

ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme Proposal Form

Third Call

Activity Proposal

Activity	
Full title	EURISCO National Focal Point regional training workshop 2017
Acronym (or short title)	EURISCO Training 2017
Duration of Activity (in months)	0.5
Starting date	In 2017, to be decided

Applying Working Group(s)

Working Group	Indicate name and surname of Working Group Chair
1. Doc&Info WG	Theo J. L. van Hintum

Activity Coordinator

Activity Coordinator	
Name and Surname	Stephan Weise
Nationality	German
Current position	EURISCO Coordinator and Developer
Institute	Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben
Country	Germany
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Activity Partners

Please note that each partner needs to be a member of a Working Group's Pool of Experts to be eligible.

A maximum of 12 funded partners can be listed. For self-funded partners please use the separate box below.

Partner ID No.	Name and Surname	Institute	Country
1	Nikolaya Velcheva	Institute of Plant Genetic Resources	Bulgaria
2	Nigel Maxted	University of Birmingham	UK
3	Belul Gixhari	Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, Agricultural University of Tirana	Albania
4	Anita Gaile	LSFRI Silava	Latvia
5	Attila Simon	Centre for Plant Diversity	Hungary
6	Iryna Markevich	RUE "Scientific Practical Centre of the NAS of Belarus for Arable Farming"	Belarus
7	Merja Hartikainen	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)	Finland
8	Stefan Schröder	Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)	Germany
9	Ilhama Mirzaliyeva	Genetic Resources Institute of ANAS	Azerbaijan
10	Maria Antonietta Palombi	CRA-FRU Fruit Tree Research Centre, CRA - Agricultural Research Council	Italy
11	Filomena Rocha	National Genebank (BPGV/INIAV)	Portugal
12	Lubomir Mendel	National Agricultural and Food Centre, Research Institute of Plant Production	Slovakia

Self-funded partners

Partner No.	Name and Surname	Institute	Country
1	Stephan Weise	IPK Gatersleben	Germany
2	Helmut Knüpfper	IPK Gatersleben	Germany
3	Markus Oppermann	IPK Gatersleben	Germany
4	Lucía De la Rosa Fernández	Centro Nacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (CRF-INIA)	Spain

Description of Activity

Please address the following aspects:

Background: Explain the context behind the choice of this Activity, e.g. why this has been prioritized or selected. If this is the continuation of a preceding Activity, please indicate how and why the new Activity will build on previous results/experiences

Justification: Explain why this Activity is justified in terms of making progress towards achieving the ECPGR objectives

– *Methodology or Approach:* Explain how the partners will operate. What are the respective roles and synergies they can add? Explain the rationale of meeting (or not) as part of the Activity.

– *Expected impact.* Clearly specify the expected impact from this Activity for the respective ECPGR objective(s), compared to the current state of progress of those same objectives. Explain how the impact will be obtained.

Links with other non-ECPGR projects or individuals: If applicable, clearly explain the objectives of the linked projects and the reasons for complementarity with the ECPGR Activity.

Describe the Activity - (max. 1000 words):

Proper documentation is essential for effective PGR management. However, in many genebanks, not only in Europe, the capacity for good database management is very limited. Existing documentation officers in genebanks should therefore be supported in their task where possible. One of the types of support that can be given is proper training and a platform to exchange experiences and knowledge. The network of National Focal Points, created in the framework of the ECPGR *European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources* (EURISCO) provides a useful context for giving that training and providing a communication platform. At the start of EURISCO, more than a decade ago, there have been two rounds of highly successful regional training workshops, bringing together the foreseen National Focal Points (NFPs), and preparing them for their task as NFP. This has resulted in an amazing increase of the quality of PGR documentation in Europe, apart from the establishment of the network of NFPs supplying the data input in EURISCO (restricted to passport data at the time). A network like this needs to be maintained: new NFPs need to be trained for their task and existing NFPs need to be kept updated about new developments (the inclusion of C&E data in this round). But possibly the most important objective of actively involving the NFPs during regional meetings is making them realise that they have ownership of EURISCO: it is their product, as they are responsible for the quality of the content. ECPGR and IPK are merely facilitators.

