



ECPGR

Phase VIII

(progress report)

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ECPGR Secretariat

12th Meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee, 14-16 December 2010, Bratislava, Slovakia



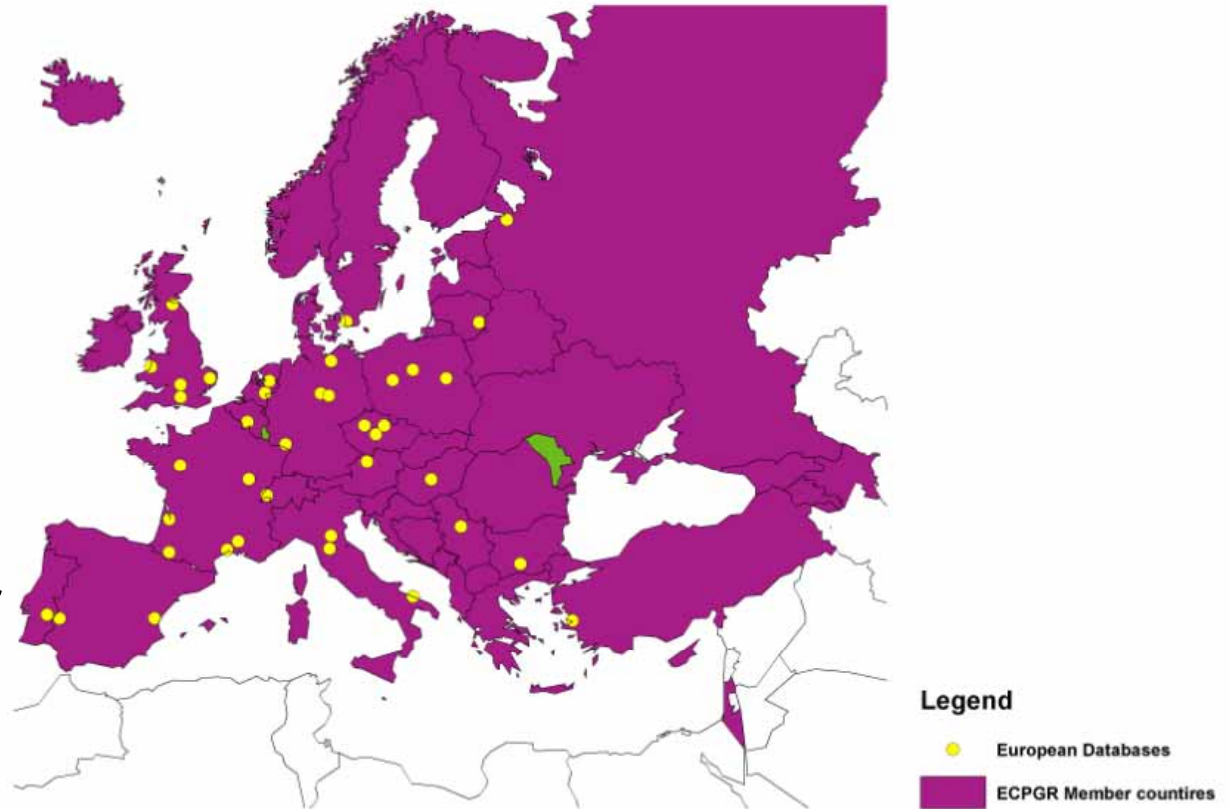
Summary

- Status of membership and outstanding contributions
- Meetings held and use of country quota
- Planned meetings and use of country quota
- The second Part of Phase VIII
- Status of Phase VII funds
- Activities carried out within the Networks
- AEGIS milestones
- Links with other initiatives
- New Web site and Publications

Status of membership

43 Members:

- 34 countries signed LoA
 - 3 countries contributed
-
- 6 countries did not sign or contribute:
 - Armenia
 - Belgium
 - France
 - Israel
 - FYR Macedonia
 - Malta





Outstanding contributions (2 years or more)

- *Among the possible options, participation in meetings could be granted on a self-funded basis only*

Meetings held and use of country quota

Year	Meeting	Estimated balance (€)	Budgeted country quota (expected participation)	Actual country quota used
September 2009	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	(854)	23	23
December 2009	Vegetables Network	530	50	51
March 2010	<i>Brassica</i>	5 266	16	14
April 2010	Grain legumes (cancelled due to Volcanic ashes)	10 157	17	n/a
April 2010	Forages	10 764	23	20
July 2010	Flax and Hemp	14 045	16	5
September 2010	<i>Prunus</i>	6 872	19	21
September 2010	<i>In situ</i> and on-farm	(14 038)	30	37
October 2010	<i>Avena</i>	16 183	22	13
November 2010	Cucurbits	4 189	11	10
TOTAL		53 114	227	194

Meetings cost less than expected

- Overall, WG meetings cost less than expected.
- Partly due to an average lower than expected participation and partly due to true savings.
- The true savings can be estimated at about € 13 500
- Additional savings (estimate of € 3 435, not shown in the table)

Issues - meetings

- ***On-farm conservation meeting**: should this be cancelled or the savings from other networks can be transferred in order to regularly hold the meeting?*
- *Should the **Grain legumes meeting** be reconvened (subject to country quota), using the remaining Network funds (€ 17 457)?*
- *Should each Network be given the possibility to **re-allocate its own savings** for other Network activities, or should unspent funds be used to compensate for situations of over-spending by other Networks?*

Planned meetings and use of country quota

Year, country	Meeting	Budget	Budgeted country quota (expected participation)	Country quota booked
March 2011, Germany	Umbellifer crops	8 400	7	1
March 2011, Turkey	Solanaceae	13 520	11	5
May 2011, Cyprus	Barley	28 500	24	5
September 2011, ??	On-farm	19 380	16	3
September 2011, Greece	<i>Allium</i>	19 400	16	4
October 2011, Slovenia	Leafy vegetables	13 520	11	2
2011, ??	Potato	15 800	13	8
February 2012, ??	<i>Malus/Pyrus</i>	23 000	19	5
September 2012, Germany	<i>Vitis</i>	9 800	8	4
2012, Slovakia	Wheat	25 900	21	8
2012, France	<i>Beta</i>	9 680	8	4
2013, ??	Umbellifer crops	5 120	4	1
TOTAL		172 640	158	50



Planned meetings and use of country quota - issues

- *National Coordinators are requested to quickly decide on the use of their remaining country quota*



New tool to check use of quota on-line

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ECPGR Member Countries and use of quota

please click on the country name in order to have an update of the status of the country quota for each single country.

[Albania](#) [Armenia](#) [Austria](#) [Azerbaijan](#) [Belarus](#) [Belgium](#) [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) [Bulgaria](#) [Croatia](#) [Cyprus](#) [Czech Republic](#) [Denmark](#) [Estonia](#) [Finland](#) [France](#) [FYR Macedonia](#) [Georgia](#) [Germany](#) [Greece](#) [Hungary](#) [Iceland](#) [Ireland](#) [Israel](#) [Italy](#) [Latvia](#) [Lithuania](#) [Malta](#) [Montenegro](#) [Netherlands](#) [Norway](#) [Poland](#) [Portugal](#) [Romania](#) [Russia](#) [Serbia](#) [Slovakia](#) [Slovenia](#) [Spain](#) [Sweden](#) [Switzerland](#) [Turkey](#) [Ukraine](#) [United Kingdom](#)

Country	Quota Phase VIII	Quota used	remaining Quota
Albania	7	3	4
Armenia	7	4	3
Austria	11	11	0
Azerbaijan	7	3	4
Belarus	7	2	5
Belgium	11	9	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	6	1
Bulgaria	7	6	1
Croatia	8	2	6
Cyprus	8	4	4
Czech Republic	9	5	4

On-line details on use of country quota

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Country Quota Details

Albania

Total quota available during phase VIII: 7

Total quota used: 3

Total remaining quota: 4

Meeting	Quota Used	Participant	Date and Country	Remarks
ECPGR Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves WG and On-farm Conservation and Management WG - first meetings on Inter-sector LR and CWR Conservation and Application	1	Alban Ibraliu	2010 Portugal	
ECPGR Prunus Working Group - 8th meeting	1	Rajmonda Sevo	2010 Italy	
ECPGR Grain Legumes Working Group - 5th meeting	0	Sokrat Jani	2010 Turkey	meeting was cancelled
ECPGR Vegetables Network - 3rd meeting	1	Sokrat Jani	2009 Italy	

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Plans for the second part of Phase VIII

- The extraordinary meeting of the Steering Committee has been organized in December 2010, focused on IER.
- The meeting of all the Network Coordinating Groups (NCG) was planned for February 2011 and the Mid-Term Steering Committee meeting was planned for September/October 2011.
- No budget left for End of Phase Steering Committee meeting.

Plans for the second part of Phase VIII - suggestions

- *The Secretariat is suggesting to postpone the NCG meeting to November 2011, in order to avoid overlaps with the large number of meetings planned in 2011 and to allow sufficient time for the preparation.*
- *Consequently, the Mid Term SC meeting is also suggested to be postponed to April/May 2012.*
- *The end of Phase SC meeting in 2013 could be held and budgeted as part of the subsequent Phase IX of ECPGR, should there not be enough remaining funds.*

Phase VII carry-over funds

(estimates at 31 October 2010)

ECPGR budget carry-over Phase VII	€ 139,975
remaining budget carry-over Phase VII	€ 55,584

Activity	Budget (euro)	Expenses (euro)		Balance
		2009	2010	
Scientific Assistant (50% for 4 months 2009)	8,930	12,120	-	(3,190)
Administrative support (25%) for 5 years	39,193	6,950	8,005	24,238
Network Activities				-
Inter-regional activities in support to Treaty (including Euro 10,000 German funds)	21,700	9,272	-	12,428
Contribution towards EURISCO	15,000	2,342	7,500	5,158
Support to AEGIS project preparation	8,420	8,788	878	(1,246)
In situ Network publications	14,000	11,303	-	2,697
Network publications in print in 2009	8,000	6,044	2,180	(224)
Closure of LOA with JKI Beta	-	(700)	-	700
ECPGR review	8,629	-	-	8,629
Related Overhead	16,103	7,295	2,413	6,394
Total	139,975	63,414	20,977	55,584

- Carry-over funds have been spent in the first two years of Phase VIII without major divergences from the original allocation

Cereals Network - meetings

- **Pre-breeding workshop (November 2009, Alnarp, Sweden)**
 - Lobbying for funds
 - Concept note on small grain cereals
- **6th Avena WG (Bucharest 2010), jointly with AVEQ**
 - Evaluation of a working collection of 600 accessions.
 - Regeneration and multiplication protocols for wild *Avena* species
→ will feed into AEGIS Quality System
 - Integrate evaluation and in situ data into EADB
 - Pre-breeding of *A. strigosa* and of other wild species as topics of interest for future joint project proposals.

Cereals Network - activities

- Missions to collect and monitor wild oat populations for *in situ* conservation were carried out in 2009 (Cyprus) and 2010 (Sicily and Andalusia). Ideal situations for *in situ* management were described and the local authorities were informed of the importance of existing populations. New samples were collected where possible and deposited in genebanks.



Forages Network - meetings

- **10th Forages Working Group - April 2010, Poel Island, Germany.**
 - Agreed to merge some of the databases and reduce them to 12.
 - Database managers are leading the process of selection of accessions for the European Collection
 - The use of the agreed standards for regeneration was monitored and it was verified that these are followed to a very large extent by the members

Fruit Network - meetings

- **8th *Prunus* Working Group - September 2010, Forli, Italy**
 - Lists of agreed molecular markers for cherry, apple and pear
 - Guidelines for taking photographs of the accessions.
 - Plan to compile successful examples of national networks of fruit tree conservation
 - ECPGR *Prunus* Database was improved with new search features and the possibility to host phenotypic and genotypic data.
 - Procedure to select accessions for the European Collection tested with cherry accessions - agreed selection criteria.
 - Specific standards for conservation of *Prunus* accessions discussed
 - Specific safety-duplication methodology in preparation
 - Primary descriptors for almond, apricot, cherry, plums and peaches were agreed.



Fruit Network - activities

- Ongoing harmonization of the four European Fruit Databases. INRA-Bordeaux is completing the ECPGR *Prunus* database structure and extending it to other *Prunus* crops. Will also be tested by the Pyrus DB manager for adoption.



Oil and Protein Crops Network - meetings

- **5th Grain Legumes Working Group - Antalya, Turkey , April 2010**
 - The meeting was cancelled at the last minute due to the Icelandic volcanic ashes.
 - Updates of the grain legume databases and national experiences on the ECPGR Web site.
 - The WG intended to mainly focus on defining its engagement towards AEGIS, with particular interest in the AQUAS elements related to the regeneration of allogamous species.



Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network - meetings

- **4th WG on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) September-October 2009, Kuşadası, Turkey**
 - Crop-specific characterization and evaluation descriptors for the ten target species
 - Plans were made to expand the priority list of MAP species and to produce a document showing the level of threat and the Red List status for MAP species in Europe.
 - Areas for future collaboration were identified: in situ conservation of MAPs; in vitro or cryopreservation methods; micropropagation methods



Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network - meetings

- **2nd Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp) Working Group, July 2010, Šumperk, Czech Republic.**
 - International Flax Database under development (Czech Republic)
 - ECPGR Hemp Database under development (Italy)
 - Intention to agree on the procedures to select flax accessions for the European Collection



Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network - activities

- **The project on inventory and sampling of *Origanum vulgare* L. populations was started in June 2010.**
 - Samples collected by 19 partners and sent to the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Austria, where they are being evaluated through molecular and chemical analysis. The data collected within the Oregano Project will contribute to the selection of oregano accessions to be included in the European Collection according to the AEGIS concept.



Vegetables Network - meetings

- **3rd Vegetables Network, Catania, Italy, November 2009**
 - Shared experiences to identify Most Appropriate Accessions
 - Agreement to identify European Accessions with priority on leek and wild Alliums, lettuce and spinach, carrot, melon, *B. rapa* and various Solanaceae crops.
 - Consensus about the principles of AQUAS and the need to define common standards

Vegetables Network - meetings

4th *Brassica* WG March 2010, Linguaglossa, Italy.

- ECPGR *Brassica* Database (Bras-DB) updated and used to flag core collections of *B. oleracea*, *B. rapa*, *B. napus* and *B. carinata*.
- A duplicate search function used to identify duplicates within *B. rapa* accessions (preliminarily 30% duplicates were identified) and it will be extended to search among *B. oleracea* accessions.
- A Group Task Force to verify status of conservation of genepool of wild *Brassica*.



Vegetables Network - meetings

2nd Cucurbits WG, November 2010, Tbilisi, Georgia.

- Guidelines for regeneration of cucumber, melon, watermelon and *Cucurbita* in preparation.
- Criteria for selection of European Accessions were agreed
- Plans to further improve data quality in the Cucurbits database

Vegetables Network - activities

- **Characterization of *B. rapa***
 - 97 accessions of *B. rapa* selected from the Bras-EDB for characterization for morphological and phenological descriptors at VIR
- **Study on populations of wild brassicas**
 - Planted in Catania, Italy, in the same environmental conditions for comparison



Documentation and Information Network

- **An EPGRIS3 self-funded workshop, May 2009, Bonn, Germany**
 - Consensus on a proposal for inclusion of characterization and evaluation (C&E) data into EURISCO
 - Adopted principle and proposal of creating a repository of non-standardized C&E data in the framework of EURISCO
 - The road map to the inclusion of C&E data into EURISCO foresees a process of collaboration with Bioversity International, specifically in the context of the development of the GENESYS catalogue



Documentation and Information Network

- **4th Network Coordinating Group, February 2010, Maccarese (Rome), Italy.**
 - A “road map to the inclusion of C&E data in EURISCO” outlined a recommended process that will eventually enable provision of European C&E data to EURISCO and GENESYS.
 - Advice given on the EURISCO development, taking note that the Internet improvement task had the highest priority.

EURISCO

- Data from 41 National Inventories and 314 collection holdings.
- The total number of accessions is 1 083 447 (December 2010).
- Seminars and trainings were carried out in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Spain and Ukraine, thereby training a total of 113 people.
- The EURISCO Internet functionalities were improved in 2010, implementing new searching options and introducing various features that improve effectiveness and user friendliness.
- A new EURISCO Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) has been finalized, after the expiration in the end of 2009 of the previous one.





In situ and On-farm Conservation Network

- **1st meeting of the two Working Groups on “Wild species in genetic reserves” and “On-farm conservation and management”, Madeira, Portugal, September 2010, jointly with the final meeting of the project “An Integrated European *In Situ* Management Work plan: Implementing Genetic Reserves and On Farm Concepts (AEGRO)”**
 - Methodology for *in situ* management of crop wild relatives
 - Population Level Information System (PLIS)
 - Plans to establish a European network of CWR genetic reserves Reviewed the national experiences on landraces threats, inventories and promoting use
 - Approved PGR Secure project “Novel characterization of crop wild relative and landrace resources as a basis for improved crop breeding”, under the EU 7FP



Inter-regional Cooperation Network

- **Workshop for capacity building** towards implementation of International Treaty in March 2009 in Entebbe, Uganda, jointly by ASARECA, EAPGREN, ECPGR, the FAO-Treaty Secretariat and Bioversity.
- The Treaty Secretariat acknowledged its intention to further promote such a partnership, based on the guidance that Governing Body of the International Treaty will impart at its upcoming Fourth Session. Activities and results under the joint capacity building programme will be detailed in the working documents for the Session and ECPGR will be adequately referred to.
- The Network Coordinating Group is meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia on 14 December 2010
h19:00-21:00 Salonik room

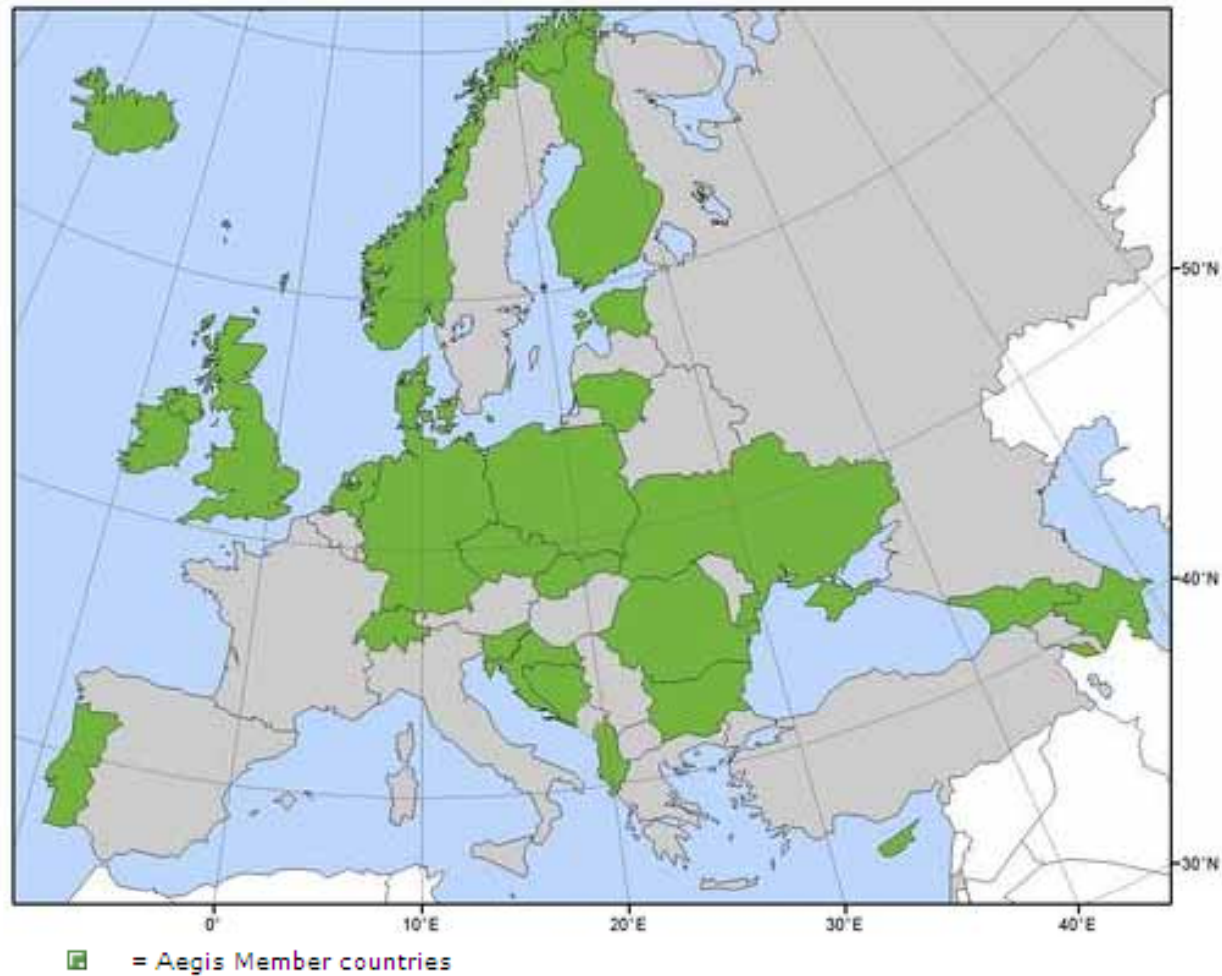


AEGIS “A European Genebank Integrated System” - milestones

- A Strategic Framework for the Implementation of AEGIS - Policy Guide published in 2009
- April 2009 - AEGIS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sent to National Coordinators
- On 23 July 2009, upon signature of the tenth country eligible for membership, AEGIS entered into force.
- September 2009 - Finalized the discussion paper “Quality Management System for AEGIS”, AQUAS in short
- September 2009 – SC approved the Terms of Reference and the composition of the newly established AEGIS Advisory Committee
- A new dedicated Web site for AEGIS was developed and launched in December 2009: <http://www.aegis.cgiar.org/>



25 AEGIS member countries (December 2010)





AEGIS Advisory Committee

Dave Astley, United Kingdom

Ladislav Dotlacil, Czech Republic

Anke van den Hurk, The Netherlands

Vladimir Meglic, Slovenia

Gert Poulsen, Denmark

Jan Engels, ex officio AEGIS Coordinator

AEGIS milestones

- June 2009 and October 2010. Two calls for proposals for the Competitive Grant Scheme were launched. 17 proposals were received for the first call and 3 were granted.
- December 2009 EUROGENEBANK proposal submitted to FP7 (Research Infrastructures) – Passed the threshold but not funded
- September 2010 - Template for an operational genebank manual approved by the AEGIS Advisory Committee
- Summer-Winter 2010: Involvement in the process of revision of the FAO genebank standards. The finalized FAO document could eventually be adopted for AEGIS
- November 2010 - A “simplified” procedure for the selection of European Accessions proposed for adoption by the Working Groups

