



ExCo synthesis and proposal

ECPGR Steering Committee 13th Meeting, Vienna/Austria



Recommendation 1. To maintain all the existing WGs, to continue the Network on Documentation and Information as a Working Group, and to dissolve the other Networks.

Recommendation is supported with a view to closely follow-up on the suggested changes.



Recommendation 2. To abolish the country quota system and to establish pools of experts per Working Group, from which members can be drawn to organize and implement specified activities.

Recommendation is supported with the following modifications:

1. a 'budget country quota' system is proposed to replace the current system
2. 'pools of experts' are created from which participants are selected
3. participation guaranteed for all countries



Recommendation 3. To revise the way of operation of the WGs. The work of the WGs will be conducted by having the WGs taking the initiative for certain activities they have prioritized for their own WG workplan, in addition to requests to the WGs to undertake activities from the part of the SC. To limit participation to 12 members per activity. To select, for each activity, 4 members on the basis of the importance of capacity building in those countries that lack such capacity yet.

1. Recommendation is supported (except for last sentence)
2. 12 person-limit to be seen as a recommendation
3. Self-funded participants welcome



*Recommendation 4. To establish an additional function for the Chair of a Working Group, i.e. the Chair to propose, after consultation of the Secretariat, members of the WG for a specified activity, taking into account the available expertise **and the need for capacity building**. On behalf of the Chair, the Secretariat will consult the NCs and seek their endorsement of the proposed membership. The ExCo will take a decision if no agreement can be reached.*

1. Recommendation supported (except for words **in red**)
2. ToRs to be revised accordingly
3. Access to PGR from a country should involve consultation with NC and participation in WG activity



Recommendation 5. To request the WG members to formulate an “expression of interest”, pledging their commitment and enabling accountability regarding the performance of an activity to which they can be or have been selected. Terms of Reference for WG members should be approved by the SC, taking into account each type of agreed activity.

1. Recommendation supported in principle (except for words in red).
2. The concept of an Eol is praiseworthy and justified



Recommendation 6. To facilitate bottom-up WG initiatives to undertake activities responding to the ECPGR outcomes throughout phase implementation by reserving part of the ECPGR budget for such activities, in addition to activities requested by the SC.

Recommendation supported



Recommendation 7. To invite NCs to nominate representatives of the user community for the WG pools, and to request WG Chairs to take the representation of users in WG initiatives into consideration.

Recommendation supported



Recommendation 8. The SC is suggested to consider the establishment of a Task Force that considers how the engagement of users in ECPGR activities can be enhanced.

Recommendation supported



Recommendation 9. To increase efforts on the part of the SC members to communicate with the stakeholders in their country about optimal engagement of the country in ECPGR activities and about the use or application of outputs produced by ECPGR activities (to be reflected in revised ToRs of NCs).

Recommendation supported



Recommendation 10. To maintain the current size of the Secretariat but to change the functions of the staff, giving priority to fund raising as one of the activities to which the Secretariat should contribute.

Recommendation 10 bis. To maintain the current functions and responsibilities of the Secretariat, but giving more emphasis to the joint effort with the ExCo and the SC for a lobbying and fund raising function, without reducing the Secretariat's supporting function to WG activities.

Recommendation 10 bis supported



Recommendation 11. To keep the position of the Secretary as it is, and to establish the position of Executive Director for the Chair of ExCo.

*Recommendation 11 **bis**. To revise the ToRs of the Executive Director/ ExCo Chair, i.e. strengthening the ambassadorial function of this position, and to provide an operational budget line to support travel and lobbying activity.*

Recommendation 11 bis supported



Recommendation 12. To timely prepare, through ExCo, a tender procedure in which Bioversity and other organizations in Europe can offer to host the ECPGR Secretariat in the next phase, through a well-defined process.

Recommendation 12 supported and, in fact, carried out during autumn 2012 following endorsement from SC



Suggested revision – Operating structure

1. Steering Committee (one NC per country + observers)
2. ExCo (five NCs with sub-regional representation; ExCo Chair takes role as ECPGR Ambassador, maintains supervision over Secretariat)
3. Secretariat
4. 21 Working Groups
5. Collegium of Working Group Chairs (list server community; electronic meetings or physically prior to SC meetings)



Suggested revision – Working Groups

1. Pools of experts proposed by NCs and Chairs
2. Carry out activities – normally at € 15 000 per activity and one per year
3. Participation based on 'expression of interest' and commitment
4. Selection by WG Chairs in consultation with Secretariat and NCs (for endorsement)
5. WG proposals evaluated and approved every 6 months by ExCo: objectives, outputs, budget and active partners
6. Joint WG activities welcome