

European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources ECPGR

Küllü Annamaa (Executive Committee)
Lorenzo Maggioni (ECPGR Secretariat)

What is ECPGR

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

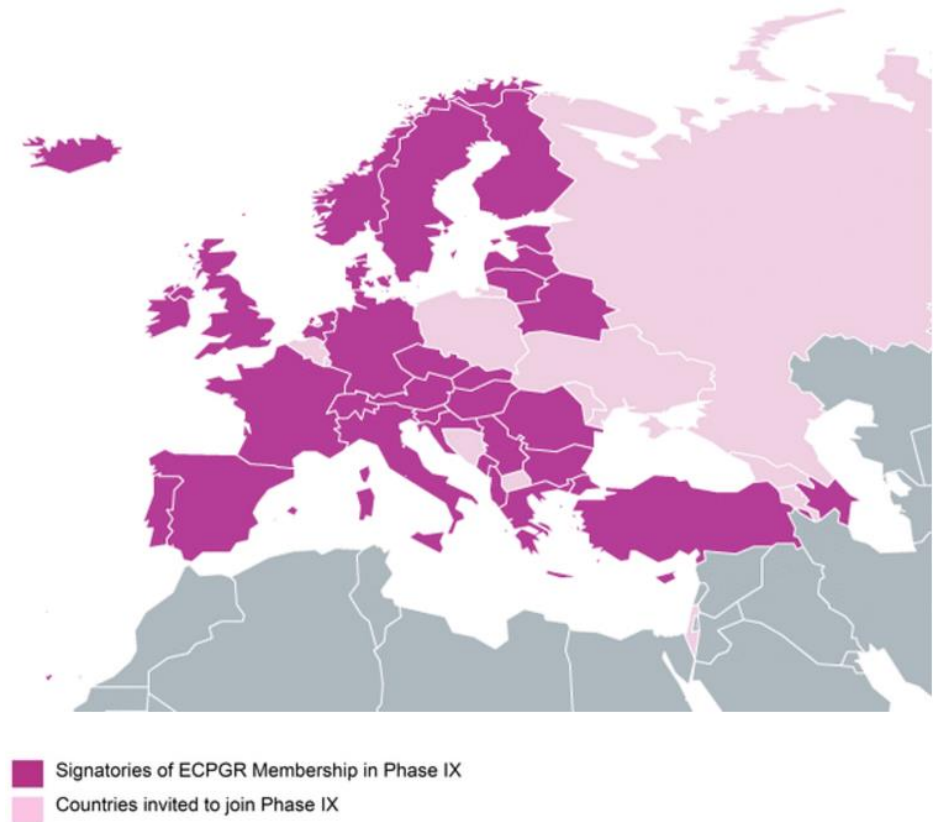
www.ecpgr.cgiar.org

Governance and funding

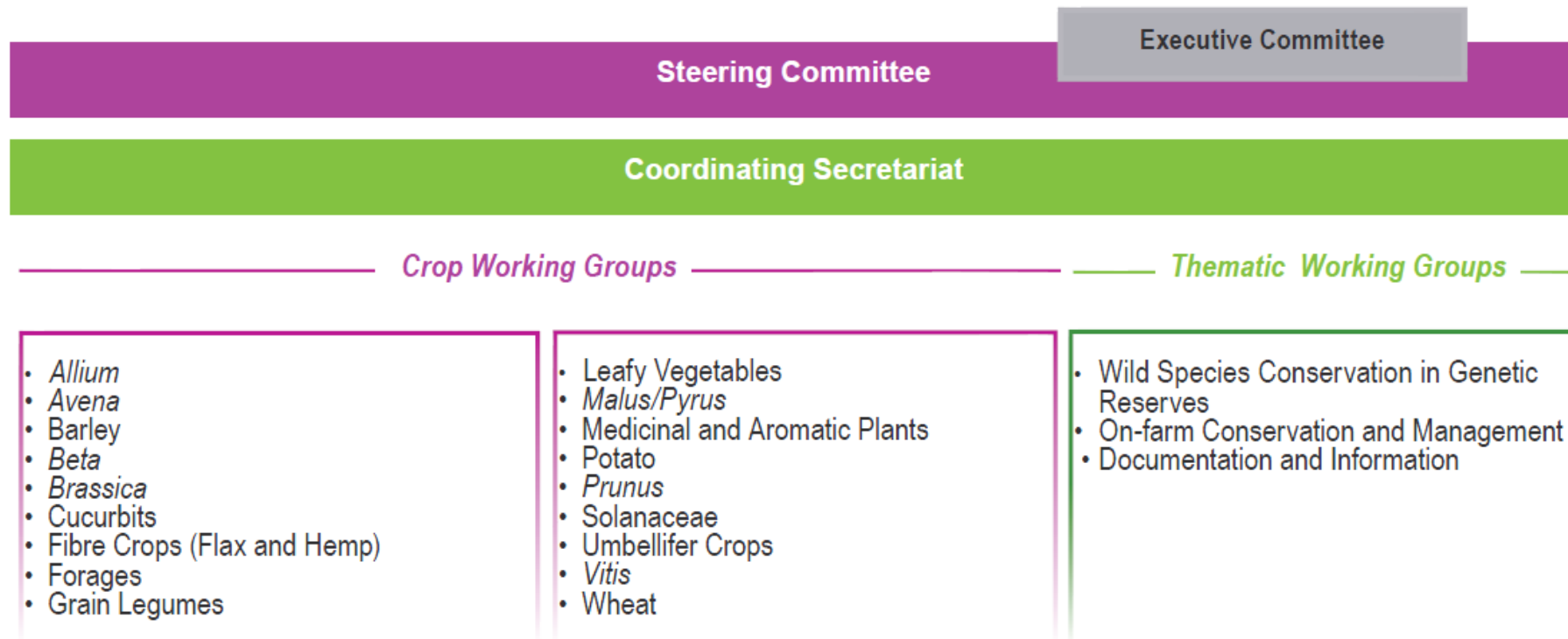
Nine Phases (1980-2018)

Member countries:

- Govern the programme through National Coordinators nominated at government level
- Contribute funds based on UN scale of assessment
Annual budget around € 520 000 from 38 countries
- Implement activities as inputs-in-kind



Structure



ECPGR operates through Working Groups

- Chair nominated by Executive Committee + Working Group members nominated by National Coordinators
- Operation through small activities (€ 15 000 each), funded through ECPGR Grant Scheme

Traditional activities:

- Exchange of information and planning collaboration
- Agreement on standards, guidelines, descriptors
- Setting up databases and exchanging data
- International project preparation
- Training, capacity building

Approximate breakdown of annual budget Phase IX (about € 520 000)

ITEMS	%
Staff costs	31.8 %
Working group activities	30.5 %
EURISCO management	15.5 %
Steering Committee, ExCo and travel	5.5 %
Facilities	3.1 %
Average overheads	13 %

ECPGR long-term goal

National, Sub-regional and Regional
Programmes in Europe rationally and
effectively conserve *ex situ* and *in situ* PGRFA
and increase their utilization

Objectives of ECPGR Phase IX (2014 – 2018)

1. **AEGIS** is operational and accessions are characterized and evaluated
2. Functionality of **EURISCO** ensured (data quality & quantity + in situ data)
3. ***In situ* and on-farm conservation and management** of priority crop wild relative and landrace populations are implemented throughout Europe
4. Relations with **users** of germplasm are strengthened
5. Commitment and regular resources from donors are increased
6. Secretariat support is adequate to sustain operations of ECPGR

1. Ex situ conservation

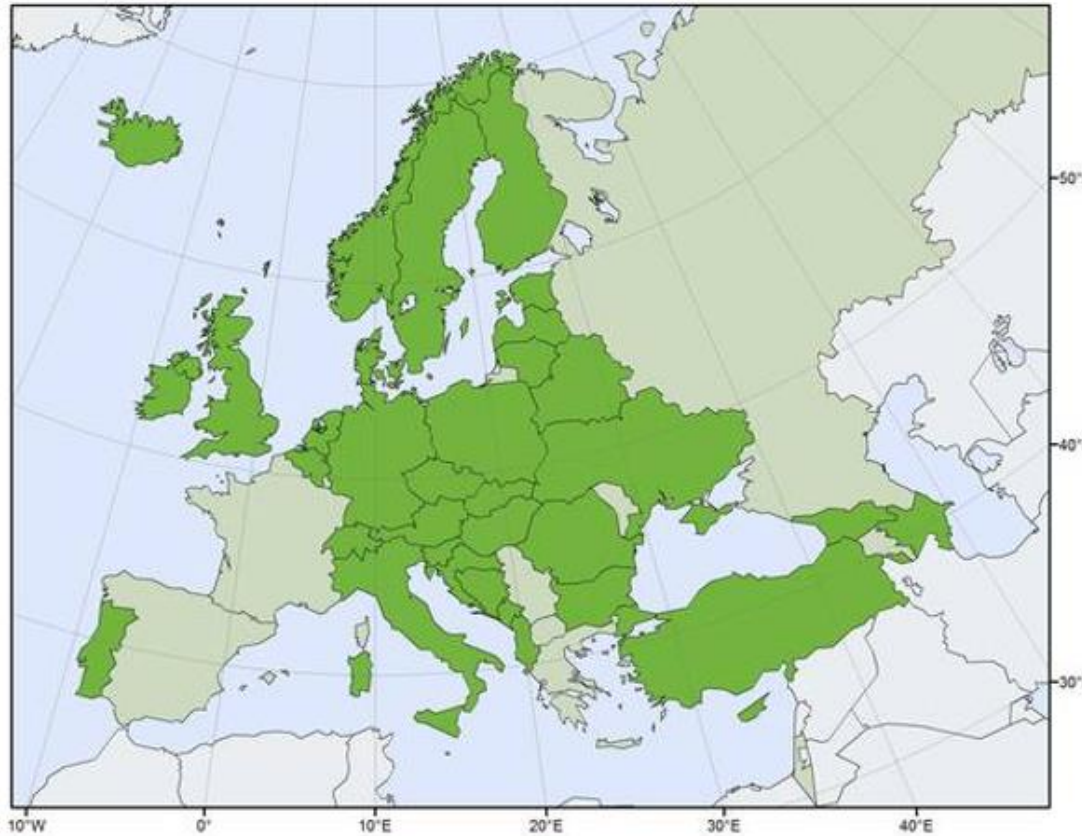
A European Genebank Integrated System AEGIS



- Establishment of **decentralized European Collection** of unique and important accessions
- **Memorandum of Understanding** whereby countries commit to **long-term conservation** and management of European Accessions and to their availability
- **Availability through SMTA**, including non-Annex I material
- **Quality System**: agreed standards, reporting, monitoring & capacity building
- **Role of Working Groups** for the management of decentralized collection

<http://aegis.cgiar.org/>

AEGIS membership

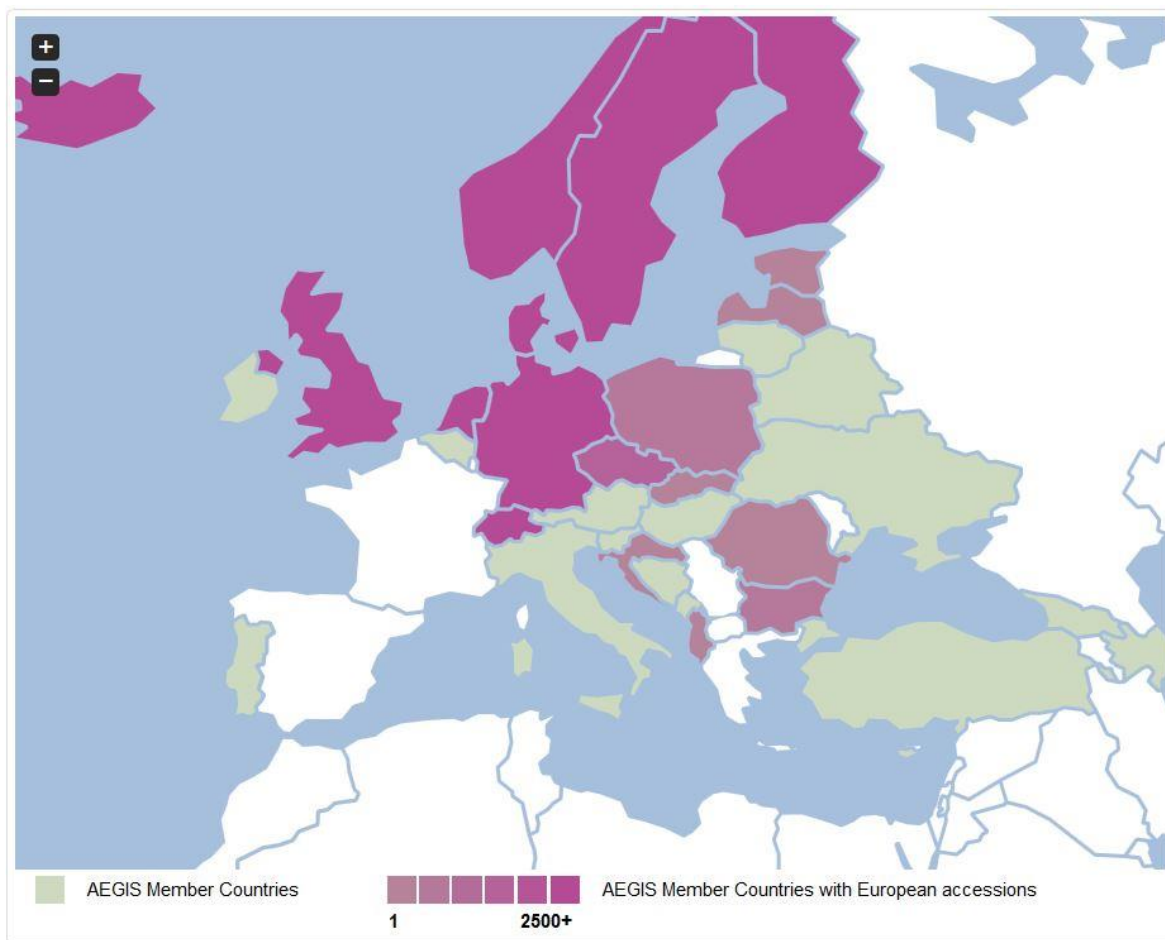


34 Member countries
61 Associate Members' Agreements

The European Collection

32 791 accessions included
in the European Collection

Country	No of accessions
Albania	8
Bulgaria	261
Croatia	90
Czech Republic	1285
Estonia	89
Germany	14193
Latvia	21
Netherlands	5853
Nordic Countries	3708
Poland	303
Romania	194
Slovakia	299
Switzerland	4838
United Kingdom	1659
Total	32 791



2. Documentation

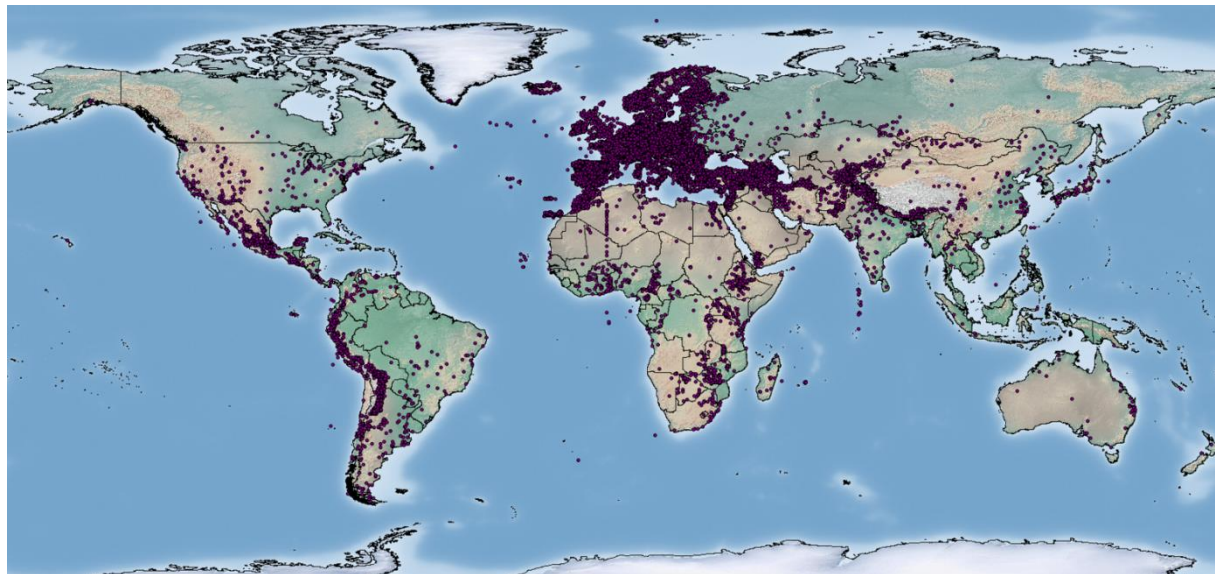
Online catalogue

with information on the European *ex situ* collections:
passport and soon characterization and evaluation data