In 2014, EURISCO was transferred from Bioversity International, Italy, to its new host, IPK Gatersleben, Germany. The adaptation of the system to the new IT infrastructure required both the actual EURISCO web application (search interface) and the backend (module for uploading national datasets by the NFPs) to be largely revised.

After a longer break, in May 2015 the initial series of regional training workshops was revived, starting with Southeast Europe, focussing on the SEEDNet member countries. The first workshop took place in Tirana, Albania, and brought together 20 participants, amongst them 16 National Focal Points/National Coordinators. This workshop was mainly aimed at training the NFPs for their task.

The second training workshop will take place in autumn 2016 in France. Besides passport data, this workshop will focus on the preparation and upload of characterisation and evaluation (C&E) data. EURISCO was recently extended for the management of C&E data. Thus, apart from the training component, the workshop will also have the objective to test the new C&E protocols and collect the experiences of the uploaders to improve the interfaces.

In 2017, the workshop series shall be continued with a workshop in Central Europe (IPK

Gatersleben, Germany), and will aim, apart from providing the basic training elements, at increasing the volume of C&E data points in EURISCO. The participants will consist primarily of NFPs from the region, and preference has been given to newly appointed NFPs who did not participate in a EURISCO workshop before, and to NFPs who have C&E data to contribute. Also the link to the documentation of *in situ* crop wild relatives will be made.

The training component will focus on the preparation and uploading of data, but also data quality and completeness issues will be discussed. Individual NFPs will test uploading their National Inventories (NI) and will receive responses from the system, and get guidance on interpreting and utilising these responses to improve their data. Also, checking scientific plant names will be covered (Helmut Knüpffer, IPK), and an experienced NFP will report about the experiences gained while working with the new system.

The feedback on the uploading system, but also the search interface, will support the further development of EURISCO and increase the acceptance of the system by the PGR user community.

Existing training materials will be extended, anticipating forthcoming regional training workshops. Responses from participants will assist in improving the training materials. A short report about the training will be produced.

Participants will get the opportunity to briefly present their National Collection and PGR conservation programme.

The funds requested from the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme will be used to cover the travel costs (flight, accommodation, meals) for the participants (trainers and trainees), local costs for the meeting (e.g. meeting facilities, internet connections) and a workshop dinner.

Expected products and related ECPGR Objectives

List concrete products and results that are obtained by the Activity and the corresponding number(s) of the ECPGR Outcome(s) and/or Output(s) and/or Activities to which each product/result will contribute.

	Expected products/results	Corresponding ECPGR outcome, output, activity
1	Existing training materials improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 2. Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO, including <i>in situ</i> and on-farm data, have been increased. Functionality of EURISCO meets users' expectations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Output 2.1. All National Focal Points (NFPs) update national inventories effectively and timely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity 2.1.3. Training of NFPs (how to compile, maintain, update and upload NI) realized ○ Output 2.2. C&E data in EURISCO included, with high
2	Hands-on training for ca. 12 NFPs performed.	
3	User-feedback on EURISCO uploading and search interface.	
4	Short report about the training course prepared.	

5	Several passport and C&E data sets loaded in EURISCO.	quality and wide coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity 2.2.2. Training of NFPs in gathering and uploading C&E data
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Workplan for the proposed period of the Activity

Brief description of meetings and/or main actions of the Activity.

	Type of Action <i>(indicate if "meeting" or "other action")</i>
1	Training workshop
2	
3	
4	
5	

Additional remarks

Indicate any additional remark(s) that is/are important for the evaluation/implementation of the proposed Activity

Remarks:

Please send the completed form together with the budget table to the Chair of the submitting Working Group for submission of the Activity proposal.