TENDER FOR HOSTING ECPGR SECRETARIAT/EURISCO

RESULTS OF THE SELECTION OF THE OFFERS

Recommendation of the Review Panel

Report of Independent External Review (2010)

✓ *Role of Bioversity as a hosting organization*

- creates opportunities for synergies in field of PGR conservation, use, law, policy, documentation, informatics, public awareness, etc,
- provides logistic support (office infrastructure, travel, finance, ICT, publications, website hosting, travel arrangements, auditing, etc.),
- provides a half-time EURISCO coordinator as input in kind.

✓ *Disadvantages*

- totally integrated into a large, continually evolving institution
- over the years, the ECPGR Secretariat has had to participate in sometimes burdensome internal coordination and management processes
- the interests of ECPGR at times of organizational change, and respond to sometimes diverging or even opposing interests between the host institution and the Programme.

Twelfth Meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee: *Discussions*

The following strengths and weaknesses regarding the relationship with the hosting organization - Bioversity International, were identified:

STRENGTHS

- good scientific environment;
- good back-up services;
- science, policy/legal, logistics;
- international, recognized status of Bioversity;
- continuity, proof of effectiveness;
- location in Rome (IT/FAO);
- no cash-flow problems in ECPGR operations through advances being paid.

WEAKNESSES

- staffing is expensive on full-cost recovery basis;
- no clear contract that spells out services provided and under which conditions;
- dual loyalty of the Secretariat to the SC and to hosting institution;
- rather low visibility of ECPGR vis-à-vis Bioversity;
- (potential) divergent mandates/interests. Benefits of hosting exist for both ECPGR and Bioversity; they were recognized but not spelled out.

Twelfth Meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee: *Recommendations*

- **Due to the changes in the funding mechanism and rules of the CGIAR, further hosting arrangements of Bioversity can *only* be done on the basis of *full costing* of the hosting arrangement in the long term**

- The Executive Committee was asked to prepare an ***"Options paper",*** addressing among other issues, the Hosting arrangements to bring these in line with the spirit of the Review Report.

- ***Tendering*** was considered as a cost-efficient way to identify an appropriate host for the ECPGR Secretariat.

EVALUATION CRITERIA - ECPGR Secretariat

Items of the evaluation	Score range	Maximum score
Requirements (A and/or B option)	1-10	10
Detailed offer items		37
• Legal status (autonomy of operation)	0-3	
• Taxation status	0-3	
• Location	0-3	
• Office space	0-3	
• Office storage	0-1	
• Meeting rooms	0-2	
• Infrastructure	0-3	
• General working conditions	0-2	
• Services	0-3	
• Staff enrollment conditions	0-3	
• Allowances/benefits/constraints	0-1	
• Local environment	0-2	
• Scientific environment	0-2	
• Costs	0-3	
• Offers from hosting institute	0-3	
Ability to host EURISCO together with the Secretariat	0-3	3
General appreciation	1-3	3
TOTAL		53

Requirements A:
ECPGR is dependent on the hosting institution for its legal status

1. Provide suitable accommodation and working facilities
2. Facilitate the use of existing synergies between the Secretariat and the hosting institution regarding PGRFA conservation and use issues
3. Represent ECPGR as a legal entity for all purposes, including signing Letters of Agreement regarding the membership of the countries to ECPGR and other Memoranda of Understanding with partners, on behalf of ECPGR
4. Receive annual contributions from member countries or other donors and enable effective and timely disbursements of funds by the Secretariat
5. Provide ability to advance funds to a level corresponding to at least 3 months of functioning of the Secretariat, in case country contributions are delayed

Requirements A: ECPGR is dependent on the hosting institution for its legal status

6. Provide audits of the financial management
7. Employ the Secretariat staff as staff of the hosting institution, as per decisions of the ECPGR Steering Committee
8. Allow the autonomous operation of the Secretariat staff, which operates under the supervision of the Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee
9. Provide effective administrative and financial management services
10. Provide state of the art information technology support, including necessary hard- and software (PCs, server space, computer programs, etc.) to carry out high-quality Secretariat's functions
11. Enable move and operation of the ECPGR Secretariat in the host's premises as of 1 January 2014.

EVALUATION CRITERIA - EURISCO

Items of the evaluation	Score range	Maximum score
Development and maintenance of EURISCO	0-3	3
Ability to coordinate	0-3	3
Cost for ECPGR:		6
• Personnel	0-2	
• Material	0-2	
• Office	0-2	
Offers from hosting institute	0-3	3
General appreciation	0-5	5
TOTAL		20

BIDDERS

- **BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL** - 2 bids, for hosting Secretariat and EURISCO
- **GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST** - 2 bids, for hosting Secretariat and EURISCO
- **LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE OF PLANT GENETICS AND CROP PLANT RESEARCH** (IPK) - 1 bid, for hosting EURISCO

EVALUATION RESULTS

ECPGR Secretariat

- Bioversity –***average 47,6 points*** (45; 46; 48; 49; 50)
- TRUST – ***average 46,6 points*** (46; 43; 47; 50; 47)

EURISCO

- Bioversity- total 83 points, ***average 16,6*** (15; 16; 17; 17; 18)
- TRUST – total 74 points, ***average 14,8*** (8; 18; 14; 16; 18)
- IPK - 76 points ***average 15,5*** (13, 14, 15, 16, 18)

Bidders		BIOVERSITY		TRUST	
REQUIREMENTS (A and/or B option)	**Score range**	**Total average**	**Total**	**Total average**	**Total**
1. Evaluation of Requirements A-B		9	9	9	9
1. TOTAL SCORE A - B			**9**		**9**
2. Detailed offer items					
legal status (autonomy of operation)	0-3	2,8		2,8	
taxation status	0-3	2,8		3	
location	0-3	2,8		2,8	
office space	0-3	2,2		2,6	
office storage	0-1	1		1	
meeting rooms	0-2	2		1,6	
infrastructure	0-3	3		3	
general working conditions	0-2	2		2	
services	0-3	**3**		**3**	
staff enrollment conditions	0-3	**2,4**		**2,8**	
allowances/benefits/constraints	0-1	**1**		**1**	
local environment	0-2	**1,8**		**2**	
scientific environment	0-2	**2**		**1,4**	
costs	0-3	**1,6**		**2,2**	
offers from hosting institute	0-3	**2,2**		**2**	
2. Total score for detailed offer items		**Total average**	**33**	**Total average**	**33**
3. Ability to host EURISCO together with Secret.	0-3	**2,8**	**2,8**	**1,8**	**1,8**
4. General appreciation	1-3	**2,6**	**2,6**	**2,2**	**2,2**
Total overall score			**47,6**		**46,6**

Evaluation Results for Hosting EURISCO

BIDDERS		Bioversity		TRUST		IPK	
Items of the evaluation	**Score range**	**Total average**	**Total**	**Total average**	**Total**	**Total average**	**Total**
Development and maintenance of EURISCO	0-3	**2,4**	12	**2,8**	14	**2,2**	11
Ability to coordinate	0-3	**2,4**	12	**2,6**	13	**2,2**	11
Cost for ECPGR							
Personnel	0-2	**1,8**	9	**1,2**	6	**1,8**	9
Material	0-2	**1,8**	9	**1,2**	6	**2**	10
Office	0-2	**2**	10	**1,6**	8	**1,6**	8
offers from hosting institute	0-3	**2,4**	12	**2,2**	11	**2,2**	11
General appreciation	0-5	**3,8**	19	**3,2**	16	**3,2**	16
Total overall score			**83**		**74**		**76**

ExCo Remarks on Scoring

- **Evaluation of the Requirements A-B**
  - **9 in average for both** - Bioversity and Trust
- **Evaluation of the Detailed offer items**
  - **33 in average for both-** Bioversity and Trust (33; 29; 35; 34; 32)
  - Similar offers in terms of legal status, taxation status, location, office storage, meeting rooms, infrastructure, general working conditions, services, staff enrollment conditions, allowances/benefits/constraints, local environment and scientific environment
  - ***Office space: Trust advantages: rent-free for the first 10 years,*** 2 offices available
- **Evaluation of the ability to host EURISCO together with the Secretariat**
  - **2, 8 for Bioversity** (3; 3; 3; 2; 3) and **1,8 for Trust (**2; 2; 2; 2; 1)
- **General appreciation**
  - **2,6 for Bioversity** (3; 3; 3; 2; 2) and **2,2 for Trust** (3; 3; 2; 1; 2)

Comments on Offers

The bid for the hosting of ECPRG and EURISCO can be considered as independent

- ***Trust***
- Low cost of hosting Secretariat
- 15% overhead for staff, 6% for operational cost, and 2% for EURISCO
- Splitting of responsibilities
  - The Trust, the contracting party, hosting the ECPGR secretariat, and managing the financial arrangements
  - Centre for Genetic Resources, The Netherlands (CGN), sub-contractor, supervising strategic planning, community development, and communication,will be the coordinator and executive manager of the EURISCO management project
  - Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen), sub-contractor, developing and hosting the technical components of EURISCO.
- High cost of hosting EURISCO (total 664,654 Euro in 5 years)
- Well developed strategy of further development of EURISCO

Comments on Offers

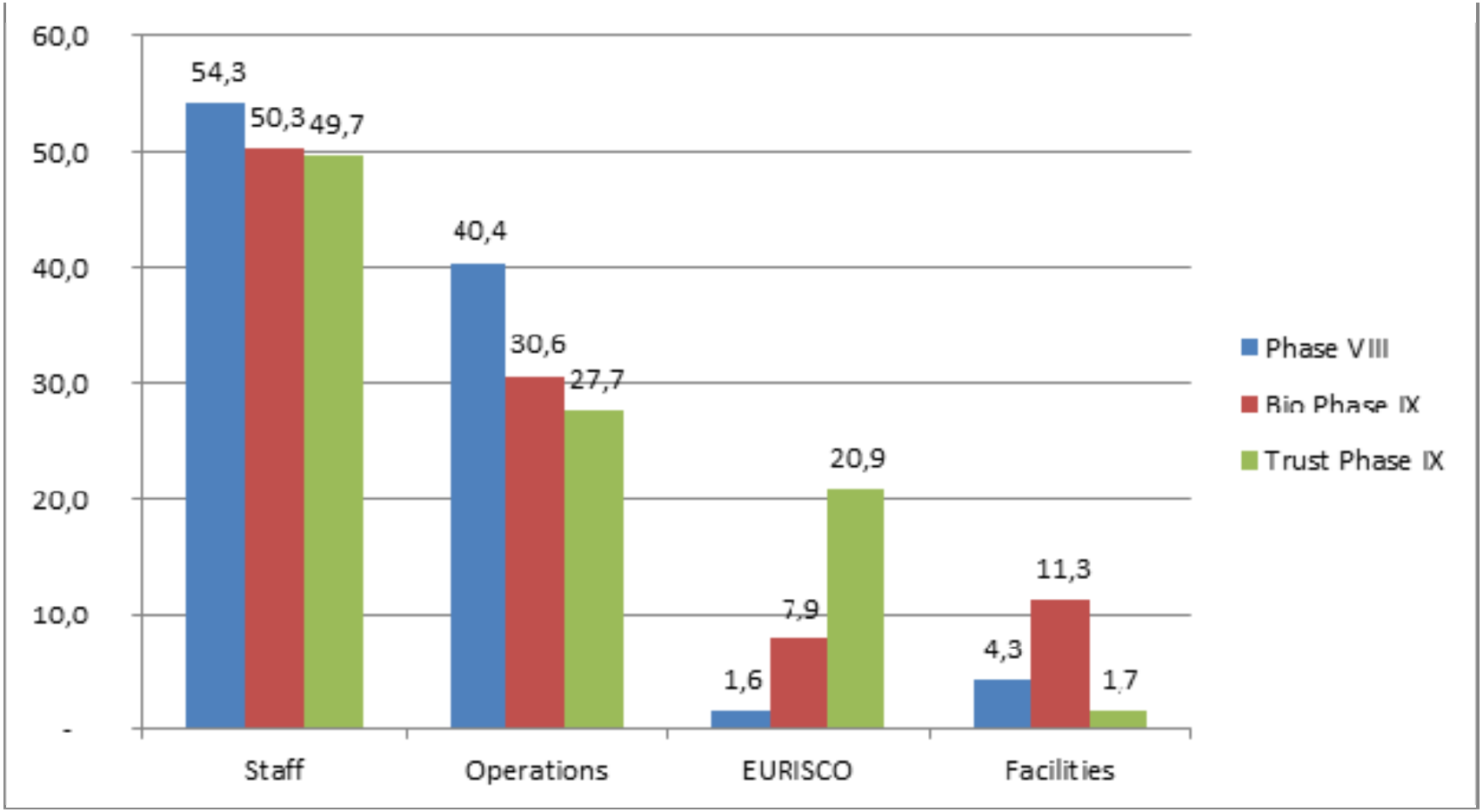
The bid for the hosting of ECPRG and EURISCO can be considered as independent

- ***Bioversity***
- **Suggestion on being a member of this ExCo**
  - Head of the Secretariat will report to the ECPGR ExCo on technical issues, while reporting to the Director General of Bioversity on administrative and legal issues.
  - 18,15 % overhead overall
- **Low cost of hosting EURISCO (total 250,000 Euro in 5 years)**
  - as a part of informatics programme and budget, charging a lump sum of 50000 Euro per year as a contribution toward staff cost, *but on the assumption that Bioversity will continue to host and implement the GENESYS portal*
  - has a history of success coordinating EURISCO since its inception

Comments on Offers

- **IPK**
  - Low cost for hosting EURISCO (87,400 Euro per year)
  - Experienced staff, research on informatics, data management, taxonomy, Gene bank information systems, European Central Crop Databases
  - Unclear strategy on further development of EURISCO

Analysis of budget proposed by offers



Prepared by Jens Weibull

ExCo findings and recommendations

- All bids are in place, compiled in line with requirements set and in good quality
- Two bids for hosting ECPGR Secretariat an EURISCO (Bioversity and Trust) are very close, the difference in scoring is very small, not essential
- Although the preferred option of the ExCo is to maintain EURISCO at the same location as the Secretariat, the difference in budget for EURISCO proposed by three bidders and low expenses for Secretarial hosting offered by Trust give a basis for consideration of the Trust offer; the separate hosting of Secretariat and EURISCO might be reasonable.
- Additional more detailed study of the offers , incl. discussions and negotiations with three bidders to clarify unclear issues is needed to find the best solution

Requirements B:
ECPGR acquires a legal status of its own

1. Provide suitable accommodation and working facilities
2. Facilitate the use of existing synergies between the Secretariat and the hosting institution regarding PGRFA conservation and use issues
3. Provide effective administrative, human resources and financial management support services
4. Provide state of the art information technology support, including necessary hard- and software (PCs, server space, computer programs, etc.)
5. Enable move and operation of the ECPGR Secretariat in the host's premises as of 1 January 2014.