



Comments from the ECPGR Secretariat on the Task Force report regarding the operational structure

13th Meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee, 4-7 December 2012, Vienna, Austria



Functions of Secretariat

- Implementation of ECPGR Programme includes:
 - Financial management
 - Coordination of technical activities, including AEGIS
 - ✓ Preparation of meetings/activities (including logistics and agendas)
 - ✓ Reporting and dissemination of results
 - ✓ Follow-up actions
 - Support to formulation of new project proposals
 - Linking with other stakeholders, donors, etc.
 - Reporting to ExCo and Steering Committee
- Current staff (3 full-time equivalents) is well equipped to carry out the above functions



Expectations from new operational structure

- Need for technical and logistic support to WGs will not be reduced, in fact will probably increase since:
 - Network Coordinating Groups will be eliminated
 - WG Chairs' responsibilities will increase; but have to offer their work as input-in-kind (= will require more support from Secretariat)
 - WGs will not conduct meetings with all their members and therefore, there is a risk of losing sense of belonging to the ECPGR community
 - New system requires continuous elaboration of proposals by WGs, selection of successful proposals and of partners in such activities

Role of the Secretariat

- Need a strong support and presence of the Secretariat to mitigate possible constraints of new operational structure and to make it successful:
 - Ensure linkages, processing and dissemination of results and information, coordination within and across WGs
 - Ensure smooth rolling of new system based on proposing, evaluating and implementing activities
 - Ensure proper management of “country fund”



Fund raising role

1. To a limited extent, this has always been part of the Secretariat responsibilities
2. More than a pure “fund raiser”, we arguably need to strengthen the relationship with the EC and other stakeholders
3. Focus of Secretariat towards the relationship with the EC (and others) can be sharpened, in collaboration with ExCo and SC (possibly with a new Task Force).
4. Eroding the current Secretariat staff composition to make space for a fundraiser would weaken the ability to manage new mode of operation (see previous slide)
5. A budget line to support travel and lobbying activities of ExCo Chair could be effective



Executive Director / ExCo Chair

Proposal by the Task Force: Part-time position offered by member country as in-kind contribution

RISK:

- Only affluent countries might be able to make this offer
- Selection of ExCo Chair would be restricted to very few (if any) choices

Preferable to create a budget line for the ExCo Chair

