



ECPGR hosting arrangements

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History of ECPGR Secretariat's hosting arrangements

- As of 1983, ECPGR Secretariat hosted by IBPGR/IPGRI/Bioversity International by renewed decisions of the National Coordinators
- July 2010 – ECPGR External Review, in view of changing focus of Bioversity, recommends to evaluate hosting conditions on the basis of a cost-benefit analysis
- June 2012 – Task Force on ECPGR Operational Structure recommends to prepare a tender procedure and SC agrees

Preparation of the tender

- Tender preparation overseen by the ExCo and process implemented by Secretariat
- Option to bid for the hosting of the Secretariat and/or for EURISCO
- Launched in October 2012 with deadline after ca. 6 weeks
- Sent to all National Coordinators for country consideration and to the following international organizations:
 - Bioversity International
 - Global Crop Diversity Trust
 - FAO
 - ESA
 - CPVO
 - IAEA

Requirements expected from the hosting institution

- Enable either of two options for the Secretariat's legal status: 1) hosting institution's 2) own legal status
- Secretariat to operate with independency
- Provide accommodation and working facilities
- Presence of synergies in PGRFA
- Provide administrative, human resources and financial management support services
- Provide information technology support (hard- and software)
- Enable move by a certain date



Description of the offer requested by the tender in a list of items

Secretariat:

- Proposed legal status
- Taxation status
- Location characteristics
- Office space and available infrastructure
- General working conditions
- Services provided
- Enrolment conditions
- Costs

EURISCO:

- Technical setup and costs of coordinating, hosting and developing EURISCO

The tender results

3 bidders:

- Bioversity International for Secretariat and EURISCO
- Global Crop Diversity Trust (with CGN and NordGen) for Secretariat and EURISCO
- Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) for EURISCO

After debate at the SC meeting in Vienna and additional information requested from bidders, the conclusion was:



Tender's results - 1

Secretariat: Global Crop Diversity Trust in Bonn

Motivations:

1. More cost effective bid allowing the financing of more activities
2. Trust is more focused on PGR conservation and provides more synergies with ECPGR
3. Trust allows more visibility to be given to ECPGR
4. Moving the Secretariat to Bonn may result in a revitalisation: a new environment, a new start, a new Phase.

Tender's results - 2

EURISCO: IPK, Gatersleben

Motivations:

1. A very good scientific environment with PGR activities (taxonomy, bioinformatics,...) relevant for EURISCO.
2. IPK has a history of engagement in and contribution to EURISCO.
3. IPK will hire a specific person only working on EURISCO.
4. IPK has a good PGR programme and offers more interaction with the National Focal points and EURISCO users.

Negotiation ECPGR – Trust

Negotiation with the Trust for the move of the Secretariat went on between May and November 2013, then the Trust withdrew its offer to host the Secretariat

Difficulties that emerged:

- Requirement that ECPGR build a Reserve Fund and that member countries formally commit to pay contributions in advance each year
- Reluctance to integrate ECPGR as part of the Trust, given its different focus of action
- Reluctance to integrate ECPGR into the Trust, while granting to it full independence
- Space problems at the Trust

Fallback solution: Bioversity to host the Secretariat

- Requests were made to Bioversity, initially to host the ECPGR Secretariat for 2 years (with the expectation to then move to Bonn), eventually to host it for 5 years (Phase IX)
- Both requests were granted.

Conditions agreed with Bioversity:

- Same conditions as in Phase VIII, except with increased overhead from 13% to 18.15%
- Legal framework for the operation of EURISCO under the ECPGR governance, through a sub-contract between Bioversity and IPK
- 77% reduction of the cost of “Facilities and Services”, compared to the Bioversity bid (81k vs. 357k)

Hosting of EURISCO

- Bioversity sub-contracted IPK for the maintenance and development of EURISCO (April 2014) at the cost of €448k for five years
- EURISCO Coordinator was appointed by IPK
- EURISCO was transferred from Rome to Gatersleben between April and September 2014 at the cost of € 15k

Proposal for Phase X

Two options:

- 1) DYNAMIC: Launch a new tender in 2017 for the Secretariat (and EURISCO)
- 2) STABLE: Give the mandate to the ExCo to negotiate with Bioversity and IPK for continued hosting arrangements during Phase X and present a proposed procedure with related costs to the Steering Committee for consideration and possible adoption

Discussion useful on criteria and requirements for Secretariat