

# Report from Working Group Chairs' Networking meeting

*Theo van Hintum*

*Chair ECPGR Working Group on Documentation and Information*



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# Networking Meeting Report

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## ■ background

- Fourth Call of the ECPGR the Activity Grant Scheme
- project “Networking among Working Groups for discussing and coordinating the implementation of ECPGR objectives”
  - submitted by Jelka Šuštar-Vozlič (Slovenia) with 17 other WG chairs
  - involving 20 funded and 3 self-funded partners
  - two meetings of WG chairs
- approved by ECPGR ExCo in December 2016
  - only one meeting
  - grant: 15 k€

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## ■ activities

- ECPGR Networking meeting organized
  - 17-18 October 2017 at the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS), Ljubljana, Slovenia
  - 31 participants (19 out of 21 WG Chairs, 2 ex-Chairs, ExCo members, Secretariat & observers)
  - discussion on ECPGR phase IX and plans for phase X
  - presentation and discussion on other relevant issues
- meeting report is being drafted

# Networking Meeting Report





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- observations during the meeting
  - progress in most WGs is slow
  - WG Chairs are key-figures for PGR management in Europe
    - knowledge of practical work, network, acquisition
      - some of WG Chairs are mis-cast
    - WG Chairs: link 'work-floor' and 'ivory tower'
      - WG Chairs are eager to play that role
      - ExCo should use them that way

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- observations during the meeting
  - meeting was chaotic at times, but fruitful
    - planning and logistics was very good
    - agenda was basically ignored
      - appeared not necessary for very valuable discussions
  - due to the agenda-problems the recommendations were not all well thought through nor well discussed
    - 12 recommendations were formulated
      - convey the general spirit of the meeting and make some good suggestions
      - these were replied to (after the meeting) by the ExCo

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## ■ 12 recommendations

1. changed WG Membership: two types
  - Full Member (expert in the WG subject, one per country?)
  - Associate Member (wishes to be kept informed)
2. WG representation in ECPGR decision making
3. re-introduction of WG Deputy Chair
4. WG Chair meetings
  - twice every phase prior to SC meetings



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- 12 recommendations
  - 5. funds to all WG's
  - 6. better communication amongst WG's
  - 7. establish Task Force to review genebank operations and promote cooperation
  - 8. improve visibility og material in genebanks
    - crop portals
  - 9. establish Task Force to attract funds

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## ■ 12 recommendations

10. develop joint activities with small farmers, local governments, education and biodiversity agents
11. AEGIS related
  - AEGIS candidate as status for material to be included
  - improve funding of genebanks
  - gain ERIC status
  - introduce genebank mentorship
  - promote inclusion of phenotypic data
12. various EURISCO related issues

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- in conclusion
  - at first it seemed 'yet another meeting'
  - it turned out to be an exciting meeting of knowledgeable active PGR colleagues

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# Thank you for your attention!

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