

21 December 2016

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**Ref: European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources - ECPGR**  
**Subject: Activity Grant Scheme – Fourth Call**

Dear Helena,

I am pleased to inform you that the ECPGR Executive Committee (ExCo), during its recent meeting on 14-16 December 2016, approved for funding the proposal “SafeAlliDiv”, provided a few clarifications are received and a few adjustments are made (see below).

The Steering Committee will have to clear the decision with regard to the partnership in the project. The Secretariat will then contact you again as soon as the above formalities are completed, regarding the Letters of Agreement to be prepared.

The ExCo appreciated the topic of the Activity and recognized the relevance and potential value of the material of choice (potato onion and garlic in the Northern countries). At the same time, they identified a number of weaknesses and inconsistencies in the proposal, as follows:

- The title mentions climate change, but no measures for adaptation are mentioned in this project
- Reference is made to a contribution to the ECPGR outcome on CWR *in situ* conservation, but the project seems rather focusing only on activities on on-farm crops
- Reference is made to develop a ‘European conservation plan’, while the Activity is limited by its partnership to only a sub-regional part of Europe
- The scope of the Activity, including all minor *Allium* crops, seems to be too large for the available resources
- No mention is made to the importance of cryo-conservation for this particular crop group
- The molecular analysis itself and the actions to be taken as a result of the analysis are not sufficiently described.

Therefore, you are invited to send the following clarifications to the Secretariat:

- Better description of the planned molecular analysis (i.e. which markers will be used; how many accessions; origin of the analyzed accessions, either from genebanks or from new collecting; selection criteria for molecular analysis)
- How do you plan to connect the molecular analysis with the inclusion of new accessions into AEGIS and which specific steps will you undertake in this direction.

Moreover, you are requested to slightly modify the approach of the project as follows:

- Restrict the focus of the Activity to potato onion and garlic in the Scandinavian and Baltic area
- Change the title into something like: 'Safeguarding potato onion and garlic diversity in Scandinavia and the Baltic area'
- Restrict the focus to *ex situ* conservation and on-farm investigation (i.e. no Crop Wild Relatives' activity)
- When elaborating a sub-regional conservation strategy, take into consideration the opportunity to suggest plans for cryo-conservation.

Finally, the ExCo noted that Estonia and Latvia do not hold a sufficient number of quota to fund the participation of two participants per country. You are therefore requested to identify one participant from each of these two countries to be funded for the participation in the meetings, while the second participant will be welcome to the meetings on a self-funded basis.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you and all the partners involved in this proposal and look forward to a successful implementation.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Secretariat in case you need any further clarification.

Best wishes,



Eva Thörn  
Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee