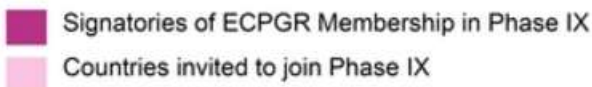
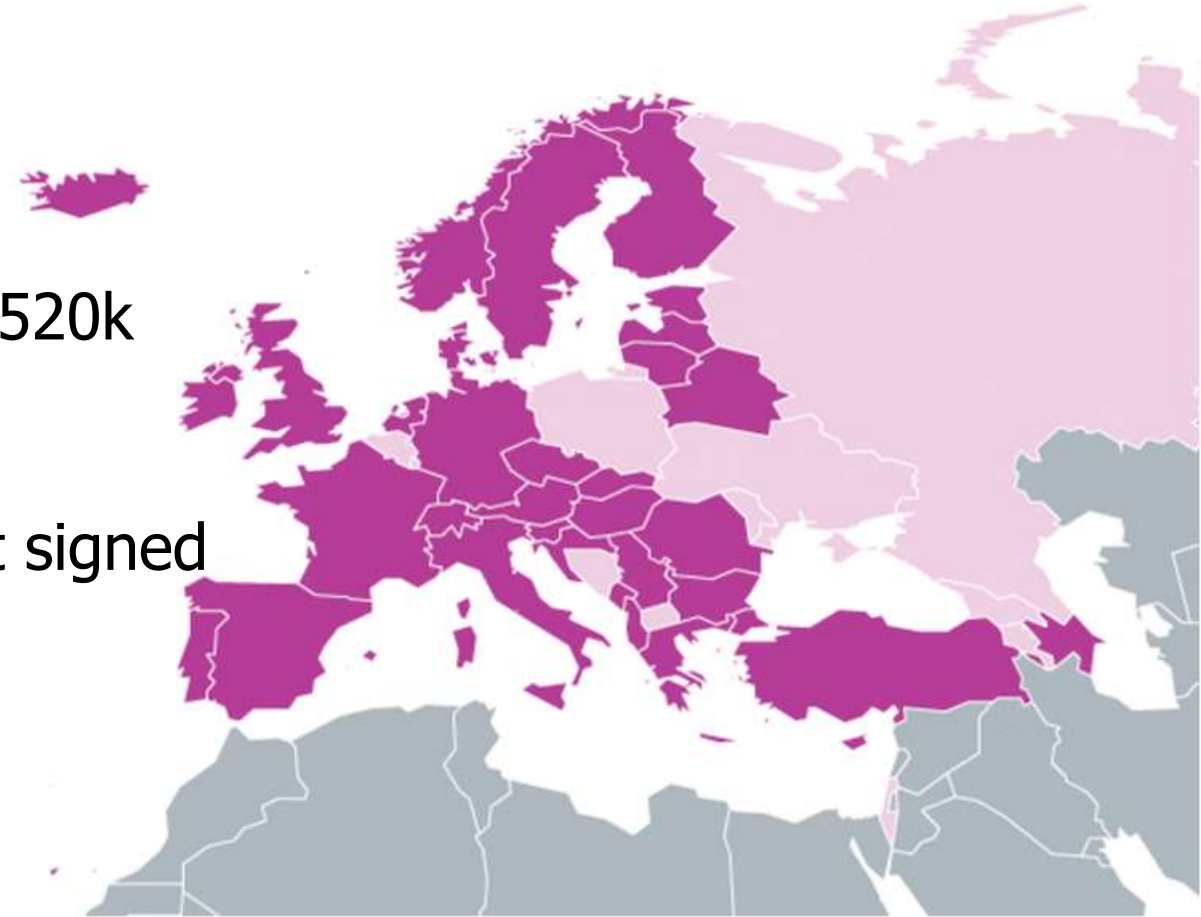


Information and update on ECPGR

Lorenzo Maggioni
ECPGR Secretary

Phase IX (2014-2018)

- Annual budget ca. € 520k from 38 countries
- Letters of Agreement signed by 33 countries



Budget for Phase IX (2014-2018)

- Total Phase IX: € 2 551 250
- Carry over Phase VIII: € 245 618
- **Grand Total: € 2 796 868**

Of which:

- EURISCO: ca. €450 000
- Working Group activities: ca. €450 000

ECPGR objectives (Phase IX)

Long-term Goal:

National, Sub-regional and Regional Programmes in Europe rationally and effectively conserve *ex situ* and *in situ* PGRFA and increase their utilization

Structure

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Coordinating Secretariat

Crop Working Groups

Thematic Working Groups

- *Allium*
- *Avena*
- Barley
- *Beta*
- *Brassica*
- Cucurbits
- Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp)
- Forages
- Grain Legumes

- Leafy Vegetables
- *Malus/Pyrus*
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
- Potato
- *Prunus*
- Solanaceae
- Umbellifer Crops
- *Vitis*
- Wheat

- Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves
- On-farm Conservation and Management
- Documentation and Information

New Operational Structure

- 21 Working Groups (18 crop and 3 thematic WGs)
- WGs, composed of pools of experts proposed by NCs, carry out activities mandated by the SC or proposed by the WG (through the Chair) and approved by the SC → Grant Scheme
- Revised Terms of Reference



ECPGR Terms of Reference

<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/>



PHASE IX (2014-2018)

**GOAL,
RULES OF PROCEDURES
AND
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OPERATIONAL BODIES**

Approved by the Steering Committee (Second edition, October 2014)

Terms of reference of the WG Chairs - 1

AEGIS-related tasks

1. Crop conservation workplan
 1. Identifying gaps and redundancies of the European Collection
 2. Promoting inclusion of valuable accessions
 3. Monitoring implementation of genebank standards
 4. Setting priorities (charact. / eval. / regeneration)
2. Oversight of Associate Members' European Collection management

Terms of reference of the WG Chairs - 2

Other tasks

1. Provide information to WG members
2. Orchestrate know-how available in the pool of experts
3. Coordinate preparation of project ideas and proposals for the ECPGR competitive scheme
4. Coordinate ECPGR–related activities for the crop genepool
5. Contribute to ECPGR Annual report

Thematic WG tasks

- Develop a workplan for each new phase
- Provide advice to other WGs

Composition of WGs

- Nominations to become WG members must be made by National Coordinators
- Size of WGs: between **43** and **95** members
average **73** members per WG

Total: **1163** WG members

- Categories of members:

