

# **Competitive AEGIS Grant Scheme - Evaluation report of 1<sup>st</sup> Call**

## **Introduction**

During the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee in Sarajevo in September 2008 it was decided to provide additional funds, to be assigned through a competitive grant scheme, and dedicated to AEGIS activities. The scheme should be open to all the ECPGR Networks and requested a Task Force to draft the procedures for the scheme. The Task Force, consisting of Merja Veteläinen, Mike Ambrose, Gert Kleijer, Theo van Hintum and Jan Engels developed a draft proposal on the establishment of the scheme, requested the feedback from the Steering Committee and finalized the procedures and elements for the call. The 1<sup>st</sup> Call was formally announced on 26 June 2009 by placing it formally on the AEGIS website and by alerting the respective ECPGR bodies. The deadline for the submission of proposals was set at 28 October 2009.

During the first part of 2009 the ECPGR Secretariat initiated the process of formulating the terms of reference of the AEGIS Advisory Committee and of identifying possible members of the Committee. This deemed necessary as the Committee was expected to play an important role in the evaluation report.

Details of the Grant, including the assumptions and principles, the objectives, duration, total amount of Euros, etc., the requirements for the individual proposals, the selection and review procedure, as well as the implementation steps are included in Attachment 1.

## **Proposals received and evaluation process**

A total of 18 proposals were received. For details of the proposals see Table 1 below.

Due to the fact that one of the proposals was received well after the deadline it was excluded from the evaluation. Furthermore, three proposals were decided as not being eligible by the Secretariat, due to lack of the requested endorsement letter from the Working Group concerned and/or they were clearly outside the scope of the Call. This meant that only 14 proposals were evaluated by the Advisory Committee.

The Secretariat had indicated, on the basis of potential conflict of interest, which proposals should be evaluated by which Advisory Committee members. Furthermore, the Secretariat had carefully assessed the proposals whether or not they would fulfil the requirement of directly contributing to the objectives of AEGIS, and only five proposals were identified as fulfilling this criterion.

In the pre-evaluation period some Advisory Committee (AC) members had indicated that they would like to evaluate all proposals, in order to ensure the strongest possible expertise. All proposals were included on a separate Grant Portal that could only be assessed by authorized individuals, i.e. the Committee members and the Secretariat staff. Some AC members followed the agreed procedure whereas others evaluated all the proposals. Unfortunately, one member was not able to provide the evaluation details in time before the final assessment.

### **The evaluation result**

Based on the assessment and carefully applying the selection criteria the Advisory Committee concluded that of the 14 eligible proposals only three proposals did comply with all the requirements, were of good quality and are expected to make a substantial contribution to the establishment and development of AEGIS. These proposals are:

1. Assessment of Unique Material in the European Collections of Umbellifer Crops, University of Warwick, United Kingdom.
2. Towards comprehensive pea germplasm management for future use, Agritec Plant Research, Czech Republic.
3. Cryopreservation of young inflorescence bases in bolting garlic for germplasm storage, Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Germany.

Considering the fact that these proposals would only use part of the funds made available the AC proposes to launch a second Call at the end of 2010. They decided to use the increased experience with the management of the Grant as well as the fact that the Secretariat will have gained further experience with the development of the AEGIS elements, including the constraints encountered, to orientate the topics of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call to the areas that are of direct concern.

Title of the Proposal	Institute	Project Coordinator	Country	Budget	Endorsement	date of receipt	Average score
Assessment of Unique Material in the European Collections of Umbellifer Crops	University of Warwick	C. Allender	United Kingdom	€ 10,579.60	Umbellifer WG interim Chair	16-Oct-09	4.50
Towards comprehensive pea germplasm management for future use	Agritec Plant Research	P. Smykal	Czech Republic	€ 10,450.00	Oil and Protein Crop NCG chair	16-Oct-09	3.93
Cryopreservation of young inflorescence bases in bolting garlic for germplasm storage	Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK)	J. Keller	Germany	€ 13,500.00	Allium WG Chair	16-Oct-09	3.70
Brassica selection criteria for the identification of the Most Appropriate Accessions (MAAs): Relate to the <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Portuguese collection	Banco Português de Germoplasma Vegetal/ INRB, I.P.	A. Barata	Portugal	€ 9,400.00	Brassica WG Chair	18-Oct-09	3.63
Predicting the precipitous death of seed in conventional genebanks through thermal fingerprinting: a case study on Brassicas and their relatives	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	H.W. Pritchard	United Kingdom	€ 11,900.00	Brassica WG Chair	18-Oct-09	2.53
In vitro slow growth storage as a method for safe duplicate maintenance and distribution of European Accessions in the framework of pome fruit genebank	Research and Breeding Institute of Pomology Holovousy	J. Sedlak, F. Paprstein	Czech Republic	€ 10,000.00	Malus/Pyrus WG chair	16-Oct-09	2.20
Creation and use of the National Inventory of Wheat wild relatives ( <i>Aegilops</i> L.)	Tbilisi Botanical Garden and Institute of Botany	T. Jinjikhadze	Georgia	€ 8,270.00	Wheat WG Chair / Cereals NCG chair	17-Oct-09	2.55
Collection of eggplant sources of cold-, hot- and salinity hardiness for breeding cultivars destined for organic growing systems	Institute of Vegetable and Melon Growing of UAAS	O. Shabetia	Ukraine	€ 10,000.00	Solanaceae WG Chair	17-Oct-09	1.98
Screening of national collection of food legumens by productivity and resistance	Genetic Resources Institute of ANAS	Z. Akparov	Azerbaijan	€ 9,900.00	Oil and Protein Crop NCG chair	22-Oct-09	1.87

Title of the Proposal	Institute	Project Coordinator	Country	Budget	Endorsement	date of receipt	Average score
Evaluation of wheat collection from NationalGenebank by productivity and resistance to phytopathogens and abiotic stresses	Genetic Resources Insitute of ANAS	E. Mekhtizadeh	Azerbaijan	€ 10,000.00	Wheat WG Chair / Cereals NCG chair	22-Oct-09	1.76
Allocation of millet sources of smut resistance and other valuable traits and creation of trait collection for inclusion in AEGIS	Yuriev Plant Production Institute n.a. V.Y. Yurjev of UAAS, National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine	V. Ryabchoun	Ukraine	€ 10,000.00	Cereals NCG Chair	17-Oct-09	2.20
Regeneration and examination of accessions in collections of spring barley, oats and rye	Agricultural Research Institute Kromeriz	J. Milotova	Czech Republic	€ 10,000.00	Cereals NCG Chair	18-Oct-09	2.05
Creation of trait collection of maize for hardiness to biotic and abiotic factors and economic valuable traits	Yuriev Plant Production Institute n.a. V.Y. Yurjev of UAAS, National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine	V. Ryabchoun	Ukraine	€ 10,000.00	Cereals NCG Chair	17-Oct-09	1.65
Characterization, documentation and conservation of native medicinal and aromatic plants ( <i>Origanum vulgare</i> L., <i>Gentiana lutea</i> L.) and their habitats for establishment of potential European germplams collection	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty	D. Baricevic	Slovenia	€ 10,000.00	MAP WG Chair	9-Oct-09	2.26
Identification and Conservation of Wild Species of Fruit trees, Grapes and Olives in situ and on-farm reserves	Agriculture Center to Transfer Technologies	Z. Veshaj	Albania	€ 10,000.00	missing	19-Oct-09	Not eligible
Identification of inbred lines of sunflower pollen sterility restorers as economically valuable traits and lines with identified genes of morphological characters of Ukrainian breeding	Yuriev Plant Production Institute n.a. V.Y. Yurjev of UAAS, National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine	H. Krivosheeva	Ukraine	€ 12,000.00	Oil and Protein Crop NCG chair	17-Oct-09	Not eligible
To enrich a valuable gene pool collections of soy, to the cotton plant and long-term herbares, to select donors and genetic sources of important biological and agricultural signs	Institute of Agriculture of the South region of UAAN	V. Nikishenko	Ukraine	€ 24,000.00	missing	19-Oct-09	Not eligible
Study and selection of yellow, white and narrow-leaved lupine samples on the complex of economic-valuable signs, creation of signs collection and including it in AEGIS	Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Sciences	V. Gumennyi	Ukraine	€ 10,000.00	missing	19-Nov-09	Not eligible