

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**M. Lefort**

ExCo Chair

*Oeiras, 30 May – 1 June 2023*



# Members' turnover and number of meetings during Phase X (2019 – mid-2023)

Outgoing Member	Year	Incoming Member
Roberto De Salvador	2019	Benvindo Martins Maças
Eva Thörn	2019	Marianne Lefort
Marc Lateur	2020	Beate Schierscher-Viret
Küllli Annamaa	2021	Birgitte Lund
Vojtech Holubec	2022	Pavol Hauptvogel
Benvindo Martins Maças	2023	Petra Engel
<b>13 meetings</b> <i>(2019-2023)</i>	<b>4 in person</b> <i>(Maccarese, 2019; Tuusula 2019; Svalbard, 2020; Brussels, 2021)</i>	<b>9 virtual</b> <i>(from mid-2020 to April 2023)</i>



# Main highlights

- **Grant Scheme** calls for proposals and requests for meetings
- **Follow-up of SC decisions** taken during the 16<sup>th</sup> SC meeting
- Encourage the exploration for setting up a **Genebank curators' network**
- Preparation of the **17<sup>th</sup> SC meeting**



# Grant Scheme calls for proposals and requests for meetings (mid-2022 – 2023)

- **9 proposals accepted and one 1 WG meeting** (2019 – mid-2022 / 5 calls)
  - $197,000\text{€} + 13,500\text{€} = 210,500\text{€}$  awarded
- **6 proposals and two meetings accepted** (mid-2022 – mid-2023 / 1 call)
  - $188,500\text{€} + 48,000\text{€} = 236,500\text{€}$  awarded

THEMATIC WG	CROP WG
On farm	Grain Legumes
Cryopreservation (meeting proposal)	Grain Legumes
CWR (meeting proposal)	<i>Allium</i>
	<i>Vitis</i>
	Potato

- A huge 'quality' effort for proposals submitted during the last call
- $446,500\text{€}$  awarded for Phase X (out of ca.  $668,000\text{€}$  available)

# Follow-up of decisions taken during the 16th SC meeting (1/3)

- Preparing the 'Table of Priority activities' for the implementation of the PGR Strategy for Europe during Phase XI
    - ExCo reviewed work based on SC preliminary discussions last June
    - ExCo suggested a wide circulation of drafts among WG chairs and SC Committee
- Last revised version agreed by ExCo submitted for final discussion and agreement by SC at its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting*



# Follow-up of decisions taken during the 16th SC meeting (2/3)

- Set up a Task Force for the revision of the ECPGR ToRs and rules of procedures for Phase XI:
    - ExCo drafted mandate/ToRs of the TF
    - ExCo searched for volunteers from all subregions including chair (**Linn Borgen Nilsen**)
    - ExCo including ECPGR Secretary actively participated in the TF (3 ExCo members involved out of 7 participants)
- *Last version of the document presented by Linn Borgen Nilsen for final discussion and agreement by SC at its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting*

# Follow-up of decisions taken during the 16th SC meeting (3/3)

## Cryopreservation WG:

- ExCo suggested the nomination of two co-Chairs (B. Panis/BE and M. Faltus/Cz) and agreed on their letter of appointment (June 2022)
- ExCo encouraged and supported the organization of a ‘launch’ meeting (May 2023) to discuss main elements to elaborate:
  - a strategy for cryopreservation of PGR in Europe
  - a strategy to broaden the routine use of cryopreservation methods.

*→ Brief overview of this founder meeting (to be presented by L. Maggioni for discussion and guidance of SC on next steps)*



# Encourage the exploration for setting up a Genebank Curators' Network

- Following preliminary discussion during the 16<sup>th</sup> SC meeting:
    - ExCo agreed on rough mandate of the TF
    - ExCo agreed on Lise Lykke Steffensen to operate as ad hoc Chair of the TF
- Progress on potential ToRs and modus operandi of a future network (to be presented by Lise Lykke Steffensen for discussion and guidance of SC on next steps)*





# Interactions with Working Groups

## Appointment of WG Chairs:

- Cryopreservation WG (B. Panis & M. Faltus, August 2022)
- Forages (S. Barth, March 2023)

ExCo organized a **virtual meeting with WG Chairs**, focused on important issues to prepare Phase XI (March 2023):

1. 'Table of priority activities' for progressive implementation of the PGR strategy for Europe: elaboration process and discussion
2. 'ECPGRs ToRs and Rules of Procedures': presentation of the elements relevant to WG activities and discussion

*→ Both documents were revised to take into consideration relevant suggestions from WG Chairs, after agreement of ExCo (1) and TF on ECPGR ToRs (2)*

# Preparation of the 17<sup>th</sup> SC meeting

- Agenda
- Background documents discussed and agreed by ExCo:
  - Proposals for Phase XI budget and table of country contributions
  - Table of priorities for Phase XI
  - WG reports template
  - How to deal with requests for emergency regeneration in European genebanks (a practical case).

# Conclusions (1/2)

- A significant progress in the quality of Grant Scheme proposals in the last Call (2022)
- A new dynamic with WGs that are motivated to participate in the preparation of ECPGR strategic documents (PGR Strategy, Priority activities for Phase X, ECPGR ToRs)
- A relevant plus value of TFs' work to accompany and/or urge the revision/evolution/creation of documents and activities.



# Conclusions (2/2)

**A new ambitious Strategy with clear objectives and associated 10-year targets with priority activities to be implemented during Phase XI**

- The ECPGR budget to be adopted at the end of the 17th SC meeting
- The vital need to complement 'current' ECPGR budget through diversified sources:
  - *Importance to stimulate the implementation of activities through other funding sources, namely EU-funded projects (Secretariat, WGs and other operational bodies)*
  - *Need to continue to lobby through successive EU presidencies for more sustainable funding for European cooperative activities*





**THANK YOU**