



ECPGR

Phase IX

(Mid-term Report)

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Phase IX (2014-2018)

Setting up the scene

- **November 2013:** Negotiation with Crop Trust concluded with withdrawal from their offer in November
- **January 2014:** Agreement for hosting arrangements with Bioversity
- **April-September 2014:** transfer of EURISCO to IPK, Gatersleben
- Letters of Agreement signed by 33 countries



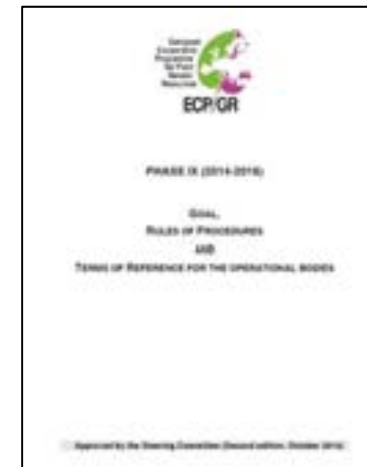
■ Signatories of ECPGR Membership in Phase IX
■ Countries invited to join Phase IX

Phase IX

Changes in mode of operation

- Goal, Rules of Procedures and Terms of References for the operational bodies

- Rule 1.7 consequences of non-payment for 2 calendar years
- Renewal of WGs composition: pools of experts
- Renewal of WG Chairs appointment (by ExCo, proposed by NCs)
- Activities funded through Grant Scheme (EoI & Country quota)



- Objectives of ECPGR for Phase IX

6 Outcomes

(AEGIS; EURISCO; *In situ* / On-farm; Users; Fund-raising; Secretariat)

(Proposal for adjustments →

see Mid-term report)





Management of Phase IX

Main events/documents (2014-2016)

- Activity Grant Scheme: 3 calls for proposals (Jun '14; Apr '15; Jan '16)
- 4 Executive Committee meetings (Nov '13; Dec '14; Oct '15; May '16)
- Workshop of the Doc & Info WG (Prague, May 2014)
- New ECPGR website (Nov. 2014)
- Concept for *in situ* conservation of CWR in Europe (endorsed in March 2015)
- Workshop for on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA (Maccarese, March 2015) (second and third draft prepared)
- AEGIS: Record keeping, reporting and monitoring of the European Collection (endorsed in Oct. '15) + AEGIS Benefits (Oct. '15)
- Participation of Secretariat in three calls for proposal H2020 (2015)
- Participation of Secretariat in two workshops for EU Preparatory Action (2015-16)
- Re-establishment of EURISCO Advisory Committee (Apr. 2016)
- Draft MoU between ECPGR and International Treaty (ongoing)

Evaluation of Mid-term progress (Based on background documents)

- Questionnaire on progress towards the ECPGR objectives
(NCs, two Chairs, EURISCO Coordinator + Secretariat)
- Questionnaire on Mode of Operation of ECPGR in Phase IX
(All WG members)
- Questionnaire on performance of WG Chairs (WG members)
- Evaluation of Activity Grant Scheme
(Statistics and analysis by Secretariat)
- Reports from WG Chairs





Outcome 1- AEGIS is operational. Accessions in AEGIS are characterized and evaluated



2010 (25 countries)
19 Associate Member
Agreements



2012 (32 countries)
46 AM Agreements



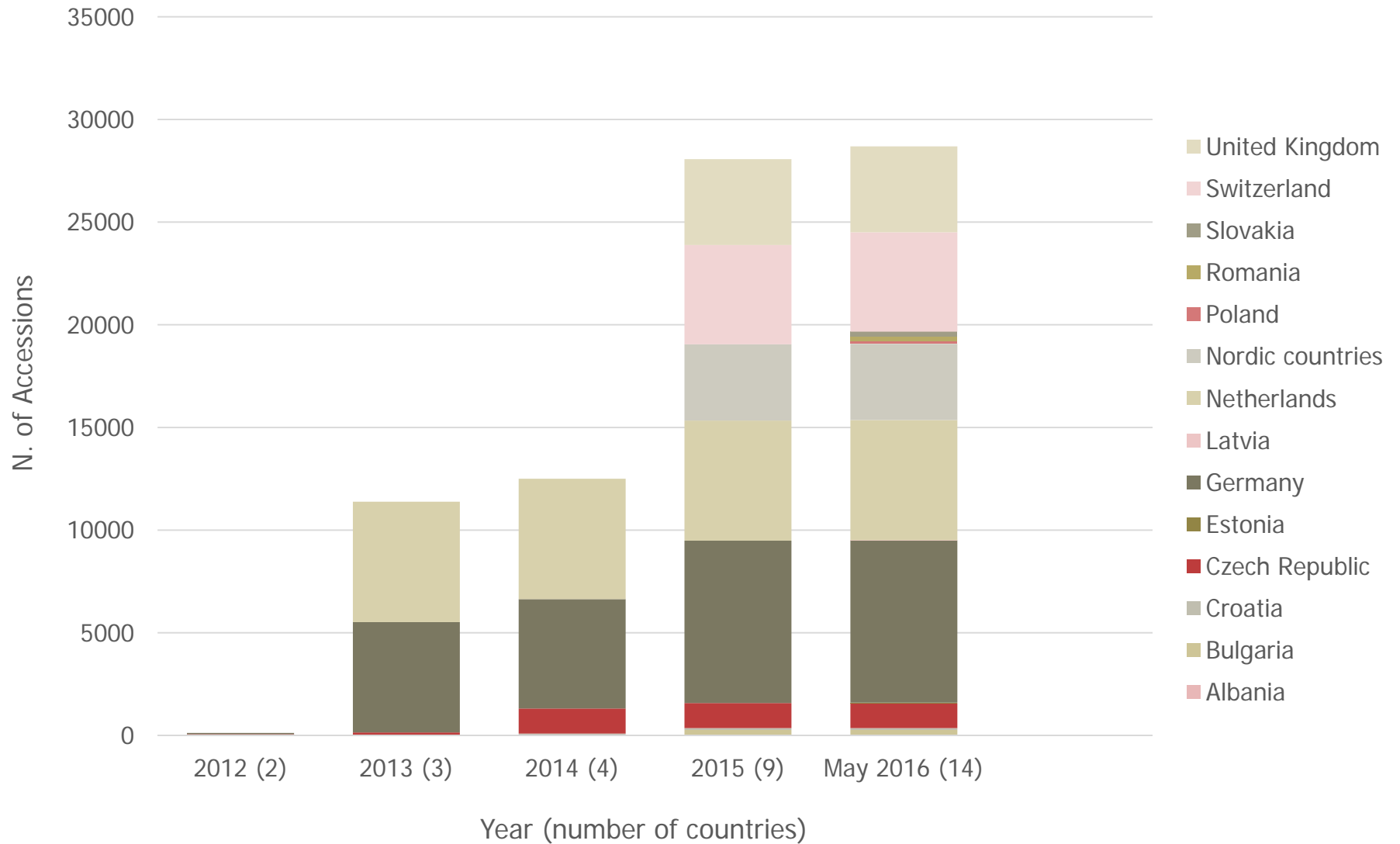
2014 (34 countries)
57 AM Agreements



May 2016 (34 countries)
58 AM Agreements
in 27 countries



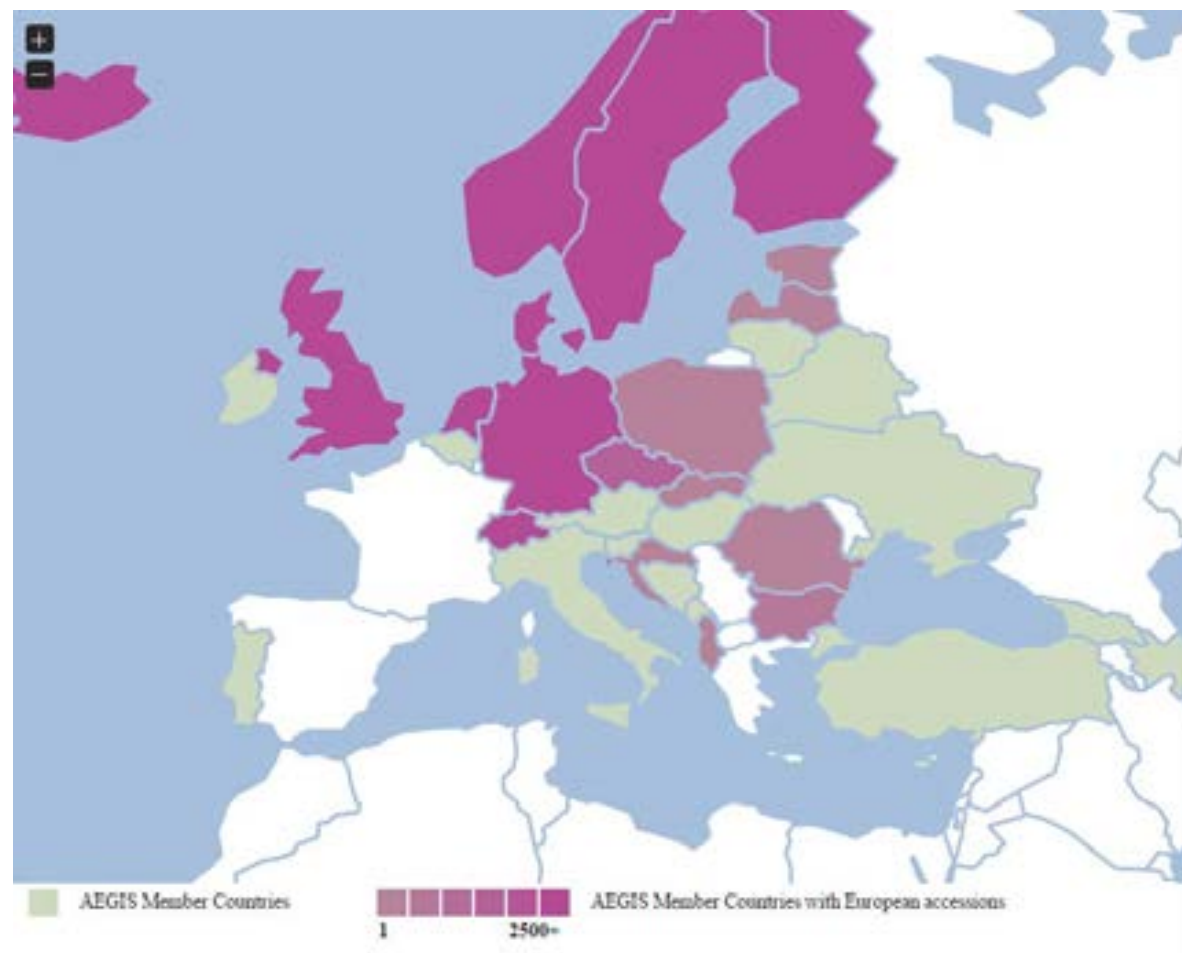
European Accessions





The European Collection

Total number of European Accessions: **28686** (May 2016)





European Collection – statistics

Associate Member institutions: 54

- Contributing to EURISCO: 38 (70%)
- Contributing to AEGIS: 15 (28%)
- Contributing to AEGIS without Associate Membership (!?): 3 (CZE005, POL003, GBR016)

AEGIS AMs & other contributors:

- hold 590 267 accessions
- offer 28 686 accessions (5%)



AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS)

- Operational genebank manual completed by 7 Associate Members
- Crop-specific standards completed by 8 WGs
- Safety duplication policy endorsed (Feb. 2013)
- Distribution guidelines published (Dec. 2013)
- Record keeping, reporting and monitoring policy document endorsed by the Steering Committee (Jan. 2016) – NOT in operation yet



Grant Scheme: impact on Outcome 1

Accessions selected and suggested for inclusion into AEGIS:

- Barley: 15 000
- Forages: 7000
- Wheat: 5600
- *Prunus*: 100
- *Patellifolia*: 20
- *Brassica* and *Pyrus*:
in progress

Of these:

- 11 000 effectively included
- Many were characterized according to uniform protocols



AEGIS: Outlook

- Membership: what about France, Greece, Israel, FYR Macedonia, Serbia, Spain?
- European Collection is growing
- Is it making an impact?
- Implementation of AQUAS & Monitoring system requires: **commitment; consensus; capacity building**
- Unsuccessful experience with Horizon 2020. EC will not support AEGIS outside of competitive projects, unless member countries lobby at high level (Council of Ministers)



Outcome 2- Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO, including *in situ* and on-farm data, have been increased. Functionality meets users' expectations

- Recreated at IPK
- New website
- Database extended to host C&E data; tests are ongoing
- Tracking of changes in European Collection
- Statistics are online available

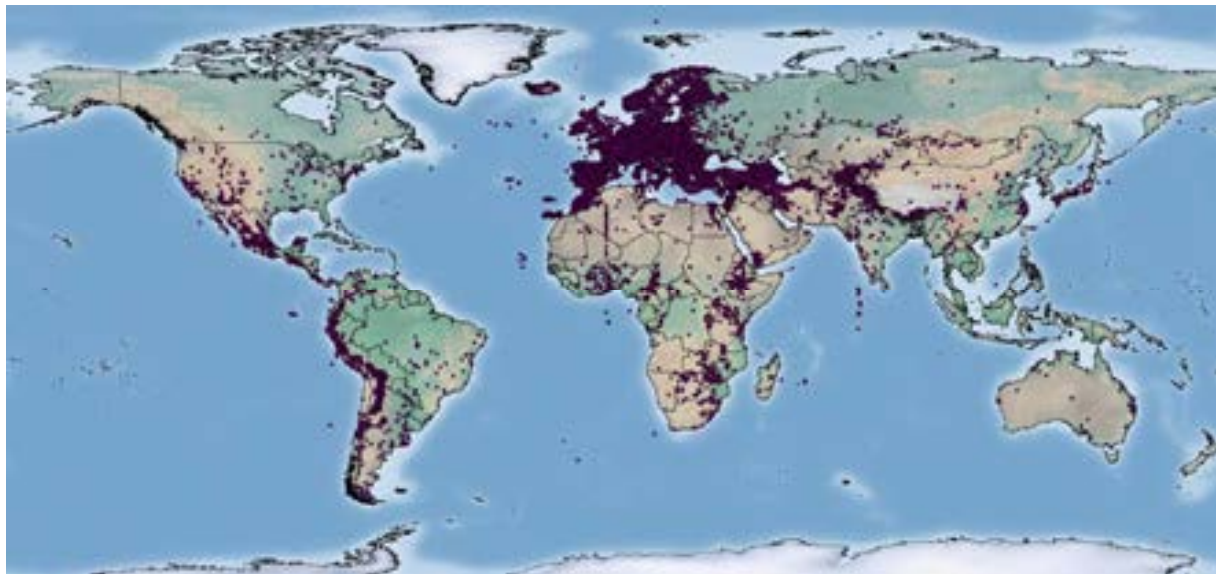
<http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>





EURISCO

- 1.8 M accession data from > 300 institutions throughout Europe
- Largest data provider to Genesys and the Global Information System
- Register for MLS (365k) and AEGIS (28.6k) European accessions





Grant Scheme: impact on Outcome 2

- Improved data provided as a result of WG Activities
- C&E data used to test the new EURISCO database
- Training Workshops for National Focal Points organized in:
 - South-east Europe
 - West Europe
 - Central Europe



EURISCO: Outlook

- Successful transfer from Bioversity to IPK
- Dedicated and responsive management
- Progress with new developments

- C&E data upload: will require support / encouragement of National Coordinators AND approval of data publishing by National Focal Points
- *In situ* / On-Farm data: areas to be developed
- EURISCO Advisory Committee re-established: will meet in October 2016

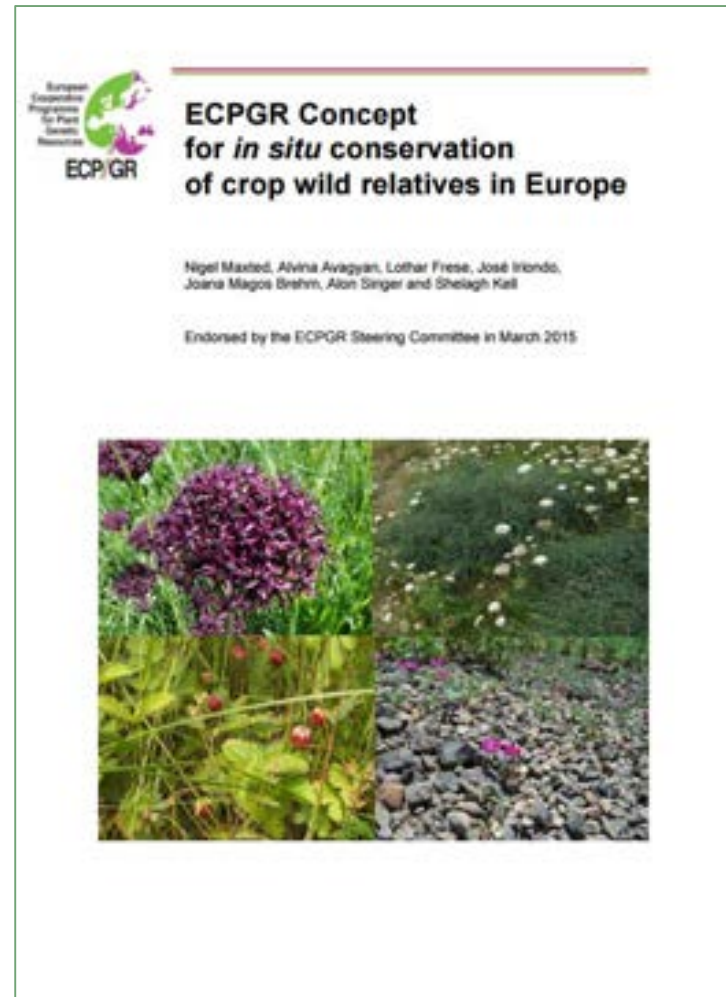
Outcome 3. *In situ* conservation of priority CWR and LR populations are implemented throughout Europe.

CONCEPT:

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

ACTIONS:

- **CWR checklists** prepared in most countries
- 10 **National Inventories**
- Low progress with implementation of **conservation actions**





Grant Scheme: impact on Outcome 3

- **WG on *Beta***: Analysis of *Patellifolia* diversity and of population sites
- **WG on Forages**: Strategies for *in situ* conservation of forages
- **WG on *Vitis* WG**: Planning of genetic reserves for wild *Vitis*
- **WG on Wild species**: promote National CWR Inventories and conservation action plans



In situ / On-farm: Outlook

- CWR: Concept is in place. Implementation largely dependent on National Funds (unsuccessful project submitted to Horizon 2020)
- LR / On-farm: Third version (Secretariat) concept almost ready to be submitted to SC, after comments were received from On-farm WG

Proposed ECPGR approach:

- European Inventory of on-farm genetic diversity
- Developing indicators for monitoring diversity and threat
- Promoting good practices for on-farm management and conservation and adding value
- Concept of European on-farm crop diversity sites and its implementation
- Proposing legal and technical solutions to address issues of ownership, access, availability, marketing, etc.



Outcome 4. Commitment and regular resources of national governments, EC and other donors sustained or increased, etc.

- Regular resources committed by National governments
- Relationship EC-ECPGR → look at EU Preparatory Action
- Good communication and PA at national level – Weak link between countries and EU policy-makers
- Collaboration ECPGR – International Treaty strengthened (MoU)
- Development of communication and public awareness strategy directed to users and wider public: not started or planned





Outcome 5. Relations with users of germplasm are strengthened

- Low progress regarding analysis of users' needs
- Various services offered by genebanks to users:
 - Databases
 - Ordering systems
 - Webpages on knowledge sharing for hobby farmers
 - PGR teaching material for schools
 - Training and cooperation with NGOs
- Research partnerships between genebanks and research regularly established



Grant Scheme: impact on Outcome 5

- Research partnerships established between genebanks and research institutions



Agroscope

CSIC
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS





Users: Outlook

- Survey of users needs could be carried out
 - Potential collaboration with ESA, EUCARPIA, NGOs
- International Treaty expert meeting on the Toolbox for the Sustainable use of PGRFA (19-21 July 2016)
 - To provide stakeholders with:
 - Technical information
 - Policy options
 - Regulatory guidelines
 - Training opportunities
 - Decision tools



Evaluation of mode of operation of ECPGR – Phase IX - (1)

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



Evaluation of mode of operation of ECPGR – Phase IX - (2)

Specific areas of criticism:

- Difficulty to identify responsible persons and to select participants from large national groups
- Difficulty to operate effectively with very large WGs
- Low participation and slow reactivity of WG members
→ **Identify one country responsible/coordinator in each group?**
- Limitations with a budget of 15000 per activity → **Allow for more flexibility?**
- Complex procedure (EoI, signature by NC, NC endorsement after approval by ExCo) → **Eliminate some steps?**
- Concerns about complexity of fixed ratio 75:25 Meetings vs Actions and of country quota → **Simplify??**



Mid-term financial situation – Phase IX Budget

| | € |
|--|------------------|
| Total original budget (as per Letters of Agreement) | 2 796 868 |
| New pledges (Portugal) | 60 000 |
| Outstanding contributions received (Phases VII & VIII) | 86 800 |
| Voluntary contributions (Finland) | 750 |
| GRAND TOTAL budget at 31. 12. 2015 | 2 944 418 |

Not allocated funds = € 147 550

Net of overheads = € 128 232



Financial status – Mid-term of Phase IX

Cash balance at 31.12.2015

| | € |
|---|-----------|
| Total regular contributions received (2014-2015) | 885 000 |
| Carry over funds Phase VIII | 245 618 |
| Outstanding contributions Phases VII-VIII, received in 2014 | 86 800 |
| Voluntary contribution (Finland) | 750 |
| Total received for Phase IX | 1 218 168 |
| Total expenditures Phase IX (2014-2015) | 950 310 |
| Balance at 31.12.15 | 267 858 |

Outstanding contributions 2014-2015: € 167 000



Outlook over 5 years of Phase IX

| | € Gross | € Net |
|--|----------|----------|
| Additional not allocated funds | 147 550 | 128 232 |
| Under-expenditures 2014-2015 (staff and travel) (EURISCO) | 48 475 | 41 028 |
| Contributions at risk over the 5 years: Azerbaijan (13 750), Greece (60 000), Israel (44 000), Poland (62 500), Spain (110 000) | 290 250 | 245 662 |
| Balance | (94 225) | (76 402) |

Additional funds will not be earmarked until the risk is over!

ECPGR Coordinating Secretariat

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European Accession VIT0035, 'Kraljevina', Croatia