Genebank curators: **23%**

Plant breeders: **16%**

Policy and law: **11%**

Crop specialists: **29%**

Info/Doc specialist: **17%**

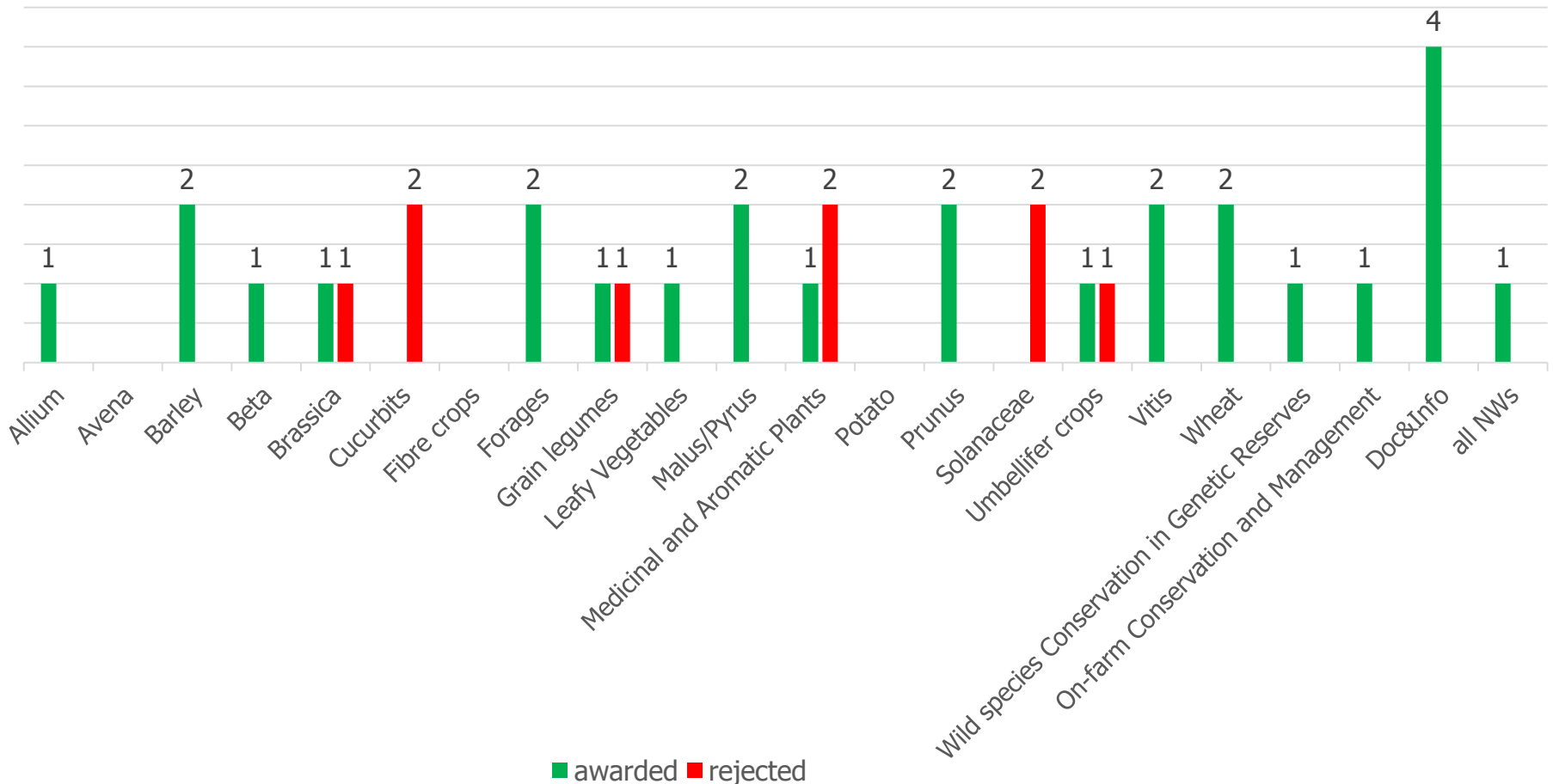
Other: **3%**

Country quota system

- ECPGR budget for activities: 75% = meetings; 25% = other actions
- Only the budget for meetings is assigned through a country quota system
- A country quota is assigned to each country based on annual contribution → Italy = 4.5% (34 quota units)
- One quota unit = one night in a ECPGR meeting anywhere in Europe
- ExCo quota (6.5%) – at the discretion of the ExCo

Activity Grant Scheme

- 26 Activities funded through 4 Calls (ca. €430 000)
German support for 3 projects = €89 000



