ECPGR mode of operation

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Coordinating Secretariat

Thematic Working Groups

- Crop wild relatives
- Cryopreservation
- Documentation and Information
- On-farm Conservation and Management

Crop Working Groups

- Leafy Vegetables
- Maize
- *Malus/Pyrus*
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
- Potato
- *Prunus*
- Solanaceae
- Umbellifer Crops
- *Vitis*
- Wheat

- *Allium*
- *Avena*
- Barley
- Berries
- *Beta*
- *Brassica*
- Cucurbits
- Fibre Coprs (Flax and Hemp)
- Forages
- Grain Legumes

European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
ECP/GR

What is ECPGR?

The European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) is a collaborative Programme among European countries. Its long-term goals are the effective long-term conservation, provision of access and increased utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Europe.

ECP/GR was founded in 1980 on the basis of the recommendations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA).

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European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
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ECPGR
Phase X (2019-2023)

European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources

aegis

eurisco
Finding seeds for the future

How we operate

ECPGR is financed by the participating countries and is guided by a Steering Committee (SC), consisting of the National Coordinators of the member countries. The SC nominates an Executive Committee (ExCo) composed of five persons, to plan and execute the ECPGR activities, as decided upon by the SC.

The Secretariat coordinates the implementation of the programme, which is organized in 20 Crop and 4 Thematic Working Groups

The starting budget of Phase X of ECPGR (2019-2023) is Euro 2,688,250, covering the cost of the Secretariat, the management and development of EURISCO as well as the activities of the Working Groups.

ECPGR-funded actions are approved by the Executive Committee and consist of Working Group meetings and activities granted on the basis of Calls for Proposals.

Objectives

- To efficiently conserve and provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through the European Conservation Genebank System (AEGIS)
- To provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European plant genetic resources diversity through the EURISCO catalogue
- To improve *in situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives
- To promote on-farm conservation and management
- To promote use of plant genetic resources

Achievements

AEGIS
A European Genebank Integrated System

The European Collection established under AEGIS is a decentralized collection of genetically unique accessions maintained by Associate Member genebanks/institutions. This Collection is conserved at agreed quality standards and accessions are made available in accordance with the terms and conditions set out by the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture.
(www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/aegis)

EURISCO

The European Catalogue of plant genetic resources gathers passport and characterization/evaluation data from 43 National Inventories. It provides online information related to ca. 2 million accessions conserved by more than 370 institutions throughout Europe (http://eurisco.ecpgr.org)

EVA (European Evaluation Network)

The European Evaluation Network, established by ECPGR in 2018, facilitates Private/Public Partnerships to carry out evaluation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and improve digitization, harmonization, availability and exchange of evaluation data.
www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/european-evaluation-network-eva

GenRes Bridge

Together with the European forest (EUFORGEN) and animal (ERFP) genetic resources networks, ECPGR was a partner of the EU-funded project 'GenRes Bridge' on 'Joining forces for GenRes and biodiversity management' (SFS-28- 2018-2020). This Coordination and Support Action (2018-2021) developed the Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe.

ECPGR Concept for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe

Crop wild relative (CWR) genetic resources native to Europe contain a wide pool of genetic diversity that is of value for crop improvement. This concept, developed in 2015 by the ECPGR Working Group on Crop Wild Relatives, provides a strategic approach to CWR diversity conservation and utilization in Europe. The Concept is meant to guide EU and national policy development throughout the region.

ECPGR Concept for on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

The driving force that maintains our crop heritage is the diversity of cultivation and management strategies of a large number of smallholder farmers. This concept, developed in 2017 by the Working Group on On-farm Conservation and Management, identifies the role of ECPGR to facilitate on-farm management and conservation approaches. Suitable areas of intervention concern those initiatives related to promote on-farm diversity that can only be achieved through international collaboration.

Trifolium rubens L. *(Photo: A. Inal, Turkey)*