

5 November 2015

Ms Daniela Giovannini  
CRA-FRF Unità di Ricerca per la Frutticoltura  
Sezione di Forlì  
Via la Canapona, 1 bis, Magliano  
47100 Forlì  
Italy

**Ref: ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme (Phase IX)  
Second Call for proposals**

**Subject: Proposal 'EU.Cherry'**

Dear Ms Giovannini,

Kindly note that the ECPGR Executive Committee, during its recent meeting on 28-30 October 2015 decided that the proposal 'EU.Cherry' could not be approved as such but needs to be revised and re-submitted.

The aims of your proposed Activity are in line with the ECPGR objectives and the ExCo would like to support your Activity. The linkage with the COST action has also been appreciated as a good opportunity for synergies. However, a number of doubts have been expressed regarding the role of the European *Prunus* Database (EPDB) in this Activity and whether the request of funds for its development are justified for ECPGR. In particular, please note that, following the recommendations of the Doc&Info meeting held in Prague in May 2014, Central Crop databases are expected to evolve into Crop Portals, with a wider scope than just gathering genebank data. At the same time, the priority receiver of passport and C&E data is EURISCO. You will also note that neither ECCDBs nor Crop Portals are mentioned in the ECPGR objectives as a target for activities (and therefore for funding).

In your project you are planning to develop a mechanism to ensure coherence between EURISCO and the EPDB. This is an understandable objective for the EPDB, but the ExCo is of the opinion that ECPGR funds should be prioritized for the development of EURISCO, while the Central Crop Databases or Crop Portals are expected to become self-sustaining through national or institutional funding. Moreover, it is not clear to the ExCo what is the added value of the EPDB database in terms of functionalities that would not be possible to carry out exclusively through EURISCO.

Your intention to identify accessions to be flagged as candidates for inclusion into AEGIS is commendable. The ExCo wishes to recommend that the effort of communicating the resulting list to the respective National Coordinators be also included among the tasks of your Activity.

Therefore, you are invited to reconsider or revise or better explain the rationale of the actions foreseen, whenever work with the EPDB is implied. Also the corresponding budget line related to the management of the EPDB has been questioned by the ExCo for the above-mentioned reasons.

You are kindly invited to resubmit the proposal through the ECPGR web site at your earliest convenience, but not later than 15 April 2016. Your resubmission will be promptly evaluated by the ExCo for possible funding.

I wish you and all the partners involved in the project a successful submission of the revised proposal.

Best wishes,



Eva Thörn  
Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee

*Copy for information:* Marine Blouin, Activity Coordinator, INRA-Unité  
Expérimentale Arboricole, Domaine de la Tour de Rance, 47320 Bourran, France