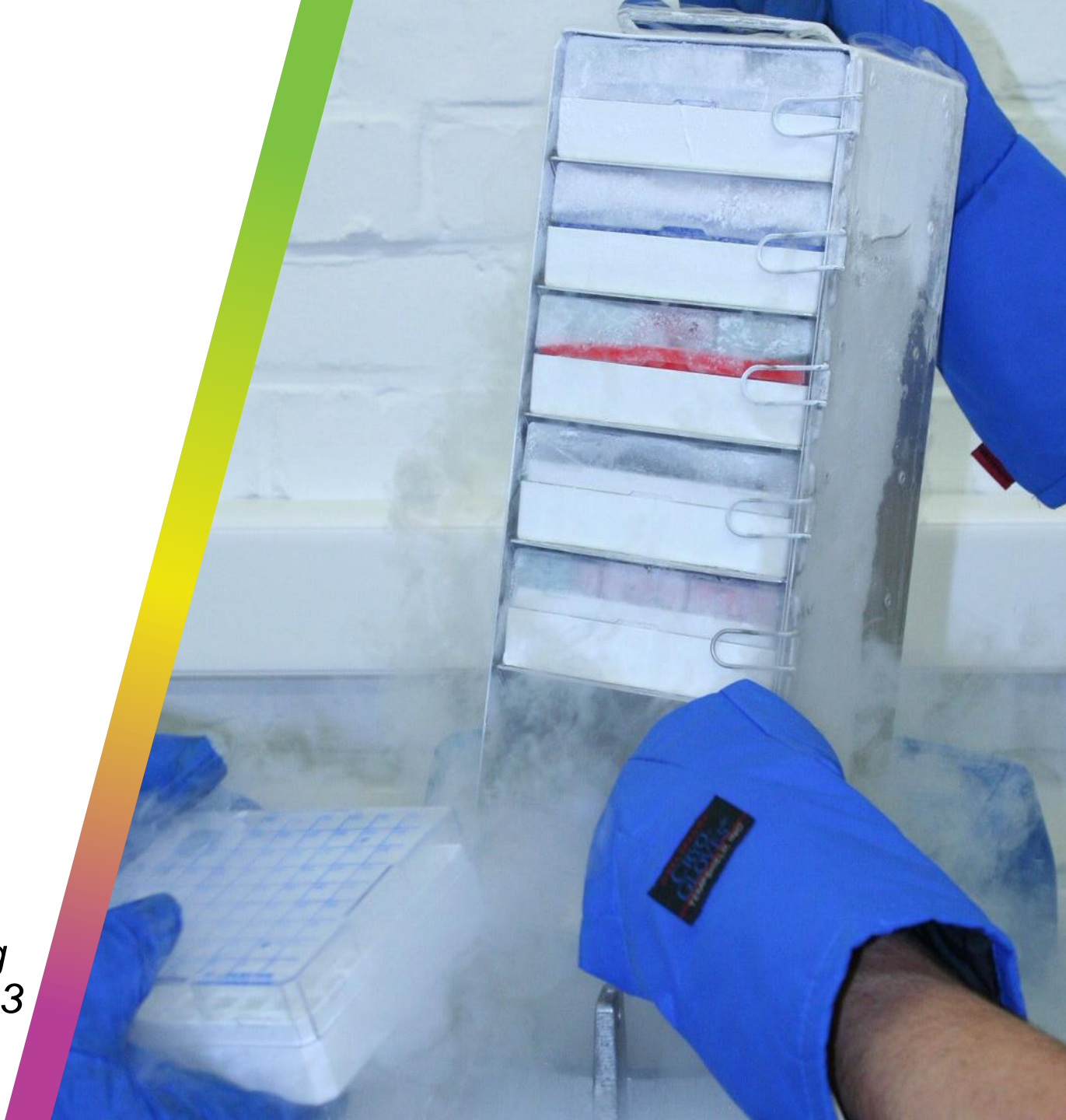




# INFORMATION ON ECPGR

L. Maggioni  
ECPGR Secretary

*First meeting of the Cryopreservation Working  
Group, Prague, Czech Republic, 3-4 May 2023*



# European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources

- 43 years of existence
- Objective: collaboratively conserve PGRFA, provide access and increase use
- Funded by member countries and governed by a Steering Committee of National Coordinators
- Budget for actions (meetings and activities), documentation (EURISCO), and coordination (Secretariat)

