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62 ECPGR Avena Working Group Members

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Chair: [Andreas Katsiotis](#) 

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Genebank Curator (21)

Crop specialist (20)

Information/Documentation (13)

Plant breeder (13)

Policy and law (9)

Other expertise (0)

Contacts in ECPGR

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Working Group on *Avena* – workplan follow-up and status at 12 February 2013

(Based on the workplan agreed at the Sixth Meeting of the *Avena* Working Group, 21-22 October 2010, Bucharest, Romania; full report available from http://www.ecpqr.cgiar.org/publications/publication/issue/report_of_a_working_group_on_emavenaem.html)

Action	Responsibility	Deadline	Status 12 February 2013
Prepare a draft protocol on regeneration of wild accessions, taking into consideration the already existing literature, as well as the results of the AEGIS sub-group on <i>Avena</i> (report of 2008)	A task force composed of Gideon Ladizinsky, Igor Loskutov, Christoph Germeier, Axel Diederichsen, Zofia Bulińska and Dionysia Fasoula	Before the ad hoc meeting to be organized in autumn 2011	Ad hoc meeting postponed (see below) → deadline extended to end August 2013
Organize an ad hoc meeting on AEGIS issues to make progress regarding crop-specific standards and definition of European Collection accessions	Chair and Vice-Chair	Autumn 2011	Meeting postponed to September 2013 (Limassol, Cyprus)
Draft a proposal as coordinator of a COST action, to be developed on the basis of the ideas proposed during the meeting	Valeria Terzi	Autumn 2011	Activity postponed, pending results of other proposals on oat submitted to the EU

The activities of the Avena Working Group in 2015 were mainly concentrated into two tasks:

The first one was the submission of a Horizon 2020 project entitled 'Genetic Resources for Agriculture Diversification and Quality' (acronym GRAC-Q). Coordinator for the project was Dr. Christoph Germeier. This project evolved from the experience gathered from the three previous AGRI GEN RES EC funded projects involving *Avena*:

1. Evaluation and enhancement of *Avena* landrace collections for extensification of the genetic basis of *Avena* for quality and resistance breeding – Coordinator Dr. Andreas Katsiotis
2. AVEQ - *Avena* for quality in human consumption – Coordinator Dr. Christoph Germeier
3. AEGRO – An integrated European *in-situ* management work plan – Coordinator Dr. Lothar Freeze

Twenty-three partners were included in the project, a large number of which were also involved in the previously mentioned projects. Except *Avena*, other crops included were lentil, faba bean and linseed. The project reached the minimum thresholds necessary for 'stage 1-evaluation' and it was invited for a full proposal submission. During 'stage 2' the proposal was not selected for funding.



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ECPGR Avena Working Group

Chair: Andreas Katsiotis

Working Group activities and related events

July 2016

Several members of the *Avena* WG attended the 10th International Oat Conference held 11-15 July 2016 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. They held a small satellite meeting on 13 July to discuss ECPGR matters. [Minutes of the meeting](#). (109 KB)

March 2016

The *Avena* Working Group agreed on their crop-specific standards for orthodox seeds ([see here](#))

2013

Cereals related events: The AEGIS supported project 'Improving the prerequisites for a European rye collection' has been concluded. Based on a survey and a workshop that involved the main rye collection holders in Europe, the project produced a draft of rye germplasm conservation procedures, a draft descriptor list for cultivated rye and a provisional list of Secale candidate European Accessions [\[more info\]](#)

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Working Group operative documents

CROP-SPECIFIC GENE BANK STANDARDS FOR ORTHODOX SEEDS

Agreed by the *Avena* Working Group

March 2016

Note: the "FAO Genebank standards for orthodox seeds" listed in the first column correspond to Chapter 4, pp. 17-63 in: FAO. 2014. Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rev. ed. Rome. (www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3704e/i3704e.pdf)

FAO Genebank standards for orthodox seeds	Crop-specific genebank standards for orthodox seeds – <i>Avena</i> species <i>No comment in this column means agreement with FAO standard</i>	Remarks (reasons for deviating from FAO standards)
4.1 Standards for acquisition of germplasm		
4.1.1 All seed samples added to the genebank collection have been acquired legally with relevant technical documentation.		
4.1.2 Seed collecting should be made as close as possible to the time of maturation and prior to natural seed dispersal, avoiding potential genetic contamination, to ensure maximum seed quality.		
4.1.3 To maximize seed quality, the period between seed collecting and transfer to a controlled drying environment should be within 3 to 5 days or as short as possible, bearing in mind that seeds should not be exposed to high temperatures and intense light and that some species may have immature seeds that require time after harvest to achieve embryo maturation.		
4.1.4 All seed samples should be accompanied by at least a minimum of associated data as detailed in the FAO/Biodiversity multi-crop passport descriptors.		
4.1.5 The minimum number of plants from which seeds should be collected is between 30-60 plants, depending on the breeding system of the target species.	In case the population is small, the maximum possible number of plants should be collected.	Please note that when collecting a wild species population, it should be ensured that the number of seeds collected will not affect the survival of the population in its habitat.

**Informal meeting of Avena Working Group members and partners,
13 July 2016, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation**

(held as a side event of the [10th International Oat Conference](#), 11-15 July 2016)

Minutes prepared by Tim Langdon and Andreas Katsiotis

Participants

Avena WG members

Trond Buraas, Norway
Peter Hozlár, Slovakia
Andreas Katsiotis, Cyprus
Elina Kiviharju, Finland
Tim Langdon, United Kingdom
Boguslaw Łapiński, Poland
Igor Loskutov, Russian Federation
Edyta Paczos-Grzęda, Poland
Elena Prats, Spain

Observers

Axel Diederichsen, Canada
Nezha Saidi, Morocco
Ben Schmehe, Germany

After further discussion of limits to collecting and maintaining germplasm in various member countries, Andreas thanked the group for its participation and expressed his willingness to prepare an application for ECPGR funding in the current round after communicating with the Avena Working Group members.