

16 November 2021

Ms Valeria Negri
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Mr Albrecht Serfling
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Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants.
Institute for Resistance Research and Stress Tolerance
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Ref: ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme (Phase X) - Fifth Call for proposals

Subject: Proposal “BiDiffernt”

Dear Valeria and Albrecht,

I am very pleased to inform you that the ECPGR Executive Committee (ExCo), during its recent meeting on 9 November 2021, approved for funding the proposal “Chances for the conservation and re-cultivation of central European Binkel (club wheat) through a nutritional and genetic differentiation towards other wheat species” (BiDiffernt).

However, a few clarifications are needed from your side, as well as we would like you to take into consideration a number of recommendations before the release of funds can be confirmed.

The ExCo appreciated the topic of your proposal, since it is focusing on an underutilized and threatened crop with good potential for marginal mountainous areas. At the same time, the limited geographic focus of your project and the low number of partners and accessions under consideration raised some concerns about the possibility to extend the benefits to the entire Working Group, as well as about the total budget requested.

In order to improve the value of your project and clarify some aspects, the ExCo wishes you to consider the following:

- Possibility to include in your experiment more accessions for the same budget, by requesting these from those available from other European genebanks (see EURISCO).
- Importance to deposit in the respective national genebanks the accessions that will be used by the project (please clarify whether this is planned consider doing it, if possible).
- In relation to the two above-mentioned activities, it is recommended to officially involve in the project at least one AEGIS member genebank to ensure a link with the European genebank integrated system.
- Clarify about the future availability of the accessions under investigation.
- Clarify whether the expected output of the genotyping exercise is the identification of true-to-type accessions or the analysis of genetic diversity or both.
- Clarify who are the participants involved in the start-up and final meetings, since you asked a budget for eight people when the funded partners are only four.

Please note that after receiving your reply with your comments to this letter, the ExCo will be able to confirm its decision to fund the project. The Steering Committee will then be consulted for endorsement of the final list of participants. As soon as the above formalities will be successfully completed, the Secretariat will contact the Activity Coordinator and other partners regarding Letters of Agreement to be prepared.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Secretariat in case you need any further clarification.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you and all the partners involved in this proposal and look forward to hearing from you and to a successful implementation.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lefort', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Marianne Lefort
Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee

Copy for information: Rudolf Vögel, Landesamt für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz Brandenburg (LUGV), Tramper Chaussee 2, 16225 Eberswalde, Germany