

8 January 2021

Ms Maria Raffaella Ercolano  
Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II  
Via Università 100  
80055 Portici  
Italy

**Ref: ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme (Phase X)  
Fourth Call for proposals**  
**Subject: Proposal “Cucurbitlocal”**

Dear Maria,

I am very pleased to inform you that the ECPGR Executive Committee (ExCo), during its recent meeting on 14 December 2020, approved for funding the proposal “Exploitation of Cucurbita local germplasm for sustainable agriculture (Cucurbitlocal)”.

We appreciate the validity and usefulness of the project towards the achievement of ECPGR objectives. As it is managed by a small group, the ExCo has considered it as a “pilot project”. However, the ExCo also expressed concerns about the risk of a low involvement of the rest of the Working Group and the focus of the project on a limited set of accessions. We acknowledge your effort to involve more Working Group partners, but we would like to encourage you strengthen this aspect and include a few recommendations and conditions for the implementation of your proposal:

- 1) Consider the possibility to add in your experiments also a few accessions from other members of the Working Group;
- 2) Use the enlarged virtual meeting to open the discussion on the type of traits to be considered during the evaluation and use your ‘pilot project’ as a starting basis for a follow-up project involving more members;
- 3) Make sure that passport, characterization and evaluation data generated during the project are provided to EURISCO according to the suitable templates (in coordination with the EURISCO managers);
- 4) Even though data from Tunisian accessions cannot be included in EURISCO, make sure that all the related data are made public at the end of the project;
- 5) Even though you aim at including accessions in the AEGIS system, Partner 1 (University of Napoli) is not an Associate Member institution of AEGIS. Please make sure that the appropriate formalities to become a member are completed through signature of the MoU between Uni. Napoli and the Italian National Coordinator (see [here](#) the Template for Associate Membership Agreement). Alternatively, the accessions that should become part of AEGIS can be deposited in one of the existing Italian Associate Members’ collections (see [here](#)).

The Secretariat will contact you as soon as appropriate, regarding Letters of Agreement to be prepared with the partners.

Please don't hesitate to contact the ECPGR Secretariat should 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 a successful implementation.

Best wishes,



Marianne Lefort  
Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee