

**Summary report
of the**

EVA Boost Legumes project meeting

26-27 November 2025
Athens, Greece



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On 26-27 November 2025, 21 partners of the EVA Legumes Network met in Athens for the EVA Boost project meeting, co-hosted by the Agricultural University of Athens. A virtual connection was established for network partners who were not able to travel to the meeting. The agenda of the meeting is attached as [Appendix 1](#) and the list of participants as [Appendix 2](#).

1. Welcome and introduction

After a warm welcome by the vice-rector of the Agricultural University of Athens, Prof. Emmanouil Flemetakis, EVA coordinator Sandra Goritschnig opened the meeting. She thanked local host Penelope Bebeli and her team for their help in organizing the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to review the EVA Boost project objectives and plan the work for the seven crop groups active in the EVA Legumes network.

S. Goritschnig reviewed the agenda and reminded participants of the expected outcomes of the meeting, which included a general update, receiving reports on activities in 2025, and preparing feasible work plans for 2026 and 2027 for all crops.

2. Update on current status of the ECPGR Evaluation Network EVA

S. Goritschnig updated on the EVA networks in general, noting that although the first EVA project funded by Germany ended in March 2025, several follow-up projects are supporting funding for network activities that cannot be provided in kind. The ECPGR Grant Scheme Activities EuroPepLand and MALANIRS have enabled the EVA Pepper and EVA Maize networks, respectively, to increase their membership involving additional genebanks, and thus also develop new diverse landrace collections, genotype them and make them available for field trials by breeders. In parallel, the various networks are focusing on finalizing the analyses of the large datasets collected during the past years, with the expectation that these results will guide necessary adjustments to future work planning, increasing efficiency and efficacy of the network activities. Overall, the current six networks have generated 475 datasets with more than 600k data points, providing on average between 15 and 1,533 individual datapoints on the > 6,100 crop accessions evaluated so far. The EVA promotional video is available on the ECPGR website and youtube channel¹ and participants were invited to like and promote it as well as to follow the ECPGR LinkedIn² account where relevant information and news are regularly posted.

The EVA Legumes network was established in 2024, following the ForEVA grant scheme activity of the Grain Legumes Working Group, and brings together almost 50 partners from the private and public sectors who have signed a cooperation agreement. The EVA Legumes network is made up of seven overlapping crop groups, with scientific leads who support the planning of suitable work for each crop. Activities started in 2024 with in-kind regenerations of bean and chickpea, before a new project, EVA Boost,³ was granted by Germany in late 2024, which supports the implementation of EVA Legumes activities until 2027. Apart from the Legumes activities, EVA Boost also supports a preparatory action to establish an EVA Network on perennial plants (berries and fruit trees), for which a workshop was organized in Ancona in March 2025,

¹ https://youtu.be/AZ1NB6hC_ZU

² <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ecpgr/>

³ <https://www.ecpgr.org/resources/ecpgr-publications/publication/eva-boost-2025>

and a roadmap document was developed outlining important aspects that have to be taken into account in the adaptation of the EVA framework to perennial plants.

As concerns the implementation of the EVA Legumes network, the project's objectives were defined as follows:

- Select accession sets from existing collections/projects and uncharacterized genebank material
- Regenerate materials, creating new SSDs where needed
- Evaluate 50–200 accessions each per crop and year in possibly 10 suitable evaluation sites across Europe over 2 years
- Include on-farm evaluations
- Ensure long-term conservation of evaluated accessions
- Perform biochemical and nutritional analyses (e.g. NIRS), as well as biotic and abiotic stress tests on pre-selected material.

Partners have also collected and curated pre-existing phenotypic data on legumes, which will be made available in EURISCO after clearance by respective National Focal Points. AREI (Latvia) provided data on more than 100 faba bean and pea accessions from multiple sources (EuroLegumes handbook). IFVC (Serbia) collected data on more than 500 bean, pea and grasspea accessions from Serbia, including also new accessions in EURISCO. INIA-CSIC (Spain) provided data on more than 1,300 accessions of lentil, pea, *Vicia* spp. and other orphans (*Lathyrus*, *Vigna*, *Trigonella*) from the Spanish collection. KIS (Slovenia) shared published data on around 1,000 accessions of *P. vulgaris* and *P. coccineus* from the Slovenian collection.

3. Updates from connected Horizon projects and other initiatives

Elena Bitocchi (UnivPM) provided an update on the INCREASE project, which is running until April 2026. The project aims to implement a new approach to conserve, manage and characterize genetic resources through participatory research. It has created, genotyped and characterized collections of diverse legume species, with detailed protocols available for the management of Single Seed Descent (SSD) lines, produced in insect-free conditions, which are also used within EVA Boost. More than 50 multilocation field trials have been conducted for basic characterization of bean, lentil, chickpea and lupins, aiming at achieving three locations for 2 years per accession, complemented with experiments for drought tolerance and Rhizobia interactions. The INCREASE database, which has been modeled on the EURISCO-EVA intranet, is being used to aggregate the diverse datasets for further analysis. A large number of publications have already been produced on diverse topics relevant to legume breeding and cultivation. Importantly, a stakeholder consortium, of which the EVA network is a part, is contributing to the further exploitation of plant materials, which are available with an easy SMTA. Another main focus of the project is its Citizen Science Experiment, which won the European Union Grand Prize for Citizen Science in 2024, allowing it to continue for a sixth round, which has recently opened. The experiment uses 1,000 common bean accessions, which are distributed to citizens who are guided through the process of acquisition, experiment and data and material sharing with a specially developed app and various social media communities that have developed over time. Interestingly, despite the diversity of capacity of the citizens, the data collected via the app have proven useful for analyses of flowering time in different latitudes, taking advantage of the extensive coverage of growing sites across Europe. Together with other outreach activities, the INCREASE project has created a

significant impact across Europe. In the EVA Boost project, several partners contribute INCREASE materials and their expertise and capacity for additional evaluations.