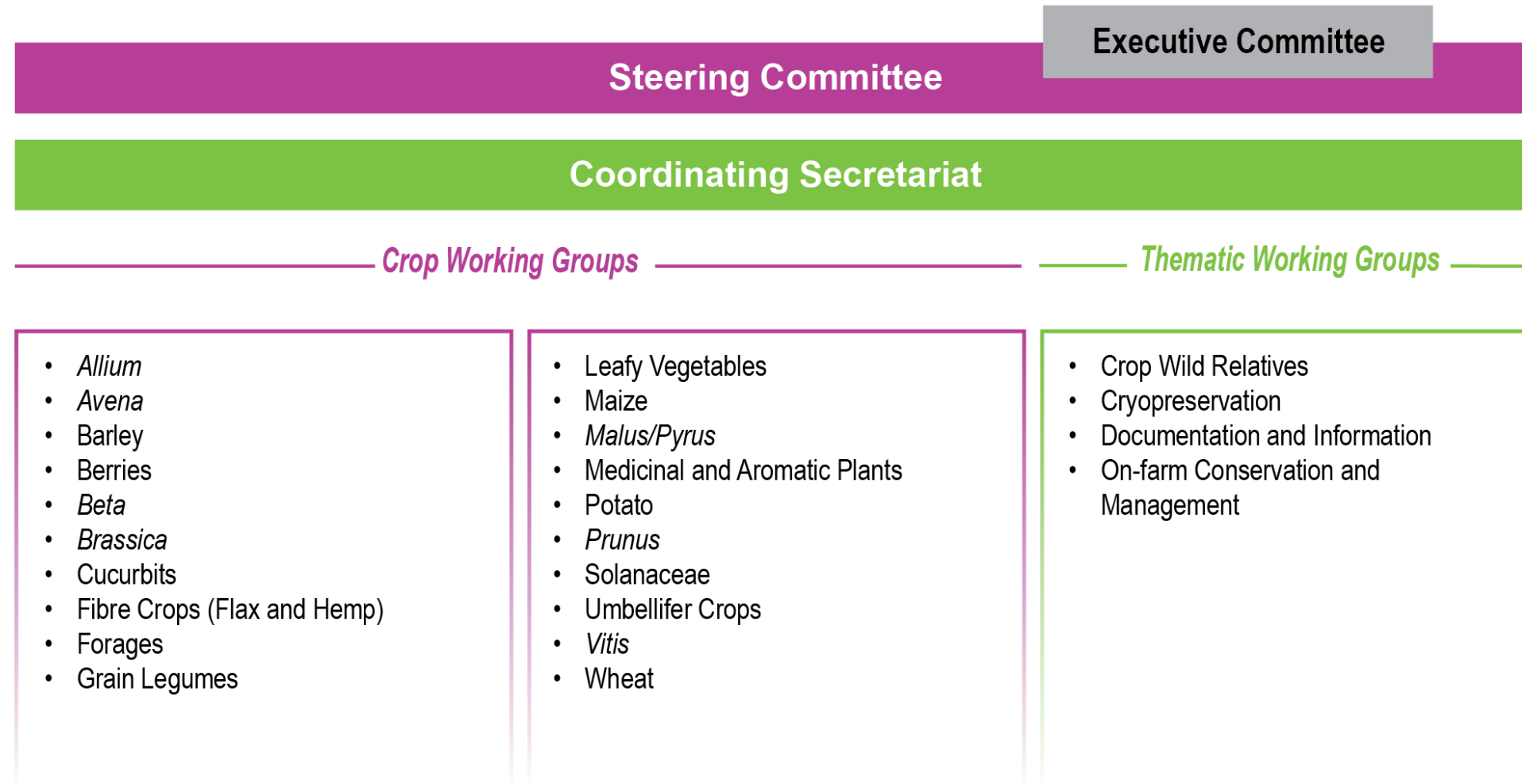


# ECPGR membership 2023



- ECPGR Membership in Phase X (Letter of agreement signed)
- ECPGR Membership in Phase X (Country did not sign Letter of Agreement, but is paying contributions)
- Countries eligible to join Phase X

# ECPGR structure



# Objectives of ECPGR Phase X

<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/about/goals-and-objectives>

1. *Ex situ* conservation and provision of access through **AEGIS** and the **European Collection**
2. Documentation of **passport and phenotypic information** through **EURISCO** (*ex situ* and *in situ*)
3. *In situ* conservation and use of **crop wild relatives**
4. Promotion of **on-farm** conservation and management
5. Promote **use** of PGRFA (**EVA**)

# 1. To efficiently conserve and provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through AEGIS and the European Collection

Outputs	Activities	Responsibility	Indicators
1.5 Options and opportunities for a cryopreservation network explored	1.5.1 Organize a meeting to identify cryopreservation needs and aims and consider setting up a dedicated network	1.5.1 Relevant WG members; Secretariat	1.5.1.1 Recommendations published; Framework for a cryopreservation network defined  1.5.1.2 Number of vegetatively propagated accessions cryopreserved



# Working Groups operations

- Chair selected by ExCo based on Expressions of Interest
  - A Co-Chair can also be defined
- Members nominated by the respective National Coordinator
  - Number not limited, but contact person recommended
- Expected to organize collaborative activities in line with ECPGR objectives (ECPGR funds + inputs-in-kind)
- Two channels to obtain 'limited' ECPGR funds:
  - Meetings (upon request)
  - Grant Scheme activities (competitive Calls for proposals)



# AEGIS – A European Genebank Integrated System



- Decentralized **European Collection**
- Country membership via **Memorandum of Understanding**
- **Availability through SMTA**, including non-Annex I material
- **Quality System**: agreed standards, peer review and capacity building
- **Role of Working Groups** for the management of decentralized collection

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



# Agreed standards

## **CROP-SPECIFIC GENE BANK STANDARDS FOR *IN VITRO* CULTURE AND CRYOPRESERVATION**

Agreed by the *Allium* Working Group

August 2017

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Based on **FAO Genebank standards for *in vitro* culture and cryopreservation (2014)**



# Contents of EURISCO (April 2023)

- 43 countries
- 2,085,425 accessions
- 407 institutes



<http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>

# European Evaluation Network for PGRFA (EVA)

# EVA

European Evaluation Network



## **PUBLIC–PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Increasing ECPGR knowledge and opportunities on public–private partnerships for the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

<https://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/european-evaluation-network-eva>

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**[www.genresj.org](http://www.genresj.org)**



PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES STRATEGY  
FOR EUROPE

# ECPGR as part of EC projects

- GenRes Bridge (2019–2021)
  - PGR Strategy for Europe
- AGENT (2021–2025)
  - Genebank peer reviews
  - Trainings
  - EVA extension
- Pro-GRACE (2023–2025)
  - Towards the establishment of a PGR research infrastructure



PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES STRATEGY  
FOR EUROPE

## Approach to achieve genebank standards

- Improving management strategies and methods for clonally-propagated plants (e.g. fruit trees) and recalcitrant seeded plants, as well as for species that have been neglected in current conservation activities. This will also include exploring options and opportunities for **a cryopreservation network** and complementary on-farm conservation, in particular for fruit trees.

# ECPGR Towards Phase XI (2024–2028)

- The SC agreed that the proposed priority objectives of Phase XI correspond with **the PGR Strategy**
- Revised Terms of Reference for WG members and Chairs
- New Network/WG on **genebank management**
- Small size budget is expected for activities (100k per year?)
- Decisions to be taken at the next Steering Committee meeting:  
30 May–1 June 2023



# Expectation of Steering Committee from Cryo WG

- To develop a concept for the most rational and efficient way to collaboratively conserve under cryopreservation the relevant European material.
- A suitable number of European facilities that could share the tasks could be defined
- Genebanks currently working on cryo to share and further develop their knowledge... to collectively serve regional needs
- Transfer of material to Cryo-vault as secondary duplicates not a priority



# Acknowledgments

ECPGR  
Secretariat:



Sandra  
Goritschnig



Loredana  
Maria



Nora  
Capozio

A close-up photograph of a hand using tweezers to place a small green plant specimen onto a white grid overlay on a petri dish. The scene is dimly lit, with the text 'THANK YOU' overlaid in the center. A horizontal bar with a color gradient from green to purple is positioned below the text.

**THANK YOU**