

PPP Project Phase II – Second workshop, 27-28 March 2018

Summary of decisions and recommendations

Proposal for the establishment of the Evaluation Network

1. The Proposal for the establishment of the European Evaluation Network was thoroughly discussed and a number of amendments agreed, in particular:

Preamble was simplified and partly reworded; the definition of “Evaluation” was reworded; the definition of members of EVN was revised; it was specified that the EVN will operate ‘according to the principles of the Treaty’; the ‘currently in force’ SMTA was suggested for use; the ‘participation of the private sector’ in the Steering Unit was added; Annex C was specified to be just an example of the ‘type of format’ to be used for cooperation agreements; paragraph 06 c. was reworded; in Annex A, the first bullet related to the costs of participation in RVN was reworded; the second bullet, referring to the role of EURISCO and the period within which data should be made available, was reworded; the SMTA was suggested to be used ‘if possible’; the number of years of privileged access to data was left to the choice of the cooperators, without indication of a preferred figure; in Annex B, the two boxes ‘Material providers’ and ‘Evaluators/Network of sites’ were deleted; in Annex C, point 1, ‘resistance’ was specified to be just one example of possible traits under investigation; at point 8, the results should be made ‘publicly’ available (not only available to other Members of EVN); point 13, related to entitlement to apply for patents, was deleted.

2. The redrafted proposal should be circulated to the entire PPP group (Task force and Advisory Group) with the aim to consolidate the final version within two weeks from date of circulation.
3. The proposal in the form agreed by the PPP group should be included among the background documents for the 15th ECPGR Steering Committee meeting in May 2018, with a recommendation for approval.
4. The PPP group also recommended that ECPGR and ESA revise and finalize their MoU, along the lines of the draft provided to the group, with the aim to reach its signature by the ECPGR Steering Committee and the Board of ESA, possibly during the 15th ECPGR Steering Committee meeting in May 2018.

How to get the Network started

5. Following the approval of the Proposal by the ECPGR Steering Committee and the signing of the bilateral MoU between ECPGR and ESA, ECPGR and ESA should publicize the initiative widely, such as on a new dedicated webpage and through their communication channels.
6. ECPGR (also involving the Crop Working Groups) and ESA Secretariats should inform their respective memberships about EVN and should encourage potential partners to become members of EVN. To this effect, they should jointly prepare a model invitation letter explaining the objectives and benefit of the EVN.

7. PPP team group members (Advisory Group and Task Force) were invited to continue exploring within their crop communities whether sufficient interest is expressed for the EVN, so that 'test crops' could be selected for actual implementation of a regional evaluation programme. Grapevine and vegetables were considered a suitable crop group for which there might be strong interest to evaluate genebank material. Small breeding companies were also considered as an important possible target that might express interest to get involved. The organic breeders were also suggested as a community that could take action within EVN.
8. The German initiative EVA II (wheat/barley) was considered as one of the possible models that could be extended from Germany to involve other European countries. In parallel with point 7 above, Frank Ordon offered to explore the interest of European breeders to get involved into such initiative. The ECPGR/ESA letter of point 6 above could be used for this purpose.
9. In case of positive response from crop communities (points 7 and 8 above), ECPGR will aim at organizing one or more workshops, for the respective crop experts to:
 - a. consolidate their agreement to initiate European evaluation programme(s)
 - b. get familiar with the opportunities offered by EVN (model documents, harmonization of standards; use of EURISCO as central information system for data sharing and upload)
 - c. make plans for the selection of accessions and of traits of interest
 - d. discuss harmonization of evaluation protocols
 - e. dialogue with the EURISCO Coordinator to convey their needs and plan for the necessary improvements
 - f. discuss specific terms for a cooperation agreement, and
 - g. discuss about funding requirements and opportunities.

Opportunities to join forces for Horizon 2020, [topic SFS 28 B. \[2019\]](#): Adding value to plant GenRes

10. The ECPGR Secretariat should verify whether a voluntary leader exists for the coordination of a project proposal in which the EVN structure and mode of operation could be optimally integrated.
11. A think tank composed of Frank Ordon, Riccardo Bocci, Rob van Treuren, Stefan Weise, ESA [and possibly Anne-Françoise Adam-Blondon] agreed to enter into a brainstorming dialogue regarding the suggestion of the best options to promote the creation of a consortium for the preparation of a project proposal. A 'one-page' recommendation was expected to be delivered to the ECPGR Secretariat in time for the 15th ECPGR Steering Committee meeting.