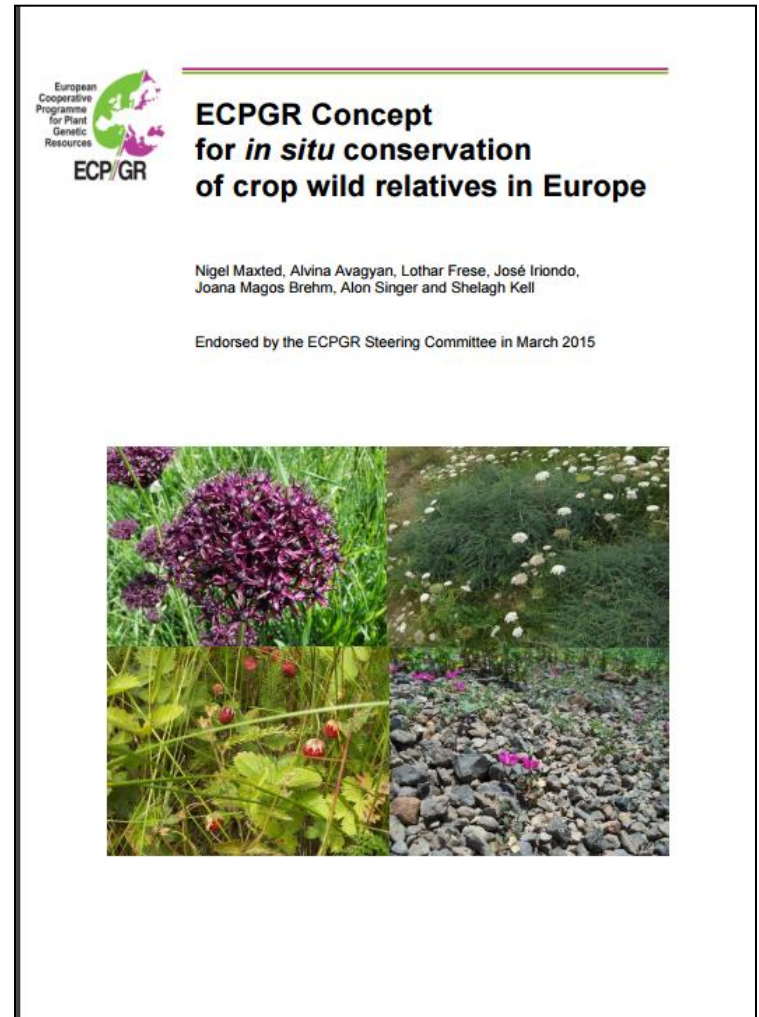
Online catalogue of accessions in European genebanks: EURISCO

- Data gathered from 43 national inventories
- 1.96M accession data from 377 institutions throughout Europe
- Largest PGR data provider at the accession level
- Register for the Multilateral System (413k) and AEGIS (32.8k) European accessions



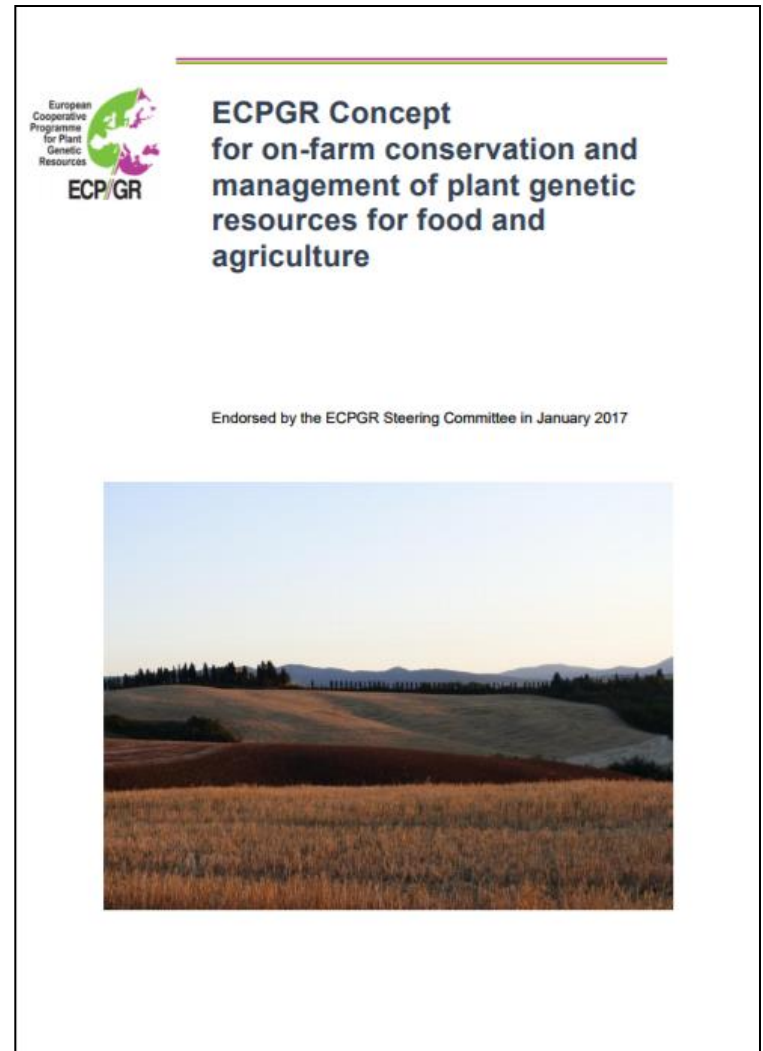
3. Conservation of crop wild relatives

- National and regional conservation strategy planning
(checklists -> priorities -> inventories -> action plans)
- Designation and management of **Most Appropriate Wild Populations** (genetic diversity and traits of interest) **in genetic reserves**



4. On farm conservation and management

- European Inventory of on-farm genetic diversity
- Developing indicators for monitoring diversity and threat
- Promoting good practices for on-farm management
- Concept of European agro-diversity sites
- Addressing issues of ownership, access, availability, marketing, etc.



5. Relations with users

- Aim to improve partnerships between genebanks and users
- Initiative to establish a European Evaluation Network – preparatory phase (Private Public Partnerships)

Conclusion

ECPGR comparative advantage

- ECPGR is a pan-European platform contributing to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and in line with the FAO International Treaty on PGRFA
- With governmental leadership and funding, ECPGR enables:
 - Formalized cooperation across more than 40 countries
 - Network of technical expertise (21 Working Groups)
 - Regional documentation infrastructure (EURISCO)
 - Regional conservation infrastructure (AEGIS)
 - Concepts and strategies (in situ CWR and on-farm landraces)

Opportunities to join forces

- **Following the conclusion of EU preparatory action (June 2016), crop, animal and forest genetic resources networks joined forces to solicit the EC:**
 - Jointly signed letter sent in Nov 2016 to encourage the EC to capitalize on the expertise of the existing genetic resources networks and offering a close collaboration between the EC and the above-mentioned networks and their programmes for the development of a “EU Agrobiodiversity Strategy”
 - A second letter sent on 31 Dec 2016 to the attention of DG-AGRI, Research and Innovation, suggesting research topics for the Work Programme 2018-2020 of Horizon 2020
- **Expected Call SFS-27-2018 to be launched in Oct/Nov 2017:**
Joining Forces for GenRes and biodiversity management
 - The three GR Network’s Secretariats have agreed to submit a joint proposal. Expected budget: €3M to be equally split among these GR Networks

Jointly identified research topics

1. Indicators and monitoring of agrobiodiversity: concepts and establishment of a baseline
2. Characterization and evaluation of GRFA and rationalization of their conservation
3. Systematic investigation and documentation of genetic resources specific knowledge
4. Investigation of the relationship between GRFA and ecosystem services provided by agro- and forest-ecosystems
5. Socio-economic potential of GRFA
6. Awareness raising for GRFA at consumer level