Links with other initiatives

Global Crop Diversity Trust

- Project for regionally prioritized crop collections, aiming at carrying out regeneration and safety-duplication of over 5000 threatened accessions identified in ten European countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel and Portugal). The total grant is nearly US\$ 130 000 and the ECPGR Secretariat is acting as the backstopping agent for the project.



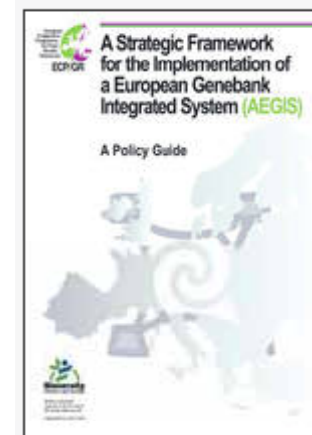
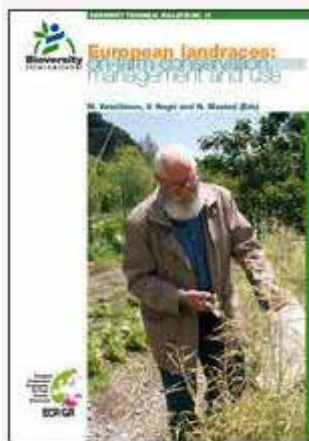
Links with other initiatives

European Commission

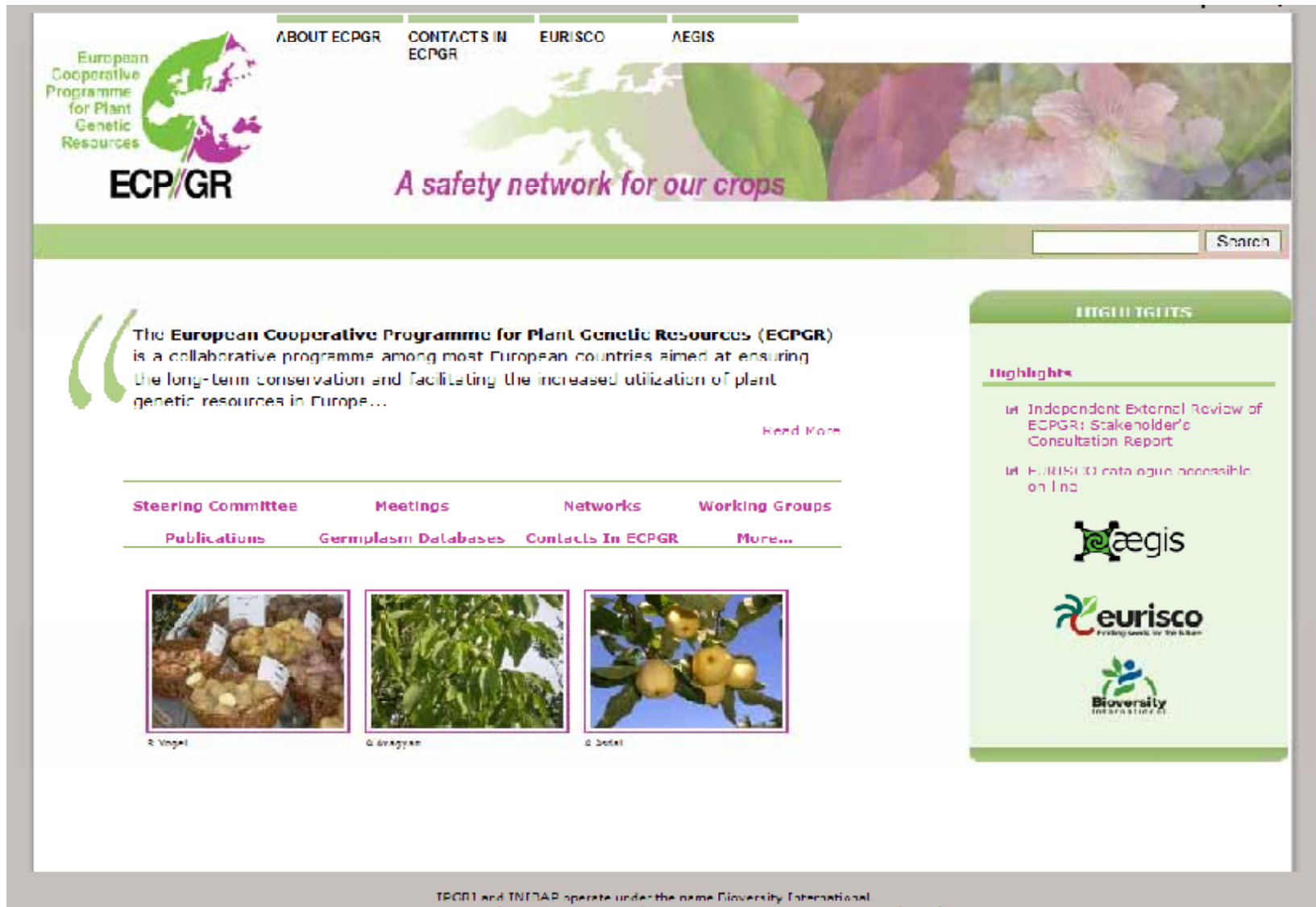
- Involvement in the development of GENRES projects
- Lobbying for the adoption of three significant research topics on agricultural biodiversity in the Seventh Framework Programme
- Letter of support with recommendations regarding the continuation of AGRI GEN RES
- Open channel with DG AGRI: opportunity to join efforts towards the development and implementation of a coherent strategy for plant genetic resources conservation in Europe.

