Minutes of the
22nd ECPGR Executive Committee meeting
29 August 2022 (h 09:30-11:00)
Online (Teams)

Present:
Marianne Lefort (Chair)
Birgitte Lund (Denmark)
Benvindo Martins Maçãs (Portugal)
Pavol Hauptvogel (Slovakia)
Beate Schierscher (Switzerland)
Lorenzo Maggioni (ECPGR Secretariat)

1. Dates for the next Steering Committee meeting
Benvindo Maçãs suggested the dates 30 May–1 June 2023 as the most suitable, considering that the following first two weeks of June include various holidays in Portugal and thus should be avoided. A message will be sent to the Steering Committee to verify that no other international commitments overlap with these dates.

2. Proposals for the selection of a new ExCo member representing the South sub-region in broad terms
The ExCo discussed suitable candidates for the replacement of B. Maçãs at the beginning of 2023 and agreed that members with good experience and technical expertise would be the most suitable. Two potential candidates were proposed in a ranked short-list and the first one will initially be contacted with a proposal to serve in the ExCo.

3. Discussion on the Tables of priorities for Phase XI
Based on Steering Committee discussions on potential actions to implement the PGR Strategy for Europe, a preliminary proposal for the definition of priority activities for Phase XI and the related budget sources had been prepared by the ExCo Chair and the Secretariat for discussion. A new column with proposed activities was added to Tables 1–6 of priorities, Annex 3 of the report of the 16th SC meeting. The proposal foresees that many activities, based on the priorities identified by the SC, be specifically suggested and budgeted, where possible, with ECPGR funds. Consequently, specific budget lines could be created in the ECPGR budget, dedicated to “CWR and Wild Foods”, “On-Farm”, “Ex situ”, “EVA”, as well as EURISCO. Also, a budget for specific Task Forces could be assigned. The ExCo received positively the principles expressed in this proposal and reserved itself one week time to better analyze the specific activities proposed. Once the ExCo reached an agreement on the Tables, these will be circulated to the SC with an accompanying explanation. The idea is to have a first SC agreement on the procedure to better specify priority activities for Phase XI and prepare the associated budget. Later on, the Chairs of the WGs could be involved for comments on the Tables and the suggested procedure, before submitting to the SC the final proposal, with an attached budget, for approval in June 2023. The role of the ECPGR Grant Scheme for the assignment of the funds could be maintained, ensuring some flexibility, but keeping in mind the suggested activities and their level of priority defined by the SC. Regarding the mode of operation, also the Task Force on the revision of Terms of Reference for the operational bodies of ECPGR will need to be involved in providing suggestions and proposals.