

21 December 2016

Prof. Dr. Jelka Šuštar-Vozlič
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Slovenia

Ref: European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources - ECPGR
Subject: Activity Grant Scheme – Fourth Call

Dear Jelka,

I am pleased to inform you that the ECPGR Executive Committee (ExCo), during its recent meeting on 14-16 December 2016, approved for funding the proposal “ECPGR NETWORKING”, with a number of requested modifications related to the overall approach as well the budget (see below). The Steering Committee will have to clear the decision with regard to the partnership in the project.

In case you agree with the suggested changed approach, the Secretariat will then contact you again, as soon as the above formalities are completed, regarding the Letters of Agreement to be prepared.

The ExCo was favorably impressed by your initiative and recognized the importance to organize an occasion where WG Chairs could exchange views, experiences, prepare cross cutting plans, as well as formulate suggestions to the attention of the Steering Committee, also in view of the launching of Phase X of ECPGR. The ExCo also welcomed the invitation to get involved in a WG Chairs’ meeting and were considering to organize their next ExCo meeting back to back with the ECPGR Networking workshop.

The ExCo was in agreement with the importance to also involve the Secretariat in supporting the organization of the meeting. Both the Secretariat and the ExCo were also counting on the opportunity to comment the meeting’s draft agenda and thus contribute to the planning. There was however no agreement on the need to organize two meetings, also considering that the preparation for the first one would need to be made in a rush, while the second meeting would take place too late to be effective for the planning of next Phase. Also in terms of cost/benefit ratio, the ExCo decided to grant the budget for only one meeting and requested that this meeting be organized in October 2017 at a location of your choice. The granted budget was consequently halved to € 15,000, of which € 500 are granted to the Activity Coordinator for coordination activities and € 1000 are granted to the meeting’s host. The remaining part of the budget will cover the costs of the meeting’s participants.

It was noted that three WG Chairs (Barley, Forages and Potato) are missing from the list of partners. You are encouraged to invite them as well to the meeting. The related costs would be taken up by ECPGR, even if exceeding the granted budget.

On the other hand, the ExCo was of the advice that additional stakeholders should not be invited to the meeting, which should be focused on the WGs' perspective.

The ExCo was keen to promote the meeting as an ideal forum where the Chairs could also convey the opinions of the WG members on the implementation of Phase IX, as well as suggestions for the mode of operation and objectives of ECPGR during Phase X. While preparing to set the framework of Phase X, the Secretariat will seek to receive inputs from the Chairs and then will present preliminary drafts to be discussed at the networking workshop.

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

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

Best wishes,



Eva Thörn
Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee