



European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)

Phase IX (2014–2018)

**Annual Progress Report
January-December 2018**

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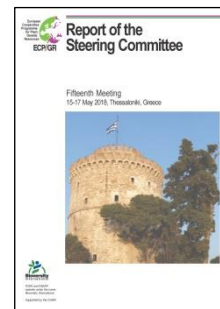
ECPGR IN 2018 – HIGHLIGHTS

Fifteenth (end-of-Phase) Steering Committee Meeting

The [meeting](#), organized in collaboration with the Hellenic Agricultural Organization-DEMETER (HAO-DEMETER), took place 15-17 May 2018 in Thessaloniki.

Major outcomes

Phase X of ECPGR (2019-2023) was agreed by the National Coordinators with a revised list of objectives (see [here](#)) and a starting budget of 2.7 M Euro. The framework for the establishment of a European Evaluation Network was launched and a Memorandum of Understanding for enhanced collaboration between the European Seed Association (ESA) and ECPGR was also agreed for signature (see [here](#)).



(click on image to access the Report)

European Evaluation Network (EVA)

As a result of the Private Public Partnership Project ([second workshop of Phase II](#) held in March 2018), and following up from the Steering Committee decisions in May, the first workshop was held to establish a wheat and barley partnership, raising interest and the enthusiastic commitment of several breeding companies:

[Workshop for the establishment of a European Evaluation Network \(EVA\) on wheat and barley, 27-28 November 2018, Berlin, Germany](#)

This initiative was sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

EURISCO

- The **fourth training workshop** ([EURISCO Training Workshop 2018](#)) was held 9-11 October 2018 in Gatersleben, Germany. The focus of the workshop was on increasing the volume of characterization and evaluation (C&E) data records in EURISCO as well as on data quality and completeness.
- The [Second meeting of the EURISCO Advisory Committee](#) was held back-to-back with the workshop, on 11 October 2018. The position of EURISCO in the PGR landscape and its future role were discussed. It was generally agreed that the focus of EURISCO during Phase X should be on phenotypic data, crop wild relative *in situ* data and data quantity and quality improvement.
- **Inclusion of characterization and evaluation (C&E) data in EURISCO**
The number of C&E data records rose significantly by 1 668 178, reaching a total of 2 293 141. C&E data from seven countries are currently available for 81 818 accessions.
- The “**EURISCO taxonomy**” project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture was concluded, with improvements of the EURISCO search interface (accessions with synonym taxonomy are now linked to each other) and with added functionality offering suggestions to the data provider to improve the quality of taxonomy of the data being uploaded.

AEGIS

The **European Collection** increased by 13 706 accessions in 2018, reaching a total of 47 049 accessions from 17 contributors by end 2018. Two new countries contributed for the first time in 2018 (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro).

AEGIS Workshop

[Assessing current practices and procedures to strengthen AEGIS, 10-12 December 2018, San Fernando de Henares \(Madrid\), Spain](#)

The Steering Committee's decision to organize a workshop to raise awareness on AEGIS and promote its development was implemented thanks to the sponsorship of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. A document listing 22 Action Points was the main result of the workshop.

Activity Grant Scheme

Three new activities were selected by the Executive Committee under the [Sixth Call](#): ImprovLoliumCol (Forages and Doc&Info WGs), EUGrainLeg (Grain Legumes WG), and Training in Triticum species (Wheat WG).

Overall, 31 Activities have been mobilized by the Activity Grant Scheme during Phase IX.

Horizon 2020 proposal GenResBridge approved

The three European networks on crop, forest and animal genetic resources (ECPGR, EUFORGEN [European Forest Genetic Resources Programme] and ERFP [European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources]) jointly prepared a project proposal to respond to the 2018 Call for a Coordination and Support Action on [Joining forces for genetic resources and biodiversity management](#). The GenRes Bridge proposal was approved for funding and the project started in January 2019.

Voluntary contribution from Germany

In 2018, the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) made a voluntary contribution of € 130 660 to sponsor several initiatives described in this report.



1. ECPGR STRUCTURE AND MODE OF OPERATION IN PHASE IX

1.1. MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS

By the end of December 2018, 34 countries had signed the Letter of Agreement (LoA) for Phase IX membership. Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the LoA in November 2018. The list of member countries for all phases is available online ([Membership webpage](#)).

Spain was withdrawn from the member countries between 2015 and 2018 (and the budget was consequently reduced) as they did not sign the LoA or pay contributions in these years. Similarly, in previous years also Israel and Poland had been withdrawn from Phase IX membership.

Two additional countries (Belgium and Macedonia FYR¹) contributed to Phase IX, even though they did not sign the LoA.

In 2018, the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) made a voluntary contribution of € 130 660. These funds sponsored the EURISCO Taxonomy project, two Grant Scheme Activities (CarrotDiverse and Pomefruit C&E), the AEGIS Workshop and the Workshop for the establishment of a European Evaluation Network (EVA) on Wheat and Barley. The amount of € 36 594 was returned to the donors due to under-expenditure of the Private Public Partnerships (PPP) project.

1.2. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN ECPGR WORKING GROUPS

Working Group members

National Coordinators provided updates and new nominations throughout the year. The [lists of WG members](#), including their respective categories of expertise, are available online and are constantly being updated.

Working Group Chairs

There was no change in the membership in 2018; see the list of [ECPGR Working Group Chairs during Phase IX](#).

1.3. FIFTEENTH (END-OF-PHASE) MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The [15th \(end-of-Phase\) ECPGR Steering Committee](#) meeting took place 15-17 May 2018 in Thessaloniki (Greece), with the local support of HAO-DEMETER and of the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

A major highlight of Phase IX was the consolidation of the AEGIS European Collection across 34 countries with 62 member institutions, including ca. 34 000 unique accessions to be maintained at high standards and available for distribution under the terms defined by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA). However, the slow growth of the European Collection was addressed by promoting a workshop to investigate the reasons for slow progress and to find solutions and incentives for a wider participation in AEGIS (see page 13).

EURISCO was managed during Phase IX by the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) in Gatersleben, Germany. The opening of EURISCO in 2017 to the inclusion of characterization and evaluation data was a progress milestone. *In situ* conservation of crop wild

¹ According to UN communication dated 14 February 2019, the country name was changed to Republic of North Macedonia (short: North Macedonia).

relatives and on-farm conservation and management benefited from the endorsement by the Steering Committee of the respective concepts in 2015 and 2017, prepared by dedicated task forces.

The PPP initiative (see page 16) culminated with the establishment of the framework for a European Evaluation Network (EVA), which was approved during the meeting. This framework is expected to catalyze future partnerships for multi-site evaluations across Europe and thus increase the use of genebank material and generate new data to be made available from EURISCO. Support for the involvement of the private seed sector in the newly framed EVA came from the European Seed Association (ESA) with the agreement to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, aiming for enhanced cooperation with ECPGR.

The objectives of ECPGR for Phase X were slightly revised, but still focusing on *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA. The mode of operation of ECPGR will still be based on a Grant Scheme that will assign funds for activities on the basis of calls for proposals. More opportunities for meetings for each Working Group will also be guaranteed.

The need for better communication of the achievements of ECPGR and of the importance of crop genetic resources to policy-makers, PGR users, the scientific community and the general public was stressed. A draft strategy was extensively discussed and is expected to be finalized soon. The development of products such as an ECPGR 40-year jubilee video was recommended, and suitable external funds should be sought.

A continuation of the Programme for a new 5-years Phase (2019-2023) was approved, including a budget set at € 537 650 per year from regular contributions. Hosting arrangements of the Secretariat and EURISCO were reconfirmed to be respectively assigned to Bioversity International in Maccaresse, Italy, and to IPK in Gatersleben, Germany.

1.4. ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (ExCo)

At the end of 2018, the ExCo was composed of Eva Thörn (Chair), Vojtech Holubec, Külli Annamaa, Flavio Roberto De Salvador, Marc Lateur and Lorenzo Maggioni (*ex officio*).

The ExCo held two meetings in 2018:

- Eleventh meeting, 14 May 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece, back-to-back with the ECPGR Steering Committee meeting;
- Twelfth meeting, 13 December 2018, Madrid, Spain, back-to-back with the AEGIS Workshop.

During 2018, the main activities of the ExCo were related to the following items:

- **Evaluation, selection and awarding of proposals submitted under the ECPGR Grant Scheme**
Proposals for the Sixth Call were selected and awarded (see details below, page 5).
- **Preparation of Steering Committee meeting**, leading to approval of new Phase, objectives and mode of operation.
- **Decision about the re-appointment of Chairs for Phase X.**
The process of nomination of the Chairs for Phase X was launched on 25/01/2019.
- **Participation of ExCo Chair in technical and public awareness meetings**
 - ECPGR Workshop for the establishment of a European Evaluation Network (EVA) on wheat and barley, 27-28 November 2018, Berlin, Germany.
 - AEGIS workshop “Assessing current practices and procedures to strengthen AEGIS”, 10-12 December 2018, San Fernando de Henares, Madrid, Spain.

2. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2018

2.1. ECPGR ACTIVITY GRANT SCHEME

Note: for all Activities, details on the implementation and all available documents (interim and final reports, complementary data, references etc.) can be found on the respective Activity webpages. The available final reports can also be found [here](#).

The **Sixth Call** was launched 24 November 2017, with deadline 31 March 2018. Five proposals were submitted and three of them were approved by the ExCo at its eleventh meeting (14 May 2018), at the occasion of the Fifteenth Steering Committee meeting (see Table below, and more details from the webpage [Outcomes of the Sixth Call](#)).

Table 1. Proposals approved under the Sixth Call by the ExCo (May 2018)

Acronym	Title	Working Group(s)	Activity Coordinator	Budget in Euro
ImprovLoliumCol	Facilitating use on the European perennial ryegrass collection: improving access to genetic resources and C&E data	Forages/Doc&Info	Jean-Paul Sampoux	15 000
EUGrainLeg	<i>Lathyrus</i> diversity: available resources with relevance to crop improvement – progress reviews and relationship with AEGIS	Grain Legumes	Creola Brezeanu	15 000
Training in <i>Triticum</i> species	Training on identification of botanical varieties in <i>Triticum</i> species	Wheat	Pavol Hauptvogel	14 988

Overall, 31 Activities have been granted during Phase IX, 18 have been concluded with an Activity report and 13 are still running.

In 2018 the following outcomes can be reported:

- All Working Groups**
[Networking among Working Groups for discussing and coordinating the implementation of ECPGR objectives \(ECPGR Networking\)](#) – Fourth Call
 Duration: 11 months (February 2017-December 2017)

 The report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting held 16-18 October 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, was published in August 2018. A summary of the meeting is also available online.
- Allium Working Group**
[Safeguarding of potato onion \(*Allium cepa* L. Aggregatum group\) and garlic \(*Allium sativum* L.\) crop diversity in North Europe - Baltic region \(SafeAlliDiv\)](#) – Fourth Call
 Duration: 24 months (June 2017-May 2019)

The Interim Activity report for the period June 2017–June 2018 was published in October 2018.

The second SafeAlliDiv project meeting was held 17-18 April 2018 in Olomouc, Czech Republic. The tasks agreed at the first meeting and their fulfilment status were checked.

A molecular analysis (SSR) of potato onion/shallot (*Allium cepa* L., *Aggregatum* group) accessions from Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Norway and Sweden was carried out by the Latvian State Forest Research Institute. The results identified 132 unique genotypes, based on 9 markers. On the other hand, 50% of the accessions were not unique. Based on the project results, the group will be able to promote inclusion of unique accessions into the AEGIS European Collection, as well as systematically implement safety-duplication measures. During summer the project partners evaluated the 264 accessions for morphological traits in the field.

A scientific article about the project's results is in preparation.

- **Barley Working Group**

[Integration of barley characterization and evaluation into EURISCO, and development of specifications for a barley crop portal, with a focus to improve the AEGIS collection \(Barley C&E Data\)](#) – Second Call

Duration: 15 months (September 2016-November 2017)

The Activity was extended and the final report was eventually published in March 2019.

The project aimed to expand the barley AEGIS collection with accessions from Austria, Estonia, Italy and United Kingdom. Eventually 15 accessions were included into AEGIS by Estonia, while Italy identified 198 candidate accessions. Within the framework of this Activity also Germany added to AEGIS over 12 000 and the Nordic countries 11 barley accessions. Another aim was the inclusion of characterization data into EURISCO, which was successful for nearly 500 UK accessions, while data from Estonia and Italy were generated but not yet transferred to EURISCO.

- **Beta Working Group**

[Improving a cooperation network between actors involved in conservation and utilization of Beta genetic resources \(BETANET\)](#) – Fifth Call

Duration: 12 months (1 December 2017-30 November 2018)

The BETANET meeting took place 19-20 June 2018 at San Servolo, Venice, Italy.

The meeting was organized by the Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural resources, Animals and Environment (DAFNAE), University of Padova (Italy) and the Council for Research in Agriculture and Agricultural Economy Analysis (CREA), Italy to convene researchers as well as partners in the industry from European and non-European countries.

Participants discussed the importance to facilitate the conservation and sustainable use of the *Beta* and *Patellifolia* genetic resources, above all as regards the genetic resistances to biotic and abiotic stresses, through strengthening the relationships between the different stakeholders. With the aim to establish an *in situ* management workplan, including a list of Most Appropriate Wild Populations (MAWP) of *Beta* and *Patellifolia* species, a connection was reinforced between BETANET and the Farmer's Pride project and will be further elaborated. Other recommendations emerging from the meeting addressed the transfer of the data (including the C&E data) from the International Database for Beet (IDBB) into EURISCO and the exploration of the possibility to link EURISCO with the AKER project database, the proposed establishment of an evaluation network for screening disease resistance among *Beta* members and the development of a BETANET website, linked to the ECPGR website and in cooperation with non-European members, with a list of useful links to existing web resources about *Beta* networks.

The detailed meeting report including complementary conservation workplan is in preparation.

- **Forages Working Group**

[AEGIS progress and improved access to data on European Forage PGR \(ForageDataAccess\)](#) – Second Call

Duration: 15 months (September 2016–November 2017)

The final report was published in June 2018.

One of the main goals of the project was to evaluate the reasons for the limited flagging of forage accessions as AEGIS. A questionnaire was sent out and the issue discussed at a workshop in 2017. It was made clear that the major reason is the lack of long-term funding for basic genebank tasks, such as regeneration. Today there are over 10 000 AEGIS forage accessions, 76% of which are from the German genebank. In addition, there are accessions from the Nordic countries, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Estonia.

During the project, forage C&E data sets were used as test cases in the development of the C&E module in EURISCO, now available [online](#). The test cases were then included in EURISCO.

The [European Poa Database](#) has been developed into a crop portal and is now publicly available. Both passport data and C&E data from EURISCO are displayed here and updates of the data are made automatically from EURISCO.

- **Forages Working Group and Documentation and Information Working Group**

[Facilitating use on the European perennial ryegrass collection: improving access to genetic resources and C&E data \(ImprovLoliumCol\)](#) – Sixth Call

Duration: 36 months (1 September 2018–31 August 2021)

The preliminary workshop was held 6-7 December 2018 in Paris, France. An overview of objectives and results of the [FACCE-JPI project GrassLandscape](#) was presented. Participants agreed upon a procedure and a workplan to promote the registration into EURISCO and the European Forage Collection of accessions studied in this project (438 genebank accessions of perennial ryegrass and related species and 42 newly collected perennial ryegrass populations). They also agreed about which phenotypic data collected in the frame of GrassLandscape could be included as C&E data into EURISCO and which environmental descriptors from this project could be made available as complementary information. The report of the meeting is available online.

The next meeting of the Activity will be held on 17 September 2019 at IPK, Gatersleben, Germany.

- **Grain Legumes Working Group**

[Efficient management of resources for smart legumes utilization \(SMARTLEG\)](#) – Third Call

Duration: 12 months (January 2017–December 2017)

The Final Activity report was submitted in April 2018. Clarifications were required by the ECPGR Secretary and by end 2018 the report was still under revision by the Activity Coordinator.

At present EURISCO contains over 46 000 *Phaseolus* records. The main objective of SMARTLEG was proper phenotypic and genetic evaluation of European *Phaseolus* accessions with emphasis on *P. coccineus* germplasm, thus providing new data to EURISCO and material to AEGIS. The project generated three different types of datasets including morpho-agronomic traits of plants, morphometric seed characteristics and genetic profiles of *P. coccineus* accessions from eight Central European geographic origins: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Macedonia (FYR), Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Slovakia. Before sowing, 14 different seed characteristics were observed. The morphological evaluations were performed under field conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia (FYR), Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. A set of 12 already proven and reliably cross-species amplified nSSR markers among *P. vulgaris* and *P. coccineus* genomes was applied to evaluate the genetic structure of *P. coccineus* genotypes. Morpho-agronomical evaluation shows differentiation between *P. coccineus* accessions even for standard varieties under geographically

distinct field conditions. Analysis of molecular variability on the basis of allelic patterns indicates a molecular variability of 3% among *P. coccineus* germplasm from eight different geographic origins, which means that 97% of the allelic diversity is common to all accessions. Regarding the genetic structure of the *P. coccineus* germplasm from eight geographically distinct collections, three genetic clusters were visible. Overall results indicate a common geographic origin of *P. coccineus* accessions from different collections within Central Europe.

- **Grain Legumes Working Group**

[Lathyrus diversity: available resources with relevance to crop improvement – progress reviews and relationship with AEGIS \(EUGrainLeg\)](#) – Sixth Call

Duration: 17 months (1 August 2018–31 December 2019)

The first months of the project were dedicated to the inventory and collecting of *Lathyrus* accessions (August-October 2018) and to the preparation of the workshop to be held in spring 2019.

- **Malus/Pyrus Working Group**

[Building and promoting a European Pyrus collection - a case study \(EcoHisPy\)](#) – First Call

Duration: 12 months (January 2015-December 2016)

Summary of results:

149 European historical pear accessions from 16 countries have been analysed with 16 SSR markers.

The analysis enabled to identify 130 unique genotypes and 11 synonyms. Out of these 130 cultivars, 116 historical European pear cultivars were collected, characterized and evaluated with 22 common phenotypic descriptors. Data were being prepared for uploading in EURISCO. The SSR analysis also revealed that 23% of the accessions are triploids. Such information is very important for potential users, especially breeders, because triploid cvs are very poor parents in breeding works. A first draft catalogue in English of 112 European historical pear cultivars with fruit pictures, summarizing the main information on their history, main characteristics, qualities and pointing out their different uses was produced. When finalized, this document will be widely disseminated. It is considered a key element for developing an ECPGR *Pyrus* portal.

By the end of 2018, the final report was still expected.

- **Malus/Pyrus Working Group**

[Common ECPGR protocols and tools available for Characterization & Evaluation of Malus/Pyrus genetic resources \(Pomefruit – C&E\)](#) – Fifth Call

Duration: 24 months (February 2017-January 2019)

The Activity was granted an extension till September 2019.

The Progress report for 2017 was published in May 2018.

A list of agreed characterization and evaluation traits (12 for pear and 14 for apple), 9 pear and 11 apple reference cultivars were planned to be scored by each partner, but the atypical 2017 season with high frost conditions during the flowering period, prevented the possibility to carry out the evaluation in many collections. The exercise was postponed to the year 2018 (not yet reported).

Harmonization and alignment of existing SSR data made progress thanks to the exchange of data for 4766 pear accessions – representing 11 collections from 8 countries – having in common at least 12 ECPGR SSR markers. This exercise, requiring new genotyping of a number of specific accessions from the 8 partners, will enable tracking of putative synonyms, duplicates and/or errors. Regarding apple, the project utilizes a big apple harmonized SSR database (2436 accessions) built by INRA in the framework of the EU FruitBreedomics project. Three important additional new

collections decided to share their data (1446 accessions) under the same partnership agreement decided for pear. Alignment of data and duplicates tracking is ongoing for the German collection and is still ongoing for the two others. Collaboration was started with USDA collections at Corvallis and Geneva for SSR analysis harmonization, although the possibility to compare data is hampered by a low number of common markers used.

- **Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Working Group**

[Promoting the implementation and the establishment of the European MAP Collection \(MAP EUROCOLLECTION\)](#) – Third Call

Duration: originally 12 months (September 2016-September 2017). The Activity was granted a no-cost extension till end 2019.

The Interim Activity report for the period April 2017-April 2018 was published in July 2018.

Partners in the project have agreed to use available funds for collection, multiplication and safety duplication of MAP priority accessions to be included into the European Collection as part of AEGIS. The work will be carried out and completed in 2019. Letters of Agreement were in preparation with Germany, Latvia, Portugal and Romania.

- **On-farm Conservation and Management / Documentation and Information Working Groups**

[Assessing linkages between genebanks and direct users \(LINKAGES\)](#) – Third Call

Duration: 18 months (January 2017-June 2018)

The Final Activity Report was published in October 2018.

The Activity aimed at improving the linkage between conservation and use of genebank material and was the occasion to open a dialogue between genebank curators and on-farm management communities. The final LINKAGES workshop, arranged in collaboration with the EU-funded project Diversifood (www.diversifood.eu), was held 4-5 June 2018 in Florence, Italy.

Genebank curators and representatives of NGOs and farmers organizations joined to discuss the results of surveys distributed to *ex situ* curators and to direct users to find out the level of existing collaboration and mutual understanding. It was revealed that requests for direct use were received by nearly all the genebanks, whose policy in the majority of cases is to strive to make material available to anyone at no or minimal cost. The large majority of respondents from the direct user's side confirmed satisfactory receipt of requested seed. At the same time, most respondents from both sides acknowledged the potential which exists for further collaboration in a number of fields, which at present is limited by financial constraints and by the small quantities of seed which the genebanks are able to provide to any user. The dialogue between the two sectors helped to reciprocally understand the respective roles and expectations. Opportunities were discussed for future collaboration in terms of multiplication, documentation and evaluation of genebank material, as well joint projects preparation.

- **Prunus Working Group**

[Collaborative action for updating, documenting and communicating the cherry patrimonial richness in EU \(EU.CHERRY\)](#) – Second Call

Duration: 12 months (March 2016-February 2017) – extended to end April 2017

The “[Passport and priority descriptors for cherry](#)” agreed by the EU.CHERRY Activity partners were finalized and published online in August 2018.

The final Activity report was eventually submitted in June 2018. Clarifications were required by the ECPGR Secretary and by end 2018 the report was still under revision by the Activity Coordinator.

- **Prunus Working Group**

- [Testing, Use and Alignment of genetic data to distinguish unique and characterized accessions \(Prunus Alignment\)](#) – Sixth Call

- Duration: 24 months (1 February 2018–31 January 2020)

- Following up from previous efforts to understand the ECPGR *Prunus* germplasm and further improve the representation of *Prunus* within AEGIS and data within EURISCO, Prunus Alignment will proceed with characterization of plum and cherry accessions, including with SSR and also testing new High Resolution Melting (HMR) analysis method as an opportunity to approach the genetic distinction of accessions in a more efficient manner.

- SSR data have been generated for 59 plum accessions (plus standards) using 9 markers by the Department of Plant Breeding of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Discussions are underway around the inclusion of these data, alongside ongoing analysis of previously scored ECPGR data (from the PRUNDOC project) to allow a more comprehensive analysis to be made. First and second priority descriptor data for plums continued to be collected by partners on fruit traits through the summer.

- A meeting is planned in Thessaloniki, Greece (dates to be defined).

- **Umbellifer Crops Working Group**

- [Improving the characterization and conservation of umbellifer crop wild relatives in Europe \(CarrotDiverse\)](#) – Fourth Call

- Duration: 24 months (February 2017-January 2019)

- The Activity was granted an extension till September 2019.

- Two seasons of morphological characterization at different latitudes of wild carrot accessions from France, Nordic countries and UK were completed in France, Portugal and Sweden. Analysis of the data will give indications about latitudinal adaptation of the tested accessions, as well as regarding the effect of environment on descriptors and therefore will help in the choice of descriptors that are environment-independent. Wild carrot accessions from France, Germany, Portugal, Nordic countries and the UK were tested at JKI, Quedlinburg for resistance to *Alternaria* diseases and will undergo Genotyping-By-Sequencing and polyacetylene profiling.

- The second expert meeting was held 13-14 November 2018 in Zaragoza, Spain to assess the characterization approach and discuss preliminary results. The definition of a panel of key *Daucus* CWR accessions from European genebanks for inclusion in the European Collection is the expected outcome after completion of the characterization exercise.

- **Vitis Working Group**

- [On-farm inventory of minor grape varieties in the European Vitis Database \(GrapeOnFarm\)](#) – Third Call

- Duration: 12 months (January 2017-December 2017)

- The final Activity report was published in March 2018.

- The Activity was aimed at conservation and utilization of minor traditional varieties. The project was implemented during 2017.

- To achieve the objective, an inquiry form with 52 questions was developed describing the wine grower, the preserved variety, cultivation aspects and commitments. At the end of the project year, eight countries were able to provide the data of 177 vineyards conserving traditional varieties. A large number of vineyards was recorded by the Spanish participant (97). Further vineyard data were gathered by Albania (16), Montenegro (14), Croatia (13), Germany (13), France (11), Portugal (5), Serbia (5) and Austria (3).

The on-farm descriptor data of the 177 vineyards will be included in the European *Vitis* Database. National procedures for registration of minor cultivars turned out to be country-specific and highly diverse. As for cultivation and marketing of minor varieties in the EU, their prior registration is mandatory; it was suggested that governments should all adopt the rules of those countries where an easy registration is currently possible.

The database on "[Rare traditional varieties on-farm](#)" went online in July 2018.