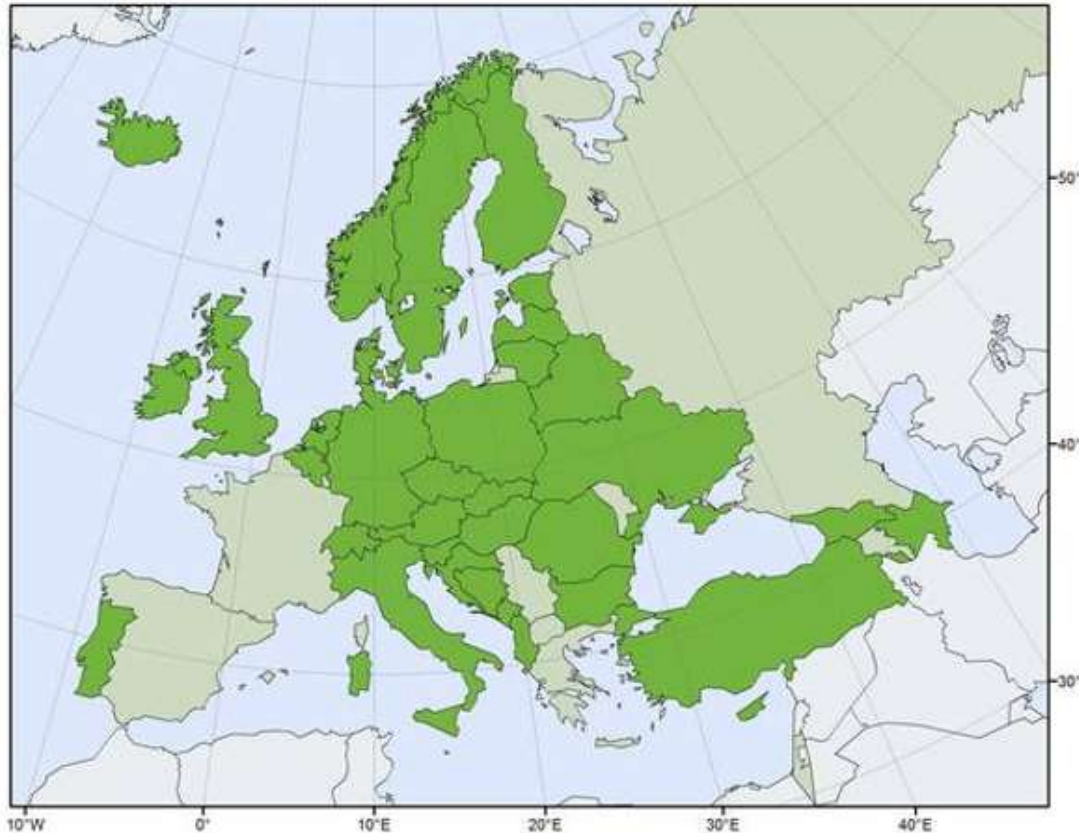
Objectives of ECPGR – outcomes of Phase IX

1. **AEGIS** is operational and accessions are characterized and evaluated
2. Functionality of **EURISCO** ensured (data quality & quantity + in situ data)
3. **In situ and on-farm conservation and management** of priority crop wild relative (CWR) and landrace (LR) populations are implemented throughout Europe
4. Relations with **users** of germplasm are strengthened
5. Commitment and regular resources from donors are increased
6. Secretariat support is adequate to sustain operations of ECPGR

1- AEGIS is operational

- To create **A European Genebank Integrated System for PGRFA**, aimed at **conserving the genetically unique and important accessions for Europe and making them available** for breeding and research. Such material will be safely conserved under conditions that **ensure genetic integrity and viability in the long term**

AEGIS membership



34 Member countries
61 Associate Members' Agreements

1. **Albania** (05 May 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
2. **Austria** (04 December 2012) - [Associate Members](#)
3. **Azerbaijan** (15 July 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
4. **Belarus** (01 November 2011) - [Associate Members](#)
5. **Belgium** (31 May 2012) - [Associate Members](#)
6. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (18 May 2010)
7. **Bulgaria** (01 December 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
8. **Croatia** (01 December 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
9. **Cyprus** (15 September 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
10. **Czech Republic** (22 July 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
11. **Denmark** (21 February 2010) - [Associate Members](#)
12. **Estonia** (21 May 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
13. **Finland** (01 December 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
14. **Georgia** (17 May 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
15. **Germany** (04 November 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
16. **Hungary** (21 November 2011) - [Associate Members](#)
17. **Iceland** (21 October 2010) - [Associate Members](#)
18. **Ireland** (21 July 2009)
19. **Italy** (02 March 2014) - [Associate Members](#)
20. **Latvia** (31 May 2012) - [Associate Members](#)
21. **Lithuania** (11 October 2010)
22. **Montenegro** (15 December 2010)
23. **Netherlands** (27 May 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
24. **Norway** (16 August 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
25. **Poland** (16 May 2010) - [Associate Members](#)
26. **Portugal** (19 November 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
27. **Romania** (13 April 2010) - [Associate Members](#)
28. **Slovakia** (16 June 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
29. **Slovenia** (20 September 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
30. **Sweden** (30 May 2011) - [Associate Members](#)
31. **Switzerland** (26 July 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
32. **Turkey** (13 November 2011) - [Associate Members](#)
33. **Ukraine** (29 April 2009)
34. **United Kingdom** (17 June 2010) - [Associate Members](#)

