



ECPGR

Network of European Genebank Managers

30 May 2023

Presentation by Lise Lykke Steffensen

Why a Network for European Genebank Managers ?

Together we are stronger.

We collaborate today on the basis of projects, national, regional and international forums and settings, friendships etc

But leading a genebank is also leadership and management of the operations of the genebank in the combination with the professional work.

There are no such network today within Europe

Background

- The idea of establishing a Network for European Genebank Managers was proposed during the Steering Committee (SC) meeting in June 2022, with the aim to better connect people with this function and focus in their specific area of work.
- Establishing the Network would allow for strengthening the cooperation among leaders of genebanks in Europe.
- The ECPGR SC gave in 2022 its support for the establishment of this network. It is the aim that the Network of European Genebank Managers shall be a longterm entity which this ToRs is defining.



The Network operate based on its autonomous Terms of References



- A strong link with ECPGR would be guaranteed by the following provisions:
- ✓ Approval of the Network's Terms of Reference by the ECPGR Steering Committee.
- ✓ Nominations of the Network members to be made by ECPGR National Coordinators;
- ✓ Reporting duties to the SC (via the ECPGR Secretariat) about progress and decisions;
- ✓ Self-sustained approach to be complemented by ECPGR funding support for the participation in the physical meetings of country members belonging to countries of categories A and B of the ECPGR contributors, up to an upper limit to be defined by the SC as part of the ECPGR Budget for Phase XI;
- ✓ Possibility for the Network to apply for additional ECPGR funding for capacity building or other activities;

Objectives

The establishment of the European Genebank Managers Network has the overall aim to strengthen the management of genebanks by exchange of knowledge, cooperation and capacity building of genebanks, including the various aspects of leading and managing a genebank.



Scope

The Network will focus on management and leadership issues of relevance for improving genebanks and their management. This will be done through exchanging experiences and ideas; learning from each other to obtain efficient and high quality systems of plant genetic resources conservation and utilization.

The Network will share and exchange ideas, experiences, demonstrate methodology of each other, support and find synergies when possible.

Further, the Network can contribute to inputs and developments of various policies and initiatives to strengthen the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources in genebanks.

The Network will not cover topics already covered by the ECPGR Working Groups or the EVA Networks.

Topics

- The Network will decide on topics and activities within its mandate. The below list of topics is therefore for inspiration and not exhaustive:

- **Professional topics** like fx; facilitation of AEGIS and AQUAS, development of a Genebank Quality Certification System and management of genebank collections, eg developments of a genebank manual. Databases, conservation techniques and new developments etc.
- **Leadership topics** like fx development of strategies, change management, digitalisation, security back-ups, fund raising, working with a Board etc
- **Management topics** fx like people management, capacity building, optimization of techniques and work streams, genebank methodology, sourcing etc
- **Policy issues** like fx promote the implementation of national and regional conservation strategies through sharing of knowledge and experiences
- **Support, help and back-up** for each other in case of challenges and problems.
- **Support to solve practical problems** at genebanks within the scope of ECPGR and provide guidance for other European countries genebanks, which are beyond the scope of ECPGR.
- **When relevant, support and interact** with the ECPGR Working Groups

Meetings

- 1 physical meeting (1-2 days) at the premises of a European genebank.
- 1-3 digital meetings each year.
- The preparation and meeting location should rotate among the participating institutions.
- The Network will well in advance of each calendar year plan topics and dates for next years in person meeting and digital meetings.



Working methods

- The approach at the meetings will be to gain as much shared knowledge as possible within the objectives of the Network.
- The in person meeting will be co-organized by the chairmanship and the host of the meeting. The digital meetings will also be co-organized between the chairmanship and members of the Network.
- The agenda and meeting documents will be circulated at least three weeks in advance of the network meeting. Minutes will be circulated not later than 7 working days after a Network meeting.
- Sub-groups can be formed for the preparation of any relevant topic for the Network.



Members and participation in meetings

- Members are nominated by the ECPGR National Coordinators, indicating one contact person per country who should be heading and/or managing a public genebank in Europe
- Normally, only one person from each country should attend the in-person meetings.
- Seek to have members from as many ECPGR member countries as possible.
- To make the in-person meetings manageable limitations to maximum of 35 persons.
- The final list of participants in each in-person meeting is defined by the Chair, based on the nominations made by the NC
- All the members can attend the virtual meetings.