- **Wheat Working Group**

[Identification and updating data of eligible AEGIS accessions in both wheat and rye species \(TRISECA\)](#) – Third Call

Duration: 16 months (September 2016-December 2017)

The Final Activity report was published in April 2018, accompanied by related data (Documentation status of the selected candidate accessions of wheat and rye: passport data and C&E data).

In the TRISECA Activity, ECPGR members from 10 different countries planned to build a more representative European collection of both wheat and rye species. For *Triticum*, the effort was mainly focused on tetraploid species which are also very important species, in terms of diversity, for durum wheat improvement. All selected accessions, which were not yet well documented in terms of C&E data, were sown in the field for evaluation.

A total of 885 candidate accessions were retained, divided in 350 rye and 535 wheat accessions. Half of the wheat accessions (266/535) were tetraploid species. Rye accessions are mainly semi-natural populations, while a majority of wheat accessions belong to traditional cultivars or landraces.

Details of the documentation status of selected candidate AEGIS accessions were provided in Excel tables. The full set of accessions is now globally well documented for passport data, according to the MCPD v2 list. For characterization and evaluation data, some descriptors are well documented, for others some efforts are still needed.

After completion of the Activity, by 15 March 2018, a total of 267 new accessions from 4 countries were flagged as AEGIS in EURISCO: Bulgaria (80 accessions), Czech Republic (53), Latvia (6) and Romania (128). For the other countries the process was still under way, with actions yet to be taken at different levels of the process (WG member, National Coordinator or National Focal Point).

- **Wheat Working Group**

[Training on identification of botanical varieties in *Triticum* species \(Training in *Triticum* species: TTS\)](#) – Sixth Call

Duration: 15 months (1 July 2018–30 September 2019)

This Activity will organize a training workshop on the taxonomic identification of several botanical varieties of *Triticum* and other wild relatives of wheats. The training will cover theoretical and discussion part (presentation) and practical aspects (demonstration field with *T. aestivum* botanical varieties). The workshop is scheduled for 17-19 September 2019 at the Research Institute of Plant Production in Piešťany, Slovakia.

2.2. AEGIS

2.2.1. AEGIS membership

During 2018 no new country signed the AEGIS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The current 34 members are listed below. The number in brackets following the member country names indicates the respective number of Associate Member institutions. Five new Associate Membership Agreements were received in 2018, bringing the total number of Associate Members to 66:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Fruit Nursery Srebrenik and Genetic Resources Institute, University of Banja Luka;
- Czech Republic: OSEVA PRO, Research Institute of Oilseed Crops in Opava;
- Lithuania: Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry;
- Sweden: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

Albania (2), Austria (2), Azerbaijan (2), Belarus (9), Belgium (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Bulgaria (1), Croatia (2), Cyprus (1), Czech Republic (9), Denmark (1), Estonia (2), Finland (1), Georgia (1), Germany (3), Hungary (1), Iceland (1), Ireland (0), Italy (2), Latvia (3), Lithuania (1), Montenegro (0), the Netherlands (2), Norway (1), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Romania (1), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (5), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), Turkey (1), Ukraine (0) and the United Kingdom (3).

The membership status is kept updated online (see the respective webpages [AEGIS membership](#) and [Associate Member Institutions](#)).

2.2.2. Status of the European Collection

By end December 2018, a total of 47 049 accessions from 17 contributors were included in the European Collection.

In 2018, the European Collection has increased by 13 706 accessions. Two new countries contributed for the first time (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The changes in the composition of the European Collection over 2018 are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2. The European Collection: breakdown by contributor at end 2018

Contributor	No. of accessions flagged as AEGIS	
	by end 2017	by end 2018
1. Albania	8	8
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	22
3. Bulgaria	341	341
4. Croatia	90	90
5. Czech Republic	1285	1341
6. Estonia	89	126
7. Germany	14183	26841
8. Latvia	27	27
9. Lithuania	36	36
10. Montenegro	0	31
11. The Netherlands	5853	5845
12. Nordic Countries	3708	3706
13. Poland	303	443
14. Romania	623	623
15. Slovakia	299	299
16. Switzerland	4839	5611
17. United Kingdom	1659	1659
Total	33343	47049

2.2.3. AEGIS Workshop: “Assessing current practices and procedures to strengthen AEGIS”

The ECPGR Workshop “[Assessing current practices and procedures to strengthen AEGIS](#)”, sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture and organized in collaboration with the Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA), was held 10-12 December 2018 at Centro Nacional de Capacitación Agraria (CENCA), San Fernando de Henares, Madrid. The 59 participants included policy/decision-makers, ECPGR National Coordinators, Associate Member institutes of AEGIS, genebank curators, members of ECPGR Crop Working Groups and a representative from the Crop Trust.

The Workshop was a follow-up to the agreement reached at the Steering Committee meeting in Thessaloniki in 2018, to hold a workshop on AEGIS before the end of 2018. The slow progress of AEGIS had been noted, mainly on the basis of the low number of accessions flagged in EURISCO as part of the European Collection.

The meeting was concluded with a list of very encouraging Action Points. The main Action Points include the preparation of a letter of intent that would allow France to become AEGIS member during 2019; clarifications and adjustments of the selection and flagging procedures of accessions to be included in the European Collection; implementation of AQUAS elements, including the testing of the proof of concept of a peer review approach; follow-up steps to address the handling of vegetatively propagated crops, including phytosanitary and long-term safety back-up aspects; clarification about the inter-relationship between AEGIS, the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol; increasing the visibility of AEGIS activities and accessions; strengthening the capacity of Associate Members to effectively implement AEGIS; approaches to obtain additional funding; and to prepare a letter to the Ministries of Agriculture to highlight the results of the Workshop and to stress the value and importance of AEGIS for European agriculture and food security.

Based on expressed intentions of the participants, the expectation for 2019 is that the membership of AEGIS could be extended at least to France, Serbia and Spain. The European Collection should substantially increase its size, the quality standards are expected to be agreed for most crops and the blueprint of a quality monitoring system should be tested.

The report of the workshop is available [here](#).

2.3. EURISCO

The Activity report for 2017 and the Workplan for 2018 were made available online on the [EURISCO website](#) in February 2018 (section Statistics and documents, Plans/reports).

2.3.1. EURISCO coverage

In 2018, the number of accessions documented in EURISCO increased by 19 314, reaching a total of 1 983 376 accessions from 43 National Inventories and 378 individual holding institutions by 31 December 2018. These accessions represent 6392 unique genera and 43 445 species.

In total, the passport data of 596 883 accessions was updated.

The number of characterization and evaluation (C&E) data records rose significantly by 1 668 178, reaching a total of 2 293 141. C&E data are currently available for 81 818 accessions and were provided by seven countries so far (Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom).

2.3.2. EURISCO development

- **Intranet support mechanisms for National Inventories**

The necessary modifications in connection with the switch to the new MCPD2-based data exchange format for passport data were widely accepted by the National Inventory Focal Points. In 2018, there was no need for adaptations.

The one-year project “EURISCO taxonomy” funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, started in May 2017, was completed in April 2018. As part of the data integrity checks, which are performed for each upload of a new dataset to the EURISCO intranet, the new functionalities offer a tool to the data providers to identify problem cases, such as accepted/non-accepted taxonomic names, typos etc. The provided taxonomic data are not modified and the final decision on taxonomy names included in EURISCO remains with the data provider. New versions of instruction documents on automatic taxonomy mappings while uploading passport data as well as the additional procedure for uploading phenotypic data are available to the National Focal Points in the EURISCO intranet.

- **Extension of functionality of the public EURISCO application and implementation of improvements**

In order to address users feedback obtained with the 2017 user survey, the main emphasis was given to improvements of the search and filter possibilities regarding taxonomy, accession, status and collecting site related fields. The search functionality for phenotypic data was also reworked and the query performance was improved.

(For more details, see the Activity report for 2018 on the EURISCO website.)

- **Support for crop portals**

In the frame of the ECPGR Grant Scheme Activity ForageDataAccess, the [European Poa Database](#) was developed into a crop portal and is now publicly available. Both passport data and C&E data of *Poa* accessions from EURISCO are displayed and can be filtered by various criteria.

The intention of this development was to provide a blueprint for a crop portal, which receives its passport and C&E data automatically from EURISCO. It thus allows the Forages WG to focus on crop-specific information without regularly compiling basic data.

2.3.3. EURISCO meetings 2018

Background documents, presentations and reports for these meetings are available online ([here](#)).

- The fourth regional **EURISCO Training Workshop 2018** was held 9-11 October in Gatersleben, Germany. It was organised in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and brought together 13 participants. Besides basic training for National Focal Points (NFPs), the focus of the workshop was on increasing the volume of characterization and evaluation (C&E) data records in EURISCO as well as on data quality and completeness. The participants mainly comprised newly appointed NFPs who had not participated in a EURISCO workshop before, and NFPs who had C&E data to contribute. The report of the workshop is available [here](#).

- The **Second meeting of the EURISCO Advisory Committee** was held back-to-back with the training workshop, on 11 October.

The Committee appreciated the progress made by the EURISCO team, including the recent opening to phenotypic data and the new search function that enables capturing taxonomic synonyms and misspellings. The current role of EURISCO in the international PGR information landscape was acknowledged important, especially its networking function, operating as a hub for the European national inventories and acting as a platform for the European PGR genebank documentation community. A possible role for the future might extend to becoming a help-desk to advise on genebank documentation systems. It was acknowledged that the EURISCO and Genesys interfaces are currently partially overlapping and this may require simplification in the future. For the harmonization of phenotypic data, existing ontologies, such as Crop Ontology, were mentioned as a possible valid reference to point at, but a final decision will require more investigation on pros

and cons. For the extension of EURISCO to *in situ* (crop wild relatives) and on-farm data, it will be necessary to wait for the results and concepts being developed by the project Farmer's Pride. Focus of EURISCO during Phase X will be on phenotypic data, crop wild relative *in situ* data and data quality improvement. It was proposed to arrange additional awareness-raising of users in consultation with ESA. The new permanent member of the Committee, A.-F. Adam-Blondon, was welcomed, replacing the retiring Ian Thomas, to whom thanks and good wishes were dedicated.

2.3.4. Information on EURISCO provided at national and international meetings

- "Documenting European Agrobiodiversity: EURISCO – The European Search Portal for Plant Genetic Resources". Presentation at Genesys Catalogue partners meeting, 5–7 March 2018, Crop Trust, Bonn, Germany.
- "The role of EURISCO in a European Evaluation Network". Presentation at the Private Public Partnerships workshop, phase II, 27–28 March 2018, Rome, Italy.
- "EURISCO progress report (April 2014–April 2018)" prepared for the 15th ECPGR Steering Committee Meeting, 15–17 May 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece and presentation given at the meeting.
- "Integration of C&E data into EURISCO (including IDBB data)". Skype presentation given at the BETANET meeting "Improving a cooperation network between actors involved in conservation and utilization of *Beta* genetic resources", 19–20 June 2018, Venice, Italy.
- "Best practices for setting up a repository of phenotypic data for European germplasm holdings". Presentation at the SPNHC+TDWG 2018 Conference "Collections and Data in an Uncertain World", 25 August-1 September 2018, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- "EURISCO as central information system for data sharing". Presentation at the ECPGR Workshop for the establishment of a European Evaluation Network (EVA) on wheat and barley, Berlin, Germany, 27–28 November 2018.

2.3.5. EURISCO Newsletter

The bi-annual Newsletter was sent in October and December 2018, respectively, and is available online from the EURISCO website (section Statistics and documents, EURISCO documents). This is considered very important for providing feedback to the EURISCO users.

2.3.6. Participation in project proposals

The EURISCO coordination provided substantial legwork to the preparation of project proposals (Horizon2020 and others) aiming at acquiring additional funding for developing certain aspects of EURISCO, and was also involved in the ongoing projects "EUCLEG" (work package lead) and "Farmer's Pride" (task lead).

The EURISCO coordination will be involved in work package 4 (Enhancing GenRes data delivery) of the Horizon2020 project "GenRes Bridge – Joining forces for genetic resources and biodiversity management" that started in January 2019 (see also under section 3.1).

The EURISCO coordination will support the recently funded ECPGR European Evaluation Network.

Further proposals are still under development/evaluation.

2.3.7. Participation in ECPGR Grant Scheme Activities

In 2018, the EURISCO coordination was involved in three ECPGR Grant Scheme Activities (BETANET, ImprovLoliumCol and ForageDataAccess). Emerging from these activities, several new datasets were provided and will be provided to EURISCO.

2.4. PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP) PROJECT

This project was supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The overall objective was to increase the opportunities for the establishment of Private Public Partnerships (PPPs) on the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) across and for the benefit of the European region.

During the first phase of the project (January-July 2017) a PPP knowledge base was developed and a workshop took place in June 2017.

The aim of the second phase (August 2017 – March 2018) was to prepare a framework for a European Evaluation Network. Activities focussed on the preparation of framework documents, the identification of standards and protocols that would need to be harmonized, and the development of criteria for prioritizing crops for kick-starting the implementation of the network. Recommendations were drafted for discussion at the ECPGR Steering Committee meeting in May 2018 (see 1.3).

The [second workshop of phase II](#) was held 27-28 March 2018 in Maccarese, Italy. The [report](#) is available online as well as a [Summary of decisions and recommendations](#).

3. LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

3.1. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

3.1.1. H2020 projects

- [GenRes Bridge](#)

The three European networks on crop, forest and animal genetic resources (ECPGR, EUFORGEN [European Forest Genetic Resources Programme] and ERFP [European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources]) jointly prepared a project proposal to respond to the 2018 Call for a Coordination and Support Action on '[Joining forces for genetic resources and biodiversity management](#)'.

The GenRes Bridge proposal was submitted in February 2018 and was approved for funding in June 2018. Michele Bozzano, EUFORGEN Coordinator, is the Project Coordinator from the European Forest Institute. ECPGR (Bioversity) is partner in this project with a budget of €159k. The whole project is worth €3M over three years. Other partners involved for crop genetic resources include INRA (France), BLE and IPK (Germany), CGN (The Netherlands), Pro Specie Rara (Switzerland), the University of Birmingham and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (UK).

ECPGR-related activities foreseen by the project will be the following:

- Drafting and endorsement of a European GRFA integrated strategy
- Peer-review system for conservation quality assurance
- AEGIS: involving Botanic gardens; phytosanitary issues
- EURISCO: training workshops; linking information systems
- GenRes Gateway (European web portal leading to genetic resources information)
- GenRes Journal (inspired by FAO/IPGRI Plant Genetic Resources Newsletter, discontinued in 2008).

The project started in January 2019 with a kick-off meeting held 15-17 January in Rome, Italy.

- [DYNAVERSITY](#) (Conserving Diversity *in situ* in agriculture and in the food chain), is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA), Call SFS-04-2017 - New partnerships and tools to enhance European capacities for *in situ* conservation. The project is coordinated by ARCADIA International. The ECPGR Secretary was invited to the kick-off meeting in Leuven, Belgium, 17-18 January 2018 as a member of the Sharing Knowledge and Experience Platform (SKEP), with an advisory function. The project will propose a dynamic management and governance aiming at enhancing interactions, complementarities and synergies. The project is seeking to build an integrated multi-actor network of sites and stakeholder to sustain PGR *in situ* conservation, that complements *ex situ* activities and enhances utilization of PGRFA as a means of underpinning agriculture, food and nutritional security in Europe. This project was asked by the European Commission to coordinate its action with Farmer's Pride (see below).
- [Farmer's Pride](#) (Networking, partnerships and tools to enhance *in situ* conservation of European plant genetic resources), also a CSA responding to Call SFS-04-2017, is coordinated by Nigel Maxted, University of Birmingham. Eva Thörn was invited to be a member of the Advisory Group. The EURISCO Coordination is also involved in the project (task lead). The project is also collaborating with ECPGR Working Groups, such as the *Beta* and Grain legumes WG, in the framework of Grant Scheme Activities.

3.1.2. Others

- **Collaboration with ERA-CAPS project BEAN_ADAPT** "[Evolution in a changing environment: the genetic architecture of adaptation outside centers of domestication of *Phaseolus vulgaris* and *P. coccineus*](#)" and [European project BRESOV \("Breeding for Resilient, Efficient and Sustainable Organic Vegetable Production"\)](#)

Several members of the Grain Legumes Working Group participate in these projects. A [Joint BRESOV - BEAN_ADAPT conference](#) was held 10-12 September 2018 in Ancona, Italy, organized by the BRESOV partner institution Polytechnic University of Marche (UNIVPM) led by Roberto Papa. The joint event allowed researchers working on *Phaseolus vulgaris* in both projects to interact, exchange ideas and to find possible external collaborators.

- **Draft joint position paper on CAP prepared together with ERFPP**

A Joint position paper of ECPGR and the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) related to the proper consideration of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GRFA) in the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) of the European Union was sent on 18 October 2018 to the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission. A reply was received on 27 November 2018 from Mauro Poinelli, DG-AGRI Head of Unit D.4 Environment, climate change, forestry and bio-economy. The letter assures that the Commission acknowledges the importance of agricultural genetic resources and confirms that the new CAP green architecture will offer new opportunities, such as the "eco-schemes" under the Pillar I for the support of measures for the conservation of GFRA. Other measures whereby the EC supports genetic resources are the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI), the Horizon 2020 programme and the two Preparatory Actions (PA) on EU plant and animal genetic resources, with their relevant recommendations.

3.2. FAO INTERNATIONAL TREATY

- [Third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 of the Treaty \(SAC-GLIS-3\), 21-22 June 2018, Rome, Italy](#)
F. Begemann and Th. van Hintum attended in representation of the European Region. L. Maggioni attended as observer for the ECPGR Secretariat.
-

The Committee welcomed progress made by the FAO-Treaty Secretariat in the development of the web-based Platform to assign DOIs, in particular with the publication of the Descriptors and Guidelines. The Committee also recalled that the Vision for GLIS is that the System integrates existing information systems and advised to continue the collaboration with Genesys, WIEWS, GRIN-Global and EURISCO, among others. The Committee encouraged development and review of prioritized crop descriptor lists, and advised to support the conversion of existing crop descriptors into ontologies. Regarding Genetic Sequence Data (GSD) with respect to PGRFA, the Committee was of the opinion that DOIs could be a tool to link such data to the source germplasm and considered it useful for the GLIS portal to include pointers to relevant major global GSD databases.

The full report of the meeting is available from the [meeting website](#).

- On behalf of ECPGR, Dainis Rungis, National Coordinator of Latvia, attended an Informal Expert meeting on the implementation of the sustainable use of PGRFA and the Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture, organized by the FAO Treaty Secretariat in Bari, Italy, from 23 to 25 May 2018. The report and other documents are available online (see the [meeting website](#)).

3.3. OTHER INITIATIVES

- **Forages Working Group**

As previously reported, some members of the Forages Working Group were involved in the project [GrassLandscape - Bridging landscape genomics and quantitative genetics for a regional adaptation of European grasslands to climate change](#) (FACCE-JPI ERA-NET Plus action 'Climate Smart Agriculture: Adaptation of agricultural systems in Europe'). The main objective of the project is to detect genomic markers of climatic adaptation in the natural diversity of perennial ryegrass and to use this information to adapt this species to the anthropogenic climate change foreseen to happen in next decades (see [here](#)).

Collaboration with [GrassLandscape](#) continued in the framework of the Grant Scheme Activity [Facilitating use on the European perennial ryegrass collection: improving access to genetic resources and C&E data \(ImprovLoliumCol\)](#) (see page 7).

- **Joint stakeholder statement on digital sequence information (DSI)**

Twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 22) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 2-7 July 2018, Montreal, Canada

During the meeting a [Statement of a group of organizations on digital sequence information](#) in the context of the Nagoya Protocol was made available. ECPGR had also signed this statement on behalf of 22 National Coordinators. The discussions on digital sequence information were very polarized and will continue in various fora.

For more information see the [meeting website](#).

4. PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

4.1. PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED IN 2018

4.1.1. Administrative and operational documents

- ECPGR [Annual Progress Report 2017](#) and Financial Report 2017
- [Technical report on ECPGR Phase IX \(January 2014-April 2018\)](#)

Many technical background documents were prepared for the 15th Steering Committee meeting. They are all available online ([here](#)).

4.1.2. Reports from ECPGR Bodies

- [Report of the Steering Committee. Fifteenth Meeting, 15-17 May 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece.](#)
- [Second meeting of the EURISCO Advisory Committee meeting, 11 October 2018, Gatersleben, Germany](#)
- [Minutes of the twelfth meeting of the ECPGR Executive Committee, 12 December 2018, San Fernando de Henares, Madrid, Spain](#)

4.1.3. Grant Scheme Activity Reports and related data

Second Call

- [AEGIS progress and improved access to data on European Forage PGR \(ForageDataAccess\)](#)

Third Call

- [Promoting the implementation and the establishment of the European MAP Collection. Interim Activity Report \(April 2017 - April 2018\)](#)
- [Identification and updating data of eligible AEGIS accessions in both wheat and rye species \(TRISECA\)](#)
- [Assessing linkages between genebanks and direct users \(LINKAGES\)](#)

Fourth Call

- [Networking among Working Groups for discussing and coordinating the implementation of ECPGR objectives. Report of the "ECPGR Networking" meeting, 17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia](#)
- [Common ECPGR protocols and tools available for Characterization & Evaluation of *Malus/Pyrus* genetic resources \(Pomefruit C&E\). Progress report 2017](#)

- [Safeguarding of potato onion \(*Allium cepa* L. *Aggregatum* group\) and garlic \(*Allium sativum* L.\) crop diversity in North Europe - Baltic region. Interim report](#)

4.1.4. Private Public Partnerships (PPP) project

- [Private Public Partnerships for the use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Phase II. Report of the Second Workshop, 27-28 March 2018, Rome, Italy](#)

4.1.5. ECPGR Information Bulletin

The bulletin was published in February (issue no. 13), June (no. 14) and October (no. 15). The bulletin is distributed by email to all Steering Committee and WG members and is also available [online](#).

4.1.6. External publication with contribution from Secretariat

- Engels J, Maggioni L. 2018. [Managing germplasm in a virtual European genebank \(AEGIS\) through networking](#). In: Karafyllis NC (ed.), Theorien der Lebensammlung. Pflanzen, Mikroben und Tiere als Biofakte in Genbanken. (Lebenswissenschaften im Dialog, Vol. 25), Karl Alber, Freiburg. pp. 169-197.

4.2. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

The Secretary and/or other ECPGR members represented ECPGR in the meetings listed below, offering presentations and/or contributing to project planning. The relevant presentations are available from the ECPGR website ([here](#)). Further details can be found in the Information Bulletins (available [here](#)).

- 17-18 January 2018, Leuven, Belgium
DYNAVERSITY Kick-Off Meeting (attended by ECPGR Secretary)
- 23-25 May 2018, Bari, Italy
Informal Expert meeting on the implementation of the sustainable use of PGRFA and the Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture (attended by National Coordinator of Latvia)
- 7 June 2018, Bonn, Germany
EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting (presentation via Skype by ECPGR Secretary)
- 21-22 June 2018, Rome, Italy
Third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Article 17 (SAC-GLIS-3) (attended by ECPGR Secretary and National Coordinators of Germany and The Netherlands)
- 18 September 2018, Bologna, Italy
Annual meeting of the Expert Working Group - Durum Wheat Genomics and Breeding (EWG-DWGB) of the Wheat Initiative (attended by ECPGR Secretary)

5. MEETINGS HELD IN 2018

5.1. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES

(Meetings are listed below in chronological order)

- [SafeAlliDiv](#) Second meeting 2018, 17-18 April 2018, Olomouc, Czech Republic
- [LINKAGES](#) Final Workshop, 4-5 June 2018, Florence, Italy
- [BETANET](#) Workshop, 19-20 June 2018, San Servolo, Venice, Italy
- [CarrotDiverse](#) Second meeting 2018, 13-14 November 2018, Zaragoza, Spain
- [ImprovLoliumCol](#) Preliminary workshop, 6-7 December 2018, Paris, France

5.2. MEETINGS OF ECPGR BODIES

- [Eleventh meeting of the ECPGR Executive Committee](#), 14 May 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece
- [Fifteenth meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee](#), 15-17 May 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece
- [Twelfth meeting of the ECPGR Executive Committee](#), 13 December 2018, Madrid, Spain

5.3. OTHERS

Meeting of the Private Public Partnerships (PPP) project

- [Private Public Partnerships Project Phase II, Second Workshop](#), 27-28 March 2018, Maccarese, Italy

EURISCO- and AEGIS-related meetings

- [EURISCO Training workshop](#), 9-11 October 2018, Gatersleben, Germany
- [Second meeting of the EURISCO Advisory Committee meeting](#), 11 October 2018, Gatersleben, Germany
- [Assessing current practices and procedures to strengthen AEGIS](#), 10-12 December 2018, Madrid, Spain

6. COORDINATING SECRETARIAT

During 2018, the following staff employed by Bioversity International have worked for the Coordinating Secretariat: Lidwina Koop (ECPGR Programme Assistant, assisting in all administrative and financial matters and website maintenance); Elinor Lipman (half-time Scientific Assistant, based in Montpellier, France, involved in the compilation and layout of ECPGR publications, website quality check and general support to the Secretariat activities); Lorenzo Maggioni (ECPGR Secretary). Stephan Weise (IPK, Gatersleben, Germany) acted as EURISCO Coordinator. Gerald Moore was hired as legal consultant to support the PPP project. Jan Engels was hired as technical consultant to support the preparation and implementation of the AEGIS workshop.

The scientific and technical contributions, as well as management and administrative support provided by other staff from Bioversity International and IPK to the work of ECPGR are duly acknowledged.

★★★

Lorenzo Maggioni
ECPGR Secretary

(with inputs from Lidwina Koop, Elinor Lipman and Stephan Weise)

Rome, 14 June 2019

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