Publications (2009-2010)

- Over 20 reports published
- Annual reports
- Secretariat' s overview of ECPGR
- Progress report for extra-ordinary meeting
- Four issues of Newsletter for Europe



A new ECPGR web site in preparation



The screenshot shows a website layout with a navigation bar at the top containing links for 'ABOUT ECPGR', 'CONTACTS IN ECPGR', 'EURISCO', and 'AEGIS'. The main header features the ECPGR logo and the tagline 'A safety network for our crops' over a background image of a plant and flowers. A search bar is located on the right side of the header.

The main content area includes a quote: "The **European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)** is a collaborative programme among most European countries aimed at ensuring the long-term conservation and facilitating the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe..." with a 'Read More' link.

Below the quote is a horizontal menu with the following items: 'Steering Committee', 'Meetings', 'Networks', 'Working Groups', 'Publications', 'Germplasm Databases', 'Contacts In ECPGR', and 'More...'. Below this menu are three small images: a basket of potatoes (© Vogel), a green leafy plant (© Grayson), and a branch with yellow fruit (© Dostal).

On the right side, there is a 'HIGHLIGHTS' section with a search bar and a list of highlights:

- Independent External Review of ECPGR: Stakeholder's Consultation Report
- EURISCO data engine accessible on line

 Below the highlights are logos for 'aegis', 'eurisco' (with the tagline 'Feeding seeds for the future'), and 'Biodiversity International'.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text: 'TPGR1 and TNGP2 operate under the name Biodiversity International. © Biodiversity International, Madrid (Spain), Via de los Reyes, 23. 28014, Madrid (Spain) Tel: +34 91 549 6700'.



ECPGR Coordinating Secretariat

Thanks to my colleagues and other Bioversity International staff:

- Elinor Lipman
- Jan Engels
- Lidwina Koop
- Sonia Dias

