Creola Brezeanu  
Chair of Grain Legumes Working Group

Lorenzo Maggioni  
ECPGR Secretary

BEAN_ADAPT Kick-off meeting  
11 August 2015, Bonn, Germany
ECPGR is a collaborative Programme among most European countries, aiming at ensuring the long-term conservation and facilitating the utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe.

www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/
Participating countries in Phase IX

- Countries
  - own the programme
  - contribute funds and implement activities
- Secretariat ensures coordination

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WHY IS ECPGR A VALUABLE PARTNER?

ECPGR STRENGTHS

- STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION
- ACTIVITIES
- LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS
- AEGIS
- EURISCO
- GRAIN LEGUMES WG OBJECTIVES

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Strengths for ECPGR collaborations

**STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION**

- **Steering Committee**
- **Executive Committee**
- **Coordinating Secretariat**

**Crop Working Groups**
- Allium
- Avena
- Barley
- Beta
- Brassica
- Cucurbita
- Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp)
- Forages
- Grain Legumes

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

- Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves
- On-farm Conservation and Management
- Documentation and Information
The Grain Legumes Working Group was established in 1991.

The profile of the Working Group has become recognized as an important focus for grain legume genetic resources coordination within Europe.

The Working Group covers a range of species from its inception (Arachis, Cicer, Glycine max, Lens, Lupinus, Phaseolus, Pisum, Vicia faba and Vigna).

Currently the group involves 87 members – (genebank curators, crop specialists, information, documentation, plant breeders, law and policy-makers, others) from 34 countries.
The European *Phaseolus* Database was established on the initiative of ECPGR at the meeting of the Grain Legumes Working Group in Copenhagen (1995).

It is maintained by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) in Linz, Austria. The database contains passport data of the *Phaseolus* collections maintained in European genebanks. Additionally also characterization data and photos are partly available. ([http://www.genbank.at/en/ecpgr-phaseolus.html](http://www.genbank.at/en/ecpgr-phaseolus.html))

The structure of the database follows the principles of the FAO/IPGRI Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors list / EURISCO Descriptors.
**Strengths for ECPGR collaborations**

**ECPGR ACTIVITIES: Conservation**

*Ex situ:*
Create a network of European collections:

[www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/aegis](http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/aegis)

*In situ:*
Create a network of European genetic reserves

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A European Genebank Integrated System

The European Collection established under AEGIS is a virtual European Genebank maintaining genetically unique accessions that are important for Europe.

These are conserved at an agreed quality standard and are made available in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

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Perceived Benefits of AEGIS

- Improved **security of germplasm** through long-term commitment and systematic safety-duplication
- Facilitated access to and **availability** of germplasm
- Improved **quality standards** of conserved material
- **Cost efficient** conservation activities
- **Reduced unwanted duplication** of germplasm material
- Improved **sharing of knowledge** and information
Strengths for ECPGR collaborations

• Online catalogue, with information on the European *ex situ* collections: passport and soon C&E data
EURISCO advantages

• This catalogue gathers data from 43 national inventories

• From a central point, it provides information related to more than one million accessions conserved in more than 300 institutions throughout Europe (http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/)

• Increased quantity and quality of data in EURISCO,
ECPGR activities: Use

Establish partnerships between genebanks and researchers/breeders to identify and test useful traits contained in collections: resistance to insects, tolerance to drought, nutritional qualities, etc.
Strengths for ECPGR collaborations

➤ GRAIN LEGUMES WG OBJECTIVES:

- *ex situ* and *in situ* PGRFA, in order to provide access and increase utilization;
- priorities for characterization/evaluation in order to detect the most suitable resources able to perform in new climate change condition;
- promoting inclusion and utilization of valuable accessions into the European Collection;
- increase quantity and quality of data in EURISCO;

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Strengths for ECPGR collaborations

**LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES**

- EUCARPIA
- ERA-NET PLUS ACTIONS
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

- Involvement in EC calls for proposals and initiatives:
  - Preparatory action on GR
  - Focus Group on GR (EIP-AGRI)
  - FP7 Framework and EUCARPIA (PGR secure on CWR and LR)
  - H2020 (proposals submitted)
  - ERA-NET Plus actions

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Potential collaboration between Grain Legumes WG and BEAN_ADAPT

- Provision of genebank accessions to the project
- Offer of evaluation sites in different environments
- Exchange of information
- Dissemination of results through ECPGR channels (web sites, bulletins)
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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