

Report of the Preparatory Action on EU Plant and Animal Genetic Resources

October 18th, 2017 – ECPGR Networking Meeting, Ljubljana
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Preparatory Action EU Genetic Resources

- project based on a EU-DG-AGRI tender
 - objective: create overview of European GR situation
 - period: 24 months in 2014-2016
 - sectors: plants, animals, forestry, microbes
 - activities
 - mapping of actors, activities, initiatives, networks, etc
 - literature review
 - 300 interviews with stakeholders
 - 21 case studies
 - 7 thematic workshops
 - final one-day conference

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- project executed by
 - Valdani Vicari & Associati (VVA)
 - Arcadia International
 - Wageningen UR
 - Centre for Genetic Resource, the Netherlands (CGN)
 - Plant Research International (PRI now WPR)
 - Socio-Economics Research Institute (LEI)
 - Fungal Biodiversity Centre of the Royal Academy of Arts and Science (CBS-KNAW)
 - Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity of the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE-IBV)

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Table 2: The seven workshops

	Title	Location, Date
1	Better integration of ex-situ and in-situ approaches towards conservation and sustainable use of GR.	Brussels, June 2015
2	Forest Genetic Resources in Europe in a changing climate: challenges and needs for conservation	Amsterdam, June 2015
3	Microbial Genetic Resources	Utrecht, November 2015
4	The impact of climate change on the conservation and utilisation of crop wild relatives in Europe	Barcelona, December 2015
5	Genetic resources for value chain developments	Brussels, January 2016
6	Access regimes on genetic resources for food and agriculture in the EU	London, February 2016
7	Implementation of the Global Plan of Actions (FAO): which role for the EC?	Bonn, April 2016

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- overall recommendations (1-3/12)
 - re-inforce EU governance and optimise links with international and national activities and bodies
 - set up an EU platform of all interested parties (stakeholders and competent authorities) to secure an optimal coordination between the different bodies and to tackle new challenges (e.g. legal, funding capacities)
 - support partnerships and cooperation between stakeholders at all levels in the supply chain

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- overall recommendations (4-6/12)
 - further develop R&D programmes for the dynamic conservation and management of GR, and promote European, national and regional R&D programmes exploring the sustainable use of wild and cultivated genetic resources
 - develop an appropriate infrastructure for pre-breeding activities in plants
 - strengthen the role of advisory services as a robust link between research and production (between scientists and farmers/producers)

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- overall recommendations (7-8/12)
 - promote the establishment of European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) operational groups to develop and reinforce GR valorisation projects
 - improve value chain cooperation for rare breeds and underutilised/neglected crops by facilitating the up-scaling of the number of breeding animals and seeds, promoting the added value (biodiversity, tourism, cultural heritage) and the use of the systems for promoting and protecting the names of quality agricultural products and food in the EU for rare and local GR and offering funding for such cooperation (under RDP) - secure valorisation in both food and non-food sectors

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- overall recommendations (9-12/12)
 - promote the effective take-up of funding opportunities via the agri-environmental and climate measures (AECMs)
 - review and secure the coherence of existing legislation to facilitate and promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture
 - reduce administrative burden, especially for SMEs and farmers
 - secure long term political commitment for agro-biodiversity supported by appropriate funding

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- bottom lines
 - there was broad consensus amongst all stakeholders that the EU should better coordinate and support genetic resources conservation and use
 - current H2020-SFS27-2017 call nad AgroForest Bridge initiative (ECPGR, ERFPP and EUFORGEN) might be considered an outcome

Thank you for your attention !

