

BRIEFING TO ECPGR WORKING GROUP CHAIRS

L. Maggioni
ECPGR Secretary

*Online Teams meeting, 10 November
2023*



Table of Contents

- Grant Scheme and WG meetings in Phase X
- Main decisions of ECPGR Steering Committee (Oeiras 2023)
- ECPGR ToRs
- Budget for Phase XI
- Table of priorities for Phase XI
- Cryopreservation WG
- ECPGR Network of European Genebank managers
- Q&A
- Procedure to (re)-appoint WG Chairs for Phase XI
- Q&A
- Any other business



Implementation of the Activity Grant Scheme



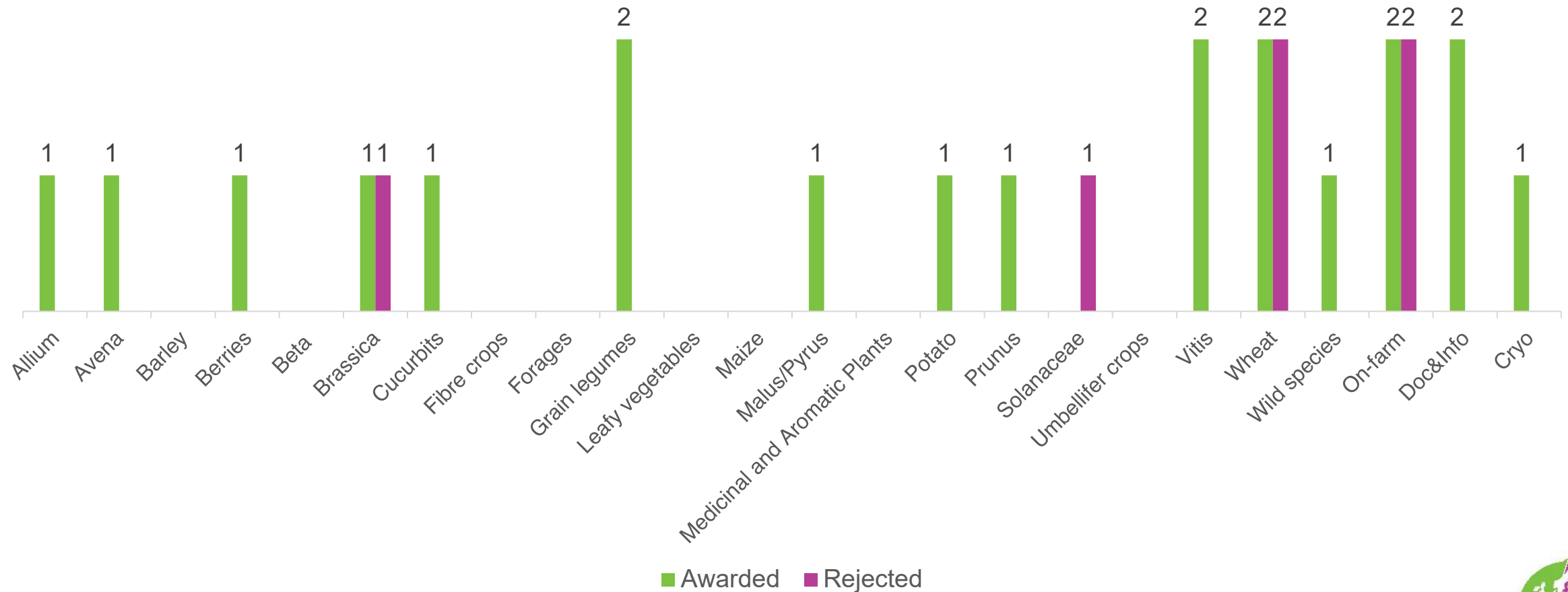
Grant Scheme proposals received, and budget awarded (Phases IX and X)

PHASE IX	1st Call	2nd Call	3rd Call	4th Call	5th Call	6th Call	Total
Number of eligible proposals received	11	10	8	8	3	5	45
Number of proposals awarded	8	6	7	5	2	3	31
Total budget awarded (in €)	119,650	86,350	104,350	118,500	44,000	44,988	517,838

PHASE X	1st Call	2nd Call	3rd Call	4th Call	5th Call	6th Call	Total
Number of eligible proposals received	3	2	3	3	3	7	21
Number of proposals awarded	2	1	2	2	2	6	15
Total budget awarded (in €)	27,000	15,000	39,200	39,800	75,955	188,667	385,622

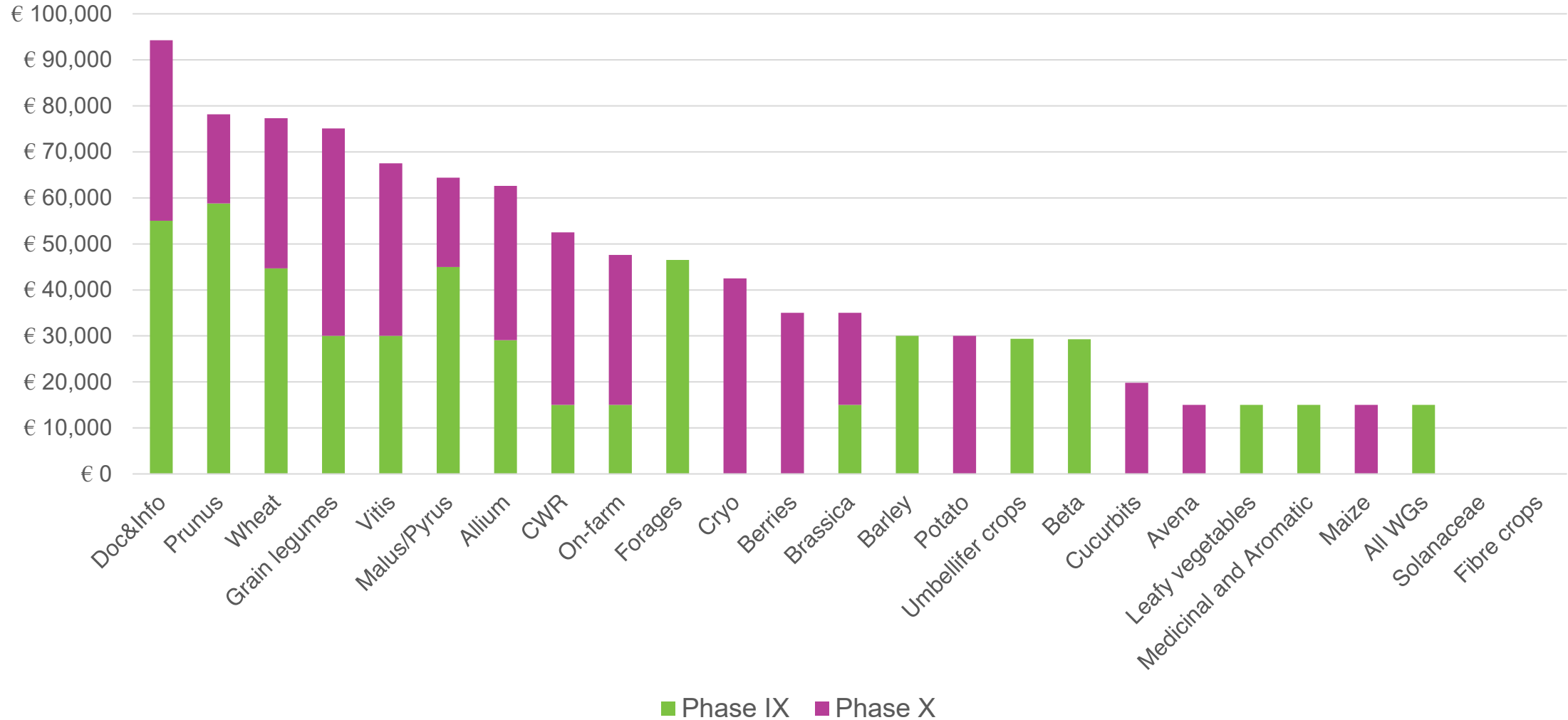


Activities awarded for each Working Group (Phase X)



Total funds allocated for each WG (2014–2023)

[Grant Scheme + meetings]





Awarded Activities in Phase X

1) *Avena* WG: UMORPHEAS – March 2020–February 2022 (€15,000). Coordinator: Andreas Katsiotis, Cyprus

Delayed - Plans to update the IBPGR Oat descriptors, involving the widest possible global community. Reference accessions in the field. FAO-Treaty and Canadian genebank involved.



2) *Brassica* WG: EUBRASWILD – October 2020–August 2023

(€ 20,000). Coordinator: Smiljana Goreta Ban, Croatia

Ongoing - Collecting activities and field characterization of *Brassica* wild relatives in eastern and south-eastern Europe. Article for *Genetic Resources* in preparation

3) Berries WG: EUROPE.BERRIES – January 2021–June 2022 (€20,000). Coordinator: Monika Höfer, Germany

Completed - Inventory of *ex situ* berry genetic resources to update EURISCO, develop technical guidelines for genebank management and select proposed accessions for AEGIS → Webinar in October 2023



Awarded Activities in Phase X (continued)



4) Cucurbits WG: Cucurbitlocal – February 2021–January 2023 (€19,800). Coordinator: Maria Raffaella Ercolano, Italy

Ongoing - Improve the inventory of local *Cucurbita*, characterize and regenerate a set of accessions and test performance in low-input management systems. Potential drought-tolerance identified.

5) Documentation and Information WG: GRIN-Global II – September 2020–February 2021 (€19,200). Coordinator: Ludmilla Papoušková, Czech Republic

Completed - Workshop held in Prague, October 2022 – Sixteen (16) participants in training workshop on GRIN-Global, with expert trainer from USDA

6) *Malus/Pyrus* and *Prunus* WG: FRUITTREEDATA– January 2022–December 2023 (€38,775). Coordinator: Matthew Ordidge, United Kingdom

Delayed - Improve data in EURISCO, increase phenotypic information within EURISCO and try to identify the same material held in different countries. Basis to develop the AEGIS concept for the fruit tree field collections.



Awarded Activities in Phase X (continued)



7) On-farm conservation and management and Wheat WGs: Bidifferent – January 2022–December 2023 (€37,180). Coordinator: Rudolf Vögel, Germany.

Ongoing – Focused on Binkel landraces (*Triticum aestivum* subsp. *compactum*) in the Alpine region. Establish identity, evaluate in five different environments and genotype for disease resistance and abiotic stress. Promote use. First field test results available.

8) *Vitis* WG: AEG-VIT-IS – January 2020–December 2020 (€12,000). Coordinator: Gregorio Muñoz, Spain

Completed. Molecular profiling to verify identity and uniqueness. Lists of 75 candidates for AEGIS. First operational manual of a *Vitis* genebank in AEGIS. Further analysis of results is pending.



9) Wild species in genetic reserves WG: Inclusion of CWR sites in European *in situ* Network – September 2019–March 2021 (€15,000). Coordinator: Juozas Labokas, Lithuania

Completed. Participation of ten WG members in the meetings of the EC-funded project Farmer's Pride

Awarded Activities in Phase X (continued)

10) *Allium*, Cryopreservation and Documentation and Information WGs: GARLI-CCS - Genotyping-by-sequencing of the European garlic collection to develop a sustainable *ex situ* conservation strategy. April 2023 - March 2025. (€59,997). Coordinator: Manuel Nagel, Germany.

Ongoing – to develop a conservation strategy for garlic genetic resources by genotyping ca. 1,800 accessions from European garlic collections. Will identify priorities for cryopreservation

11) Grain legumes WG: ExploDiv - Exploring of Grain Legumes diversity for sustainable European Agri-food Systems, March 2023 – November 2025 (€26,600). Coordinator: Creola Brezeanu, Romania.

Ongoing – harmonized filed characterization of local accessions in 11 countries

12) Grain legumes WG: ForEva - Fostering the need of implementation of the ECPGR European Evaluation Network (EVA) on Grain legumes - March 2023 – April 2024 (€16,500). Coordinator: Creola Brezeanu, Romania.

Ongoing - Aim to lay the foundations of an EVA Legume network

Awarded Activities in Phase X (continued)

13) Potato WG: EURO-POTATOES - Get Potatoes United – Collaboration Action for Updating the Virtual European Potato Collection, March 2023 – August 2024 (€30,000) – Coordinator: Veli-Matti Rokka, Finland

Ongoing – Aim to re-activate the Potato WG, share data on local genotypes, analyze and standardize genotyping technologies and identify duplicates and variants in the European collections to eventually expand the number of potato accessions flagged in AEGIS.

14) On-farm conservation and management and Wheat WGs: INWHEATORY – Inventorying wheat on-farm diversity, April 2023 – November 2024 (€28,050). Coordinator: Lorenzo Raggi, Italy.

Ongoing - Promoting the creation of national inventories of wheat landraces, to understand their diversity, their evolution on-farm, as well as indications on their level of genetic erosion.

15) *Vitis* WG: Sylvestris - Increasing the efficiency of conservation of *Vitis sylvestris* genetic resources in Europe, March 2023 – February 2024 (€25,520). Coordinator: Georgios Merkouropoulos, Greece.

