 8.1



“Europe is very fortunate having a well organised network for the *ex situ* conservation of seeds of plant species – ENSCONET”

Heywood, 2009

The Impacts of Climate Change on Plant Species in Europe  
Report for the Council of Europe

“The network has linked a powerful group and diversity of institutions to target seed conservation needs for European wild plants for the first time”



Botanic Gardens Conservation International, 2009  
Plant Conservation Report


# ENSCONET

## Activity Areas

# Activity Areas

 **Collecting**

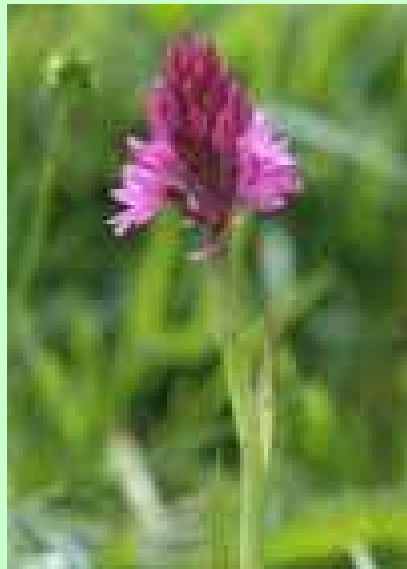
 **Data Management**

 **Curation**

 **Dissemination**

# Collecting

- United holdings list
- Priority lists generated
- Collecting Manual



# **Collecting Manual aims**

- Promote high standards
- Maximise capture of genetic diversity
- Improve longevity of collections

## **Seed Collecting Manual** FOR WILD SPECIES

Man editors:  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK) &  
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)

Version: 17 March 2009\*

\*This document will be updated as improvements become approved



# Collecting Manual



- Joint Expertise
- Online
- English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish



# 🌾 Curation 🌾

- European Seed Bank facilities documented
- Expertise and facilities shared
- Curation Manual



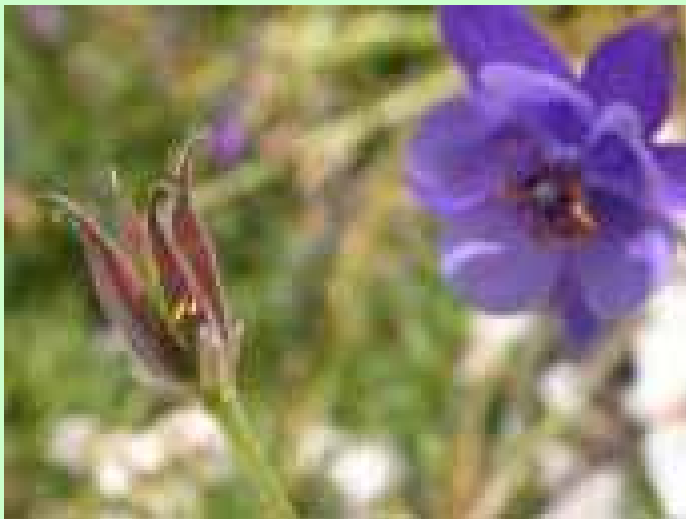
# Curation

- Best-practice recommendations
- Online
- English, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish



# ● Data Management ●

- Protocol for recording seed germination data
- Data management system
- ENSCOBASE
- ENSCOBASE tool



# ENSCOBASE

- 29 institutions
- 42 000 accessions
- 21 000 germination tests
- 9300 taxa
- 11 bioregions



**Accessible online**



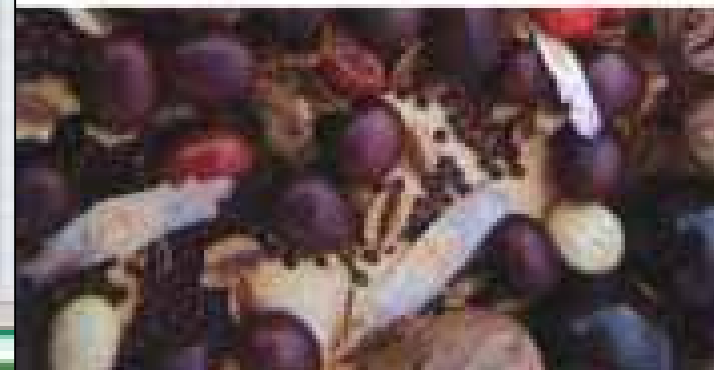
# ENSCOBASE

- 27% BGCI European Threatened taxa
- 44% Habitats Directive species
- 62% taxa are CWR

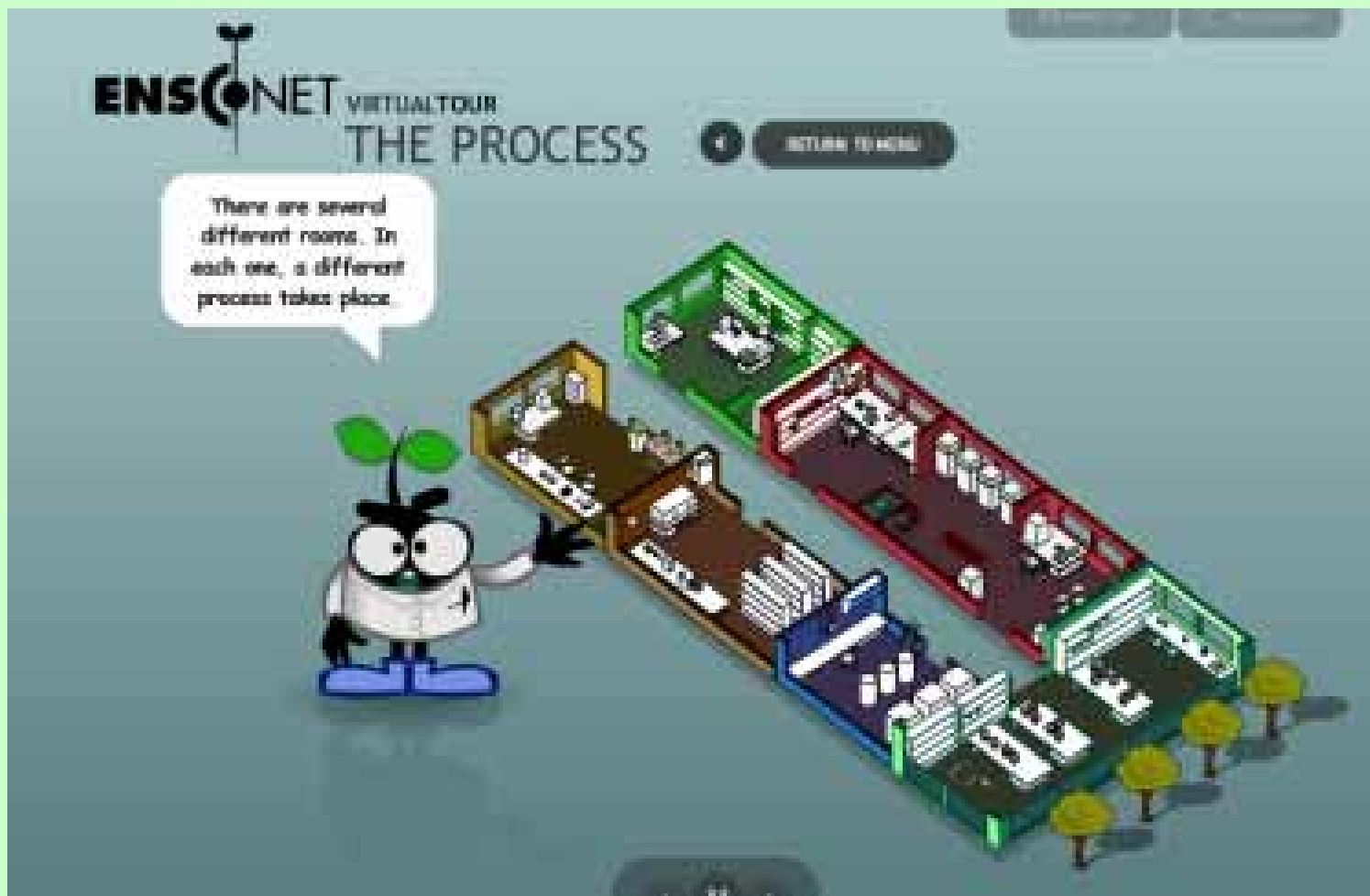


# Dissemination

- Website [www.ensconet.eu](http://www.ensconet.eu)
- Electronic forums
- ENSCONET logo
- Virtual mascot



# Dissemination



<http://www.ensconet.eu/Tour.htm>

# Future outlook



# Consortium

# ENSCRI

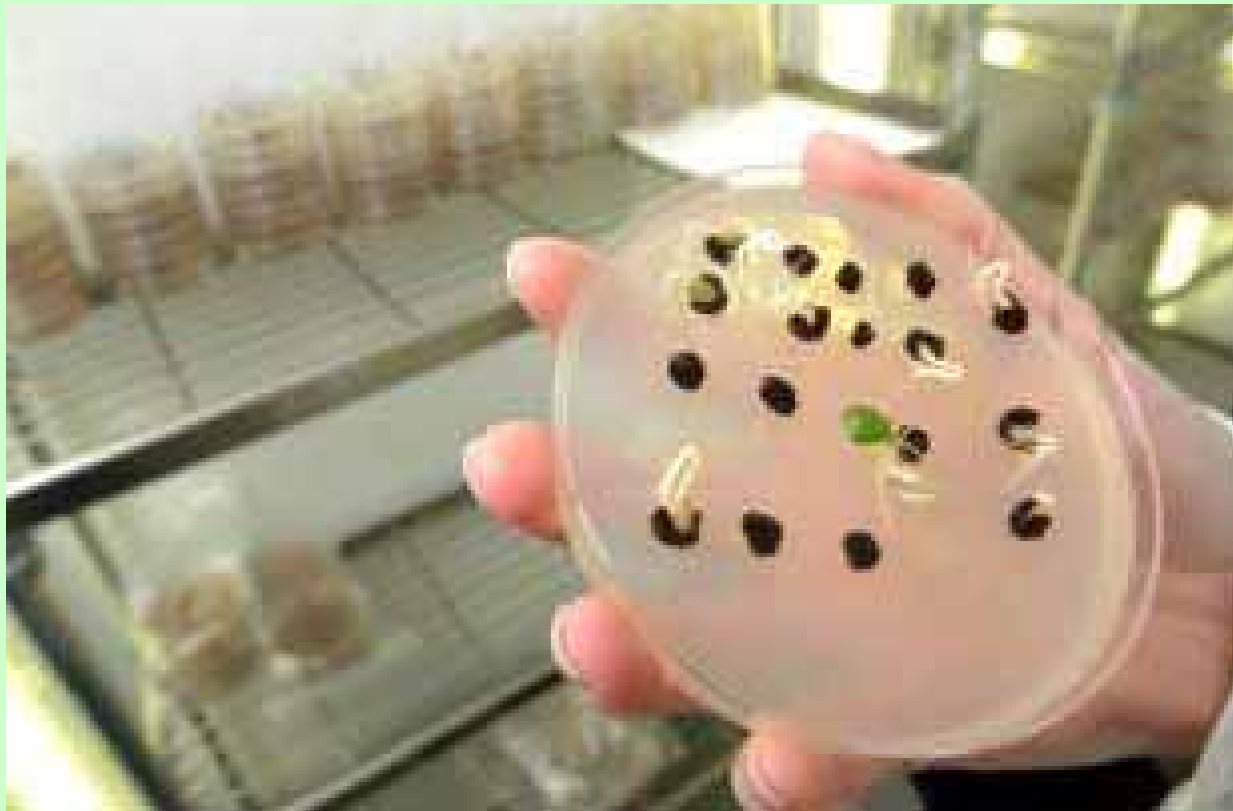
European Native Seed Conservation  
Research Infrastructure



# **Native Seed Banks and Crop Genetic Resource Banks/Reserves**

- Common interest
- Same threats and problems
- Complementary knowledge and activities

# Collaboration areas



Germination problem solving

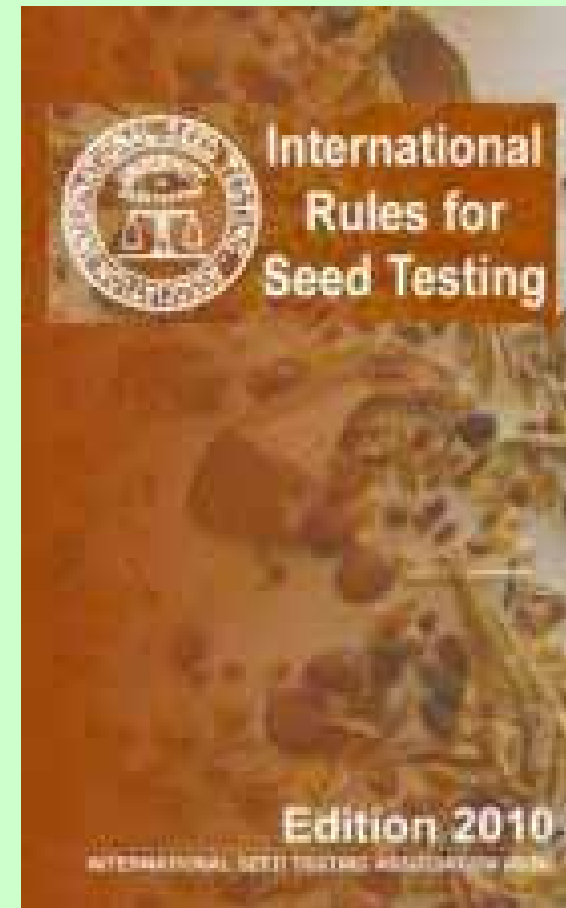
# Collaboration areas



Storage behaviour investigations

Alternative storage methods

# Collaboration areas



Comparison of standards and curation methods

# Collaboration areas



Seed storage/Duplication

# Summary of achievements

# **ENSCONET – Achievements**

1. Successful network created
2. Seed bank standards raised
3. Co-ordinated collecting plans formed
4. A voice for native species seed banking

# ENSCONET – Take home products

1. Collection Manual
2. Curation Manual
3. ENSCOBASE
4. Virtual Tour



**[www.ensconet.eu](http://www.ensconet.eu)**

**Thanks to:**

**ENSCONET partners**

**Jonas Mueller – ENSCONET co-ordinator**

**Simon Linington – ENSCONET Chair**

