



REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

M. Lefort

ExCo Chair

Alnarp, June 2022



Members' turnover and number of meetings during the first period (2019–mid-2022)

Outgoing Member	Year	New Member
Roberto De Salvador	2019	Benvindo Martins Maças
Eva Thörn	2019	Marianne Lefort
Marc Lateur	2020	Beate Schierscher-Viret
Küllü Annamaa	2021	Birgitte Lund
Vojtech Holubec	2022	Pavol Hauptvogel
8 meetings	4 in person <i>(Maccarese, Tuusula, Svalbard, Brussels)</i>	4 virtual



Main highlights

- **Grant Scheme** calls for proposals and requests for meetings
- Contribution to the **GenRes Bridge project**
- Interactions with **Working Groups**
- **Communication strategy** issues
- Interactions with **Steering Committee members**
- Support to the Secretariat for sensitive decisions

Grant Scheme calls for proposals and requests for meetings (1/2)

- **11 proposals submitted** (3,5 years)
 - 9 projects accepted (3 submitted twice)
 - 2 projects rejected
 - €188,155 awarded (compared to > €600,000 available for activities and meetings in Phase X)
- **2 requests accepted for meetings**
 - Meetings delayed or cancelled/COVID-19

THEMATIC WG	CROP WG
CWR	<i>Vitis</i>
Doc&Info	<i>Brassica</i>
On farm	Berries
	Cucurbits
	<i>Malus/Pyrus</i> + <i>Prunus</i>
	Wheat

- *Low number of submitted proposals → WG motivation?*
- *Heterogeneous quality of proposals*

Grant Scheme calls for proposals and requests for meetings (2/2)

- Changes operated by ExCo during Phase X to **encourage the submission of more proposals**
 - Increase in the number of calls (5/2019–2021)
 - Increase in the budget allocated to WGs
 - 10% of the budget for Activity Coordinator
- Change operated by ExCo **to better specify its expectations:**
 - Revision of criteria for rating (2020 and 2021)
- *Better define priorities on PGR Strategy objectives and approaches with increase of ECPGR funds?*
- *Better link to and complement (?) other funded projects that could significantly contribute to prioritized objectives of the PGR Strategy*



Contribution to the GenRes Bridge project

Plant advisory role in the elaboration process of the overarching **Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe**

- Secretariat, ExCo Chair and German NC
- Trans-domain task force “finalization of the Strategy” → ensuring consistency with plant strategy vision and actions

Active role in the elaboration process of **Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe**

- Mobilization of a drafting team: 10 NC including ExCo members
- Compilation and synthesis of all contributions and feedback from SC members, WGs and other partners
- Finalization of an ambitious document for ECPGR and its members with a 10-year vision

GenRes Bridge: Complementary actions involving part of the Drafting Team

- Contribution to the preparation of the **PGR Strategy presentation** in Brussels and **webinars**
 - Contribution to the production of a **Policy brief**: “*PGR Conservation and Sustainable use: What should Europe urgently do?*”
 - Contribution to **follow-up and lobby vis-à-vis policymakers** (EU and national countries) to improve political awareness of GR in Europe
 - Started under EU French Presidency
 - To be continued under EU Czech Republic and Sweden Presidency
- *The importance of all ECPGR members to actively and continuously lobby their national policymakers and institutions concerning GR within and outside EU*

Interactions with Working Groups

Appointment of WG Chairs:

- Fibre Crops (2019), Wheat (June 2020), *Vitis* (March 2022)
- Documentation and Information after revision of Chair's ToRs (Nov 2021)

Organization of a **virtual meeting with WG Chairs:**

- Opportunity to exchange with ExCo on WG activities and interactions
- Discussion on potential change in modus operandi of WGs for the next Phase XI

➤ *The need to better specify role and modus operandi of WGs in the implementation of Phase XI*



Communication strategy issues

- Finalization of the ECPGR Communication and Public Relations Strategy
- Involvement in the elaboration of a video on ECPGR
 - TF chaired by ExCo Chair and including 3 NCs, L. Maggioni and E. Hermanowicz → (primary audience, type of video and associated narrative, duration, *etc.*).
 - Release in March 2021 with 1,000 views during the 1st year
- Contribution to the terms of reference to hire a new Editing and Communications Specialist (2021)

Interactions with Steering Committee members

GenRes Bridge:

- Feedback on strategies' intermediate and final documents (2020-2021)
- Webinar to present the PGR Strategy (2022)

Working Groups

- Search for and appointment of new WG Chairs
- Creation of a new cryopreservation WG → to be consolidated during Mid-Term SC

Interactions with Steering Committee members

- Finalization of **ECPGR Communication Strategy** “*Vision and Mission*”
- Finalization and adoption of the **MoU** for enhanced cooperation with the **Crop Trust**
- Finalization and adoption of an ECPGR **position statement on Farmer’s Pride** project and results
- Preparation of the **agenda** of the **Mid-Term SC meeting**
- **Formal agreement** on proposals for **appointments** of new **WG chairs** and **ExCo members**



A few more messages...

- The **WGs are an active component** in ECPGR modus operandi
 - Need to review their role, composition and ways to contribute to the priorities of the PGR Strategy for Europe
 - Importance of regular interactions with ExCo (and SC?) on behalf of SC
- The **ExCo is a supportive and flexible component** in the ECPGR modus operandi
- However, the **complementary work of Task Forces** is essential to progress on specific issues and should be more visible in modus operandi

A few more messages...

The implementation of the PGR Strategy for Europe is a new challenge for ECPGR that needs:

- To **define priorities** within its current budget, possibly complemented by voluntary contributions
- To mobilize **WGs** and **other internal and external bodies and institutions** that could help in the implementation of prioritized actions
- To **target** 'part of/all' its **funding** to support these priorities
- To search for **additional targeted money**
- To **continue active lobby** of EU and national policymakers to ensure its full implementation in the next decade



THANK YOU