Funding

- The Network shall seek to be as much self-funded as possible.
- ECPGR can provide complementary funding for the organization and for participants of category A and B of the ECPGR contributors, based on the available budget, and is mobilized by the Secretariat upon request of the Network Chair.
- The Genebank Network may apply for additional ECPGR funding, such as for capacity building or other activities by submitting proposals to the Steering Committee.



Chairmanship

The Chair:

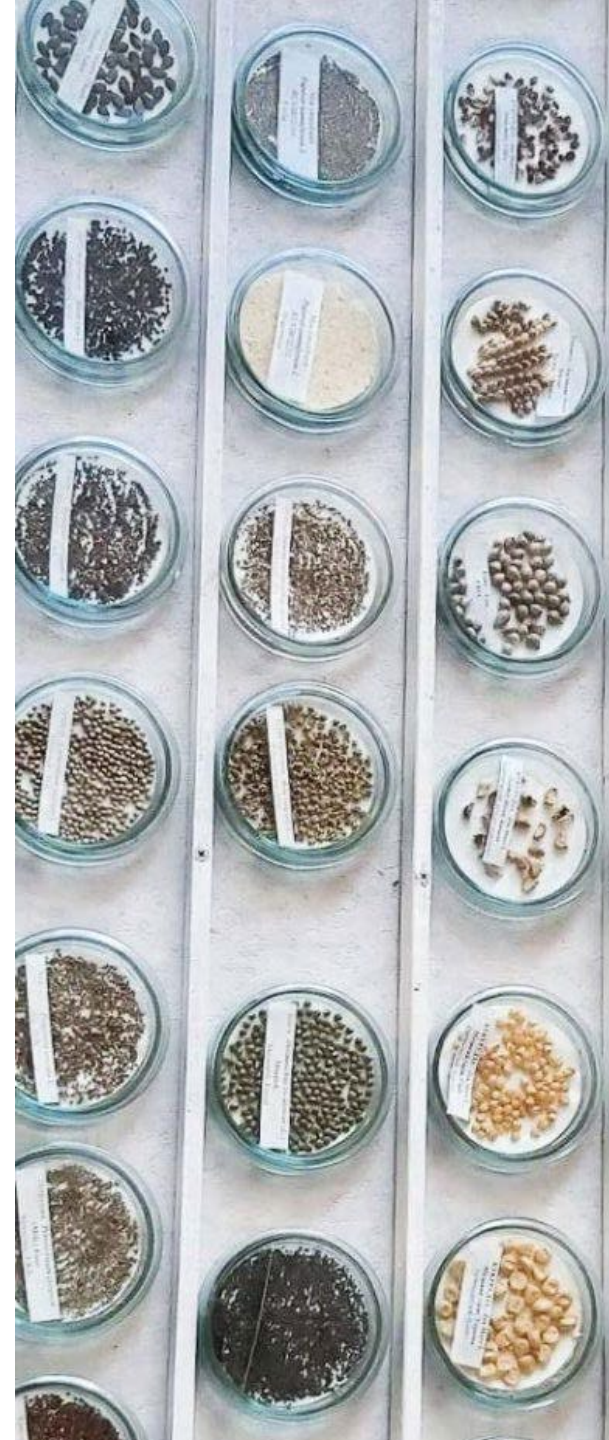
- ❖ Formulate the meeting's agenda in consultation with the network members + chair the Network meetings
- ❖ Oversee the implementation of the Network workplan.
- ❖ Provide information to the Network members on ECPGR events and encourage involvement of all the Network members.
- ❖ Be proactive in proposing activities and contribute to the coordination.
- ❖ If needed, define the list of participants of each meeting.
- ❖ Provide the ECPGR Secretary with a status report on progress made.

The Vice-Chair

- ❖ supporting function in the implementation of the Chair's tasks and prepare the minutes from the Network meetings.

Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

- ❖ The Network selects a Chair amongst its members.
- ❖ The Chair is selected at the end of an in-person Network meeting, and s/he exercises her/his role for two years until the next election.
- ❖ The selection of the Chair is made by consensus.
- ❖ The Chair selects the Vice-Chair amongst the Network members and seeks the consensus of the Network members on her/his choice.



Thank you for your attention