The European Collection

Through signing the MOU countries accept responsibility for European Accessions:

- Long-term conservation according to quality standards
- Availability through Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA)
- Safety-duplication

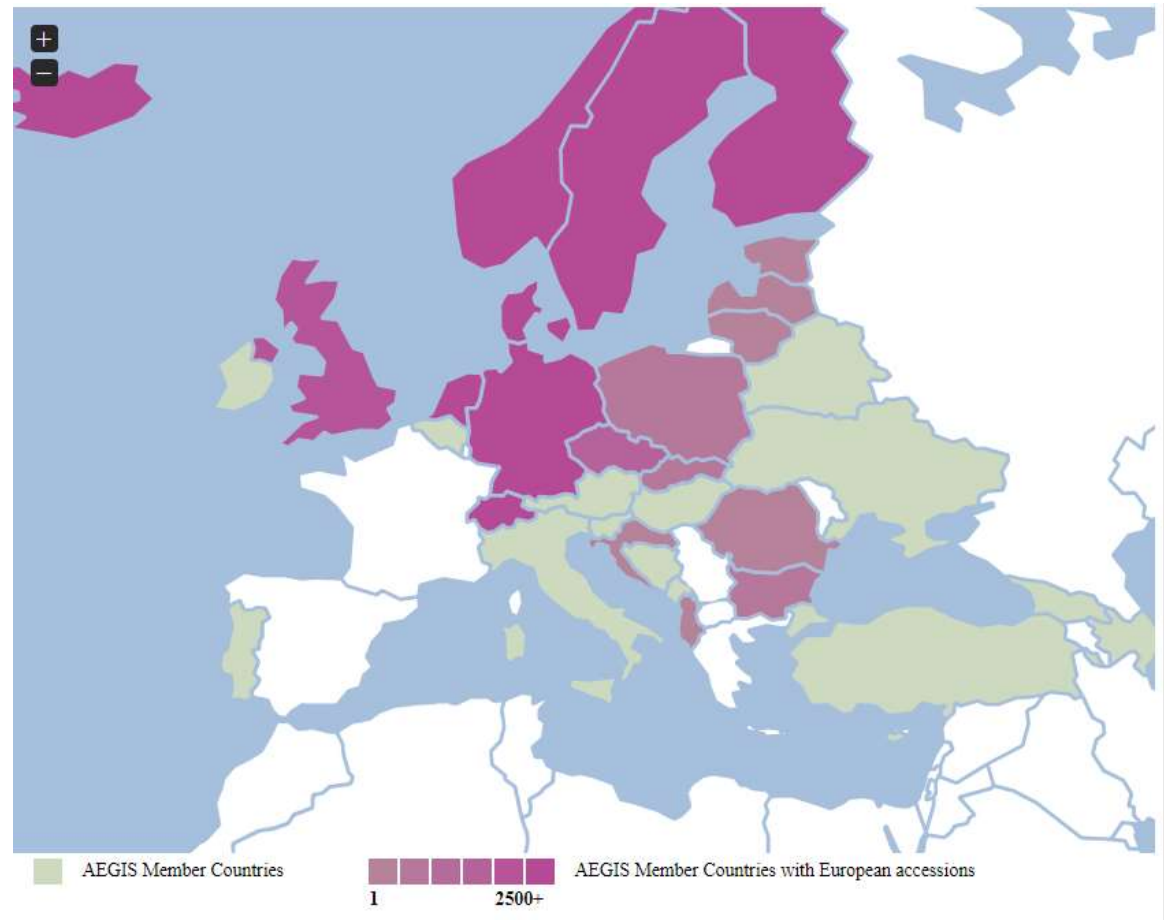
Working Groups are responsible for:

- Oversight over the Selection of European Accessions
- Establishment of crop-specific quality standards
- Preparation of crop conservation/management strategies

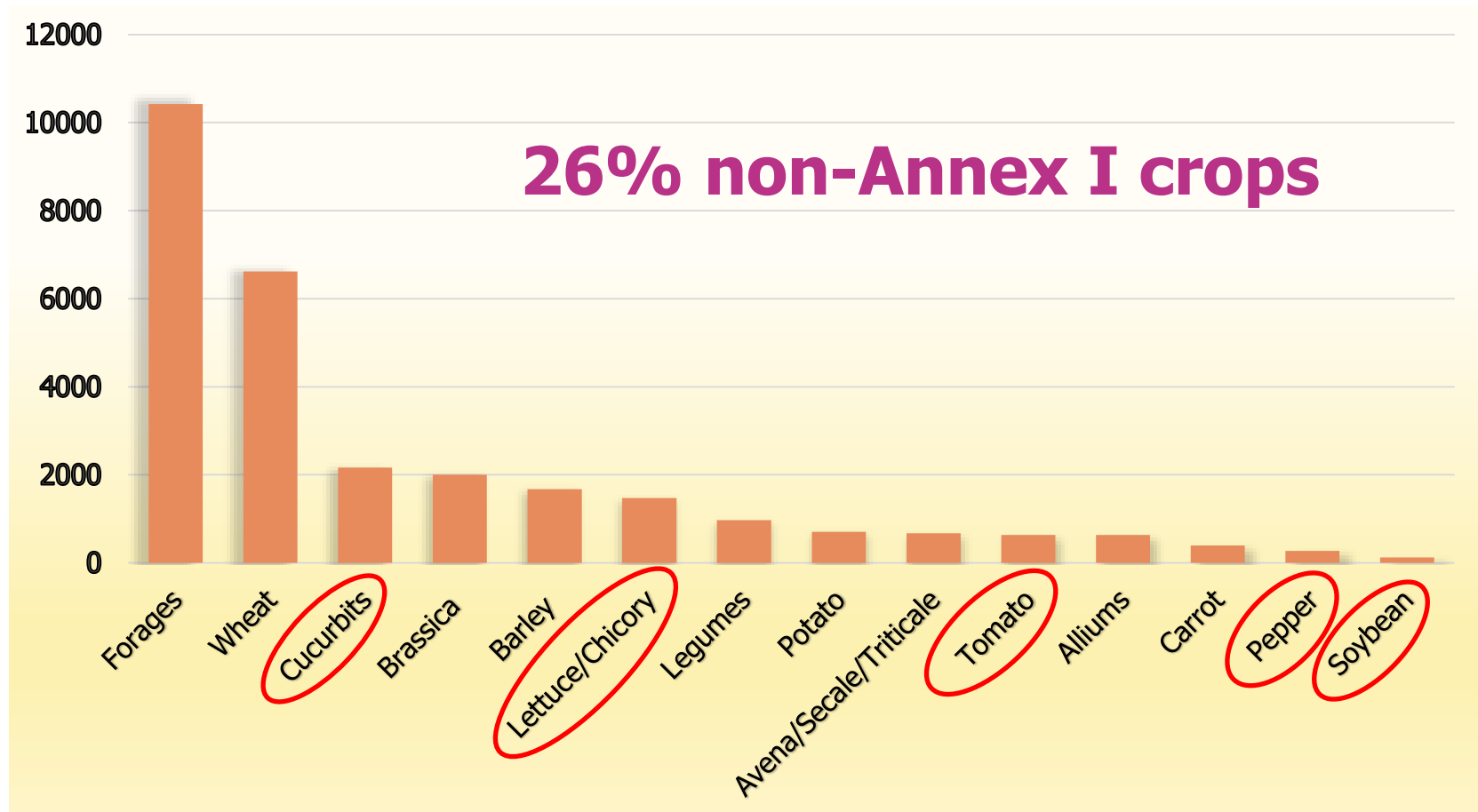
The European Collection

32 818 accessions included
in the European Collection

Country	No of accessions
Albania	8
Bulgaria	261
Croatia	90
Czech Republic	1285
Estonia	89
Germany	14183
Latvia	21
Lithuania	26
Netherlands	5853
Nordic Countries	3708
Poland	303
Romania	194
Slovakia	299
Switzerland	4839
United Kingdom	1659
Total	32 818



European Collection by crops



AQUAS – Quality system

- Transparency: operational **genebank manuals**
(**completed by 8 genebanks**)
- Agreed common conservation **standards** (FAO +
crop-specific) (**completed by 9 WGs**)
- **Safety-duplication** policy
- **Distribution** guidelines
- **Monitoring** system: voluntary peer review

2- Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO

Online catalogue, with information on the European *ex situ* collections: passport and C&E data

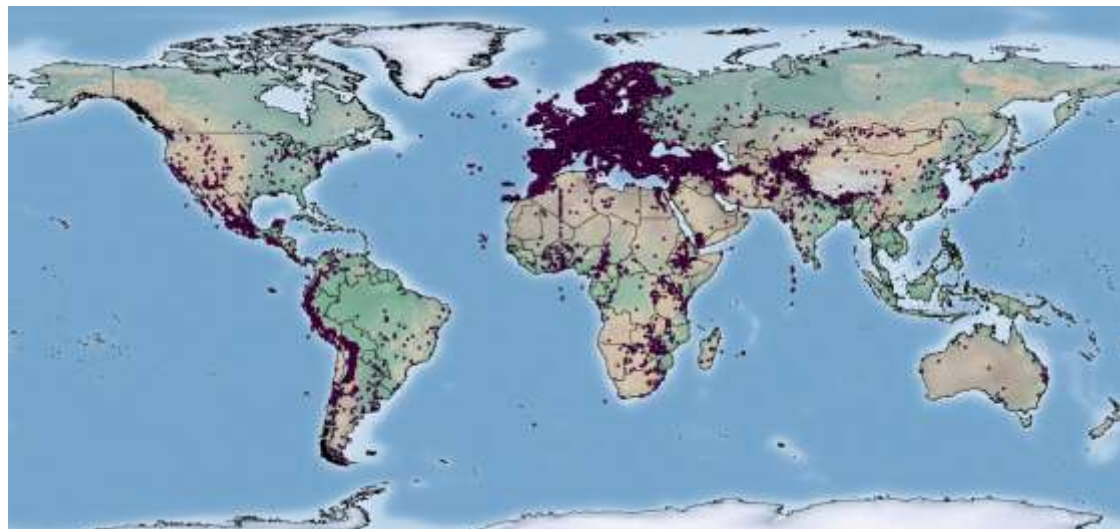


<http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>



Online catalogue of accessions in European genebanks: EURISCO

- Managed by IPK, Gaterselben
- Data gathered from 43 national inventories
- 1.97 M accession data from 380 institutions throughout Europe
- Register for MLS (416k) and AEGIS (32.8k) European accessions



Recent EURISCO developments

- EURISCO Advisory Committee established (Angers, 2016)
- Instructions to National Focal Points regarding uploading of C&E datasets
- Adoption of MCPD v.2.1 including additional descriptors (DOIs)
- An improved user interface to increase the searching performance via taxonomic names (project funds offered by Germany)

3- In situ conservation and management

- National and regional conservation strategy planning
(checklists -> priorities -> inventories -> action plans)
- Designation and management of **Most Appropriate Wild Populations** (genetic diversity and traits of interest) in **genetic reserves**

ECPGR Concept for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe

Nigel Maxted, Alvina Avagyan, Lothar Frese, José Iriondo,
Joana Magos Brehm, Alon Singer and Shelagh Kell

Endorsed by the ECPGR Steering Committee in March 2015



3- On farm conservation and management

- European Inventory of on-farm genetic diversity
- Developing indicators for monitoring diversity and threat
- Promoting good practices for on-farm management
- Concept of European agro-diversity sites
- Addressing issues of ownership, access, availability, marketing, etc.

ECPGR Concept for on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Endorsed by the ECPGR Steering Committee in January 2017



4- Relations with users

PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

Increasing ECPGR knowledge and opportunities on
Private Public Partnerships for the use of
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture



- Dedicated ECPGR webpages providing examples of public private partnerships on use of PGRFA:
- Workshop, June 2017, Bonn, Germany
- Towards a European Evaluation Network
- Second Phase, workshop in Maccaresse, October 2017
 - Development of framework MoU (ECPGR + ESA)

5. Commitment and regular resources from donors

- Regular commitment from member countries, with some exceptions (AZE, ESP, ISR, POL)
- Extra funds from Germany
 - Grant scheme; EURISCO; PPPs
- No success from EC (PGR Gold)

Opportunities to join forces

Following the conclusion of EU preparatory action (June 2016), crop, animal and forest genetic resources networks joined forces to solicit the EC:

- Jointly signed letter sent in Nov 2016 to encourage the EC to capitalize on the expertise of the existing genetic resources networks and offering a close collaboration between the EC and the above-mentioned networks and their programmes for the development of a “EU Agrobiodiversity Strategy”
- A second letter sent on 31 Dec 2016 to the attention of DG-AGRI, Research and Innovation, suggesting research topics for the Work Programme 2018-2020 of Horizon 2020

Expected Call SFS-27-2018 to be launched in Oct/Nov 2017:

Joining Forces for GenRes and biodiversity management

- The three GR Network’s Secretariats have agreed to submit a joint proposal. Expected budget: €3M to be equally split among these GR Networks

Evaluation of mode of operation of ECPGR – Phase IX

Overall rate:

Highly satisfactory: 17%

Satisfactory: 60%

Partly satisfactory: 20%

Not satisfactory: 1%

General comments:

- Need more funds to implement objectives
- Chairs overloaded with responsibilities
- Request for simplification and more flexibility of Grant Scheme
- ECPGR ability to involve all countries might be at risk

Steering Committee decisions for remaining of Phase IX

- All WG Chairs reconfirmed until the end of the Phase
- Workload on shoulders of Chairs → NCs should encourage WG members to be more active
- No immediate changes on the mode of operation as it is too early to judge its effectiveness
- Possible increased budget to fund activity proposals, including funding per project
- NCs and WG Chairs recommended to focus on identification and flagging of accessions → AEGIS
- AEGIS → WGs recommended to inventory 'needs for services' and 'offers of services' by the Associate Members

Steering Committee decisions for Phase X

- Revision of the ECPGR Objectives
- Budget line for WG meetings (based on cost efficiency) to allow WG members to establish collaboration for action
- Budget line for Grant Scheme (more flexible, no longer 75:25 ratio)
- In situ CWR data in EURISCO: establish agreed minimum data exchange format
- On-farm data: further discussion needed
- Working Groups to engage more with users (supporting use, pre-breeding, etc.)
- Working Groups to engage in global crop conservation strategies

MoU signed between International Treaty and ECPGR (December 2016)

A framework for cooperation on a range of activities related to access to and exchange of information and the sharing of expertise, by which the Treaty Secretariat and the ECPGR Secretariat will collaborate in areas of mutual interest, with the aim of promoting synergy and the coherent implementation of Art. 5, 6, 16 and 17 and the objectives of the Treaty.



Upcoming events – ECPGR

- 19-10 October 2017: 10th ExCo meeting (evaluation 5th call – decision on possible 6th call)
- November 2017: Expected launch of H2020 Call for Coordination and Support Action (3M) – deadline February '18
 - Joining forces for GenRes and biodiversity management
- 15-17 May 2018: End-of-Phase Steering Committee meeting, Greece: decisions on Phase X of ECPGR (2019-2023)

**Thank you
for your
attention!**



Photo: V. Meglič