



Minutes of the 23rd and 24th ECPGR Executive Committee meeting

**29 November 2022 (h 10:00-13:00)
and 6 December 2022 (h 14:30-16:30)
Online (Teams)**

Present:

Marianne Lefort (Chair)
Birgitte Lund (Denmark)
Benvindo Martins Maçãs (Portugal)
Pavol Hauptvogel (Slovakia)
Beate Schierscher (Switzerland)
Lorenzo Maggioni (ECPGR Secretariat)
Petra Engel (Italy - observer)

1. Introduction

M. Lefort welcomed Petra Engel as an observer in the meeting. She will start next January her term as an Executive Committee (ExCo) member for the subregion South, replacing Benvindo Maçãs.

2. Evaluation of Grant Scheme proposals for the Sixth Call of Phase X

Seven proposals were submitted as a result of the Sixth Call of the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme, which was launched on 23 August 2022, with a deadline on 15 November 2022.

Following an evaluation of these proposals, based on the established criteria, the ExCo selected for funding five proposals. One additional proposal from the Potato Working Group (WG) was also appreciated, but its approval remained pending, since a slight revision of budget, scope and partners composition was requested to the Activity Coordinator.

A slightly revised proposal for the Activity FRUITREEDATA, formerly submitted under the Fifth Call by the *Malus/Pyrus* and *Prunus* WGs, was also approved, with a revised budget of €38,775 and additional partners from Estonia, Latvia, Finland and Slovenia. The condition for the start of the activity is that the *Malus/Pyrus* WG first complete the reports of past funded activities.

The approved proposals are listed in the table below. The full proposals and Letters of Award have been published on the ECPGR website (see [Outcomes of the Sixth Call](#)).

Title of approved proposals	Working Group	Coordinator	Budget
1. Exploring of Grain Legumes diversity for sustainable European Agri-food Systems (ExploDiv)	Grain legumes	Creola Brezeanu, Romania	€ 28,600
2. Fostering the need of implementation of the ECPGR European Evaluation Network (EVA) on Grain legumes (ForEVA)	Grain legumes	Creola Brezeanu, Romania	€ 16,500

3. Genotyping-by-sequencing of the European garlic collection to develop a sustainable <i>ex situ</i> conservation strategy (Garli-CCS - Garlic Cryopreservation & Conservation Strategy)	<i>Allium</i> / Cryoconservation / Documentation and Information	Manuela Nagel, Germany	€ 59,997
4. Inventorying wheat on-farm diversity (INWHEATORY)	On-farm conservation and management / Wheat	Lorenzo Raggi, Italy	€ 28,050
5. Increasing the efficiency of conservation of <i>Vitis sylvestris</i> genetic resources in Europe (SYLVESTRIS)	<i>Vitis</i>	Georgios Merkouropoulos, Greece	€ 25,520
Total Budget			€ 158,667

3. Items in preparation for the 17th Steering Committee (SC) meeting

- **Logistic arrangements:** The Secretariat will interact with B. Maçãs and his staff, providing instructions for a smooth organization of the meeting in Oeiras in May/June 2023.
- **Invitations:** National Coordinators, ExCo Chair and Secretariat will be invited (ECPGR-funded); additionally, also permanent observers and Focal points of non-ECPGR countries (self-funded). It was suggested that it would be important to also invite someone from the European Commission, DG AGRI.
- **Background documents** to be prepared (to be finalized and circulated to the SC by the end of April):
 1. **Draft Agenda:** The Secretary will provide a first draft to the ExCo, to be eventually shared with the SC for comments by the end of February.
 2. **Terms of reference of ECPGR for Phase XI:** These are being developed by the specific Task Force; a first draft of revised ToRs will be shared with the SC and WG Chairs for comments by mid/end of February. Based on the feedback, the Task Force will prepare a revised draft to be included in the background documents for the SC meeting.
 3. **Priorities for Phase XI:** A revised table was circulated to the ExCo and comments are expected by 6 January 2023. The table will then be circulated to the WG Chairs (and possibly again to the SC). It will be a subject of discussion during the WG Chairs meeting in March 2023, before being further revised and included among the background documents for the SC meeting.
 4. **Draft budget for Phase XI:** The Secretariat will draft a couple of options, in collaboration with Bioversity Finance. A maximum total will be based on the current level of contribution plus a 10% inflationary increase). Staff costs will reflect a reduced cost owing to the contribution that is received from the ongoing EC projects and German bilateral projects. Cost estimates for the maintenance of EURISCO will be provided by IPK. While the budget can be approved by Bioversity for maximum two years, it would be useful to ensure a decision on the level of country contributions for five years, as usual, so that countries join ECPGR's Phase XI with a stable expectation of their required contribution.
 5. **Reporting on Phase X progress:** Items to be finalized:
 - Annual Report 2022
 - Update of mid-Phase X report (as an update covering the specific events occurring since the last SC meeting in June 2022. This will include a specific

report requested to the Cryopreservation WG. In addition, the other WG Chairs will be asked to provide a short report about the progress made and future expectations.

- Financial Report 2022 and expectations for the closing of the Phase in December 2023.
 - Proposal for a Genebank management Network/WG: Care of Lise Lykke Steffensen with the help of ExCo/Secretariat
- It was agreed to organize the WG Chairs meeting before the SC meeting. It was suggested to convene this meeting online at the beginning of March focusing on the draft ECPGR Terms of Reference and the priorities for Phase XI.