Ongoing - Aiming to update and enrich the findings on wild grapevine occurrence in Europe

Working Group meetings



Three meetings in 2022-23

- **Maize:** Belgrade, Serbia, December 2019
- **Berries:** Dresden, Germany, January 2020
- **Allium:** Skierniewice, Poland, October 2022
- **CWR:** Thessaloniki, Greece, December 2022
- **Cryo:** Prague, Czech Republic, May 2023

Main decisions of the Steering Committee

Report of the Steering Committee

Seventeenth (End-of-Phase) Meeting
29 May–1 June 2022, Oeiras, Portugal



Main decisions of the ECPGR Steering Committee

- Terms of Reference of ECPGR for Phase XI
- Phase XI Budget
- Table of priorities for Phase XI
- Cryopreservation WG
- ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers

ToRs of ECPGR for Phase XI



PHASE XI (2024–2028)

**RULES OF PROCEDURES
AND
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR OPERATIONAL BODIES AND
MECHANISMS**

Approved by the Steering Committee
June 2023

Available at
[this link.](#)



ECP/GR

Phase XI budget: Euro 3.1 M

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Activities						
WG Chair's meeting			20,000		20,000	40,000
WG activities	102,064	102,064	102,064	46,816	46,816	399,824
EVA Coordination (90%)	21,165	55,046	64,106			140,317
AEGIS Coordination (20%)	27,486	28,486	30,610	24,103	24,826	135,511
Training workshops EURISCO		12,000		12,000		24,000
Activities Total	150,715	197,596	216,780	82,919	91,642	739,652

WG activities target total: Euro 510,000 over 5 years

Planning for the use of the budget line 'WG activities' in 2024 [ExCo 19 Oct 2023]

- **Grant Scheme:** criteria for assignment of funds under the Grant Scheme will be linked to the recommended priority actions at each given call for proposals
- Occasional justified requests submitted by the Working Groups for the organization of **Meetings** (on a first-come first-served basis)
 - 1) which specific achievements it is expected to reach, in terms of facilitating the implementation of ECPGR priorities.
 - 2) Cost-effectiveness and synergies with other initiativesExamples:
 - meetings in preparation for an EC project
 - planning of new EVA Networks
 - training of genebank information system officers, etc.
- In 2024, approximately €60k could be dedicated to the Grant Scheme (with a maximum limit of €30k per Activity) and ca. €45k to meetings, with a maximum of €15k per meeting.



Criteria for the first Grant Scheme Call for proposals in 2024

- Annotated Table of ECPGR priorities [available [here](#)]
 - Priority level 3 was excluded, while levels 1 and 2 were discussed section by section.
 - Activities that will be covered by the EC project PRO-GRACE or by the EURISCO budget were excluded from eligibility, together with those that are expected to be mainly achieved through national funds.
 - Some other Activities were expected to become eligible in 2025 or later, since they would benefit from progress made by PRO-GRACE or are considered less urgent

Cryopreservation WG

The initial work of the Cryopreservation WG was appreciated and the SC agreed on its continuation for the time being, as part of the permanent structure of ECPGR. It was noted that it is premature to evaluate the activities of the WG and the SC will revisit the concerns previously expressed, at the next SC meeting.



ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers

The ToRs of the Network were approved (Annex II),

- Overall aim to strengthen the management of genebanks through the exchange of knowledge, cooperation and capacity building of genebanks, including the various aspects of leading and managing a genebank.
- “The Network shall be self-funded. ECPGR may provide complementary funding....” The mandate was given to L.L. Steffensen to establish the pilot network for two years and to review the ToRs and evaluate the progress during the next SC meeting.



Questions and Answers

Procedure to (re)-appoint WG Chairs

Election of Working Group Chairs

(from ECPGR ToRS)

- At the beginning of each Phase, the ExCo will consider and propose changes to who should act as WG Chairs. If it is recommended that the current Chair remains in the role, the Secretariat will verify the interest and **availability of the Chair to continue**. In case a new Chair needs to be appointed, the **WG will collectively propose candidates to act as Chair**.
- In the event no candidates are proposed, **the NCs are invited to suggest candidates**.
- Proposed candidates submit an expression of interest to the ECPGR Secretary (Annex II). **The final decision is taken by the ExCo, based on the submitted expression of interest**.
- The WG Chair may identify **one or more Vice-Chairs** among the WG members for support.



Questions and Answers

Any Other Business