Diego Rubiales (IAS-CSIC) updated on the BELIS project, which focuses more on developing tools for breeding and is currently in its second year. The work package he leads focuses on the development or optimization of protocols for biomass and seed yield, biotic and abiotic stresses and quality traits, transferring where possible existing protocols for priority traits between different grain and forage legume crops. They have also developed NIRs calibrations for quality traits in pea, bean and chickpea, and all tools will be used for screening genetic diversity as well as association analyses and breeding. Tools and protocols developed in BELIS could be applied also in EVA Legumes. IAS-CSIC is heavily involved with excellent expertise in biotic stress trials on multiple crops, and availability of diverse collections of different legumes. Despite the increasing availability of molecular tools for different legumes (and reminding participants that genetics started with analysis of pea), he highlighted the bottleneck of phenotypic characterization of the existing large legume collections and welcomed the opportunity to expand on our knowledge within the EVA Boost project.

Creola Brezeanu updated on the ECPGR Grant Scheme activity ExploDiv (Exploring of Grain Legumes diversity for sustainable European Agri-food Systems), which is finishing in November 2025. The project was approved at the same time as the ForEVA project with the aim to engage ECPGR Working Group members to mobilize their own autochthonous legume landrace collections, regenerate and characterize them and make them available for conservation and further evaluations (also by the EVA network). Nine partners each selected around 40 accessions of their favourite legume species (pea, bean, chickpea, grasspea, faba bean and lupin) and used common protocols and descriptors for evaluations during the regeneration cycle. ExploDiv material of *P. vulgaris* from Portugal and NordGen have already been shared with the EVA network, and other species could also be sourced from ExploDiv partners.

4. Data management

S. Goritschnig reviewed the management of documents in the EVA Legumes Microsoft Teams and SharePoint space, where partners can access crop-specific protocols, templates and information in different channels. Meeting presentations and summaries are also shared there with all partners. All partners who have signed the cooperation agreement have received credentials for the EURISCO-EVA intranet where, so far, data on beans and chickpeas have been uploaded. Metadata for all other crops will be compiled based on regeneration results and uploaded in due course. Trial and trait metadata will be compiled and uploaded after finalizing the workplan discussions in this meeting.

5. Review of experiments and evaluation field trials 2025

Partners were invited to report on their field experiments on chickpea and bean conducted in 2025. Data are currently being curated for upload to the EURISCO-EVA database and presentations have been deposited on SharePoint.

5.1 Common bean trials

Barbara Pipan (KIS) reported on their field trial testing material from NordGen to see their behaviour in warmer conditions of Slovenia. They noted early flowering in the accessions, but a heatwave in June caused flower drop and reduced the overall yield.

Lovro Sinkovič (KIS) presented results from the NIRS testing of bean accessions from the regenerations in 2024, where it can be used to evaluate protein content. They developed a NIRS calibration for protein on 15 breeding materials and applied it then to the EVA collection of 87 accessions. The grain analyzer they use has sample transport modules of different sizes, which can adapt to different seed sizes. For beans they suggest using at least 55g (75ml) samples, ideally 75g. In general, equations are better if based on larger material amounts and more samples. They noted that the results indicate a positive bias in the protein content estimate and suggest that the method is good for screening and ranking of accessions, but not for absolute qualification. Differences in seed size and colour could be problematic, but the method could also be used for other compounds (e.g. alkaloids in lupins, using a protocol developed by CREA-ZA).

Erika Zetochova (NPPC) shared results from her trial on beans, which included Slovakian and Serbian materials. Unlike in 2023, when there was a good harvest, in 2025 she observed some occurrence of viruses and fungi and had problems with heat and drought, reducing the harvest. In the database, only results for plots with more than 10 plants were recorded.

Andrin Schilliger (GZPK) reported on the bean trial conducted in Zurich with 2 replicates of 40 bean accessions. They found the phenotypic scoring generally feasible, but noted some challenges with differentiating diseases, where in natural conditions it was difficult to distinguish between diseases and establish their sources, also because of clear field effects that were observed. It will therefore be necessary to conduct controlled condition experiments to effectively assess disease responses. He suggested establishing simple communication channels (e.g. WhatsApp) between evaluators to facilitate exchange during the phenotyping season.

Domitille Mukankubana (CRBA) presented her organization which links conservation and agronomy, collaborating with farmers and other food system actors on participatory breeding approaches in order to co-evaluate and co-breed varieties adapted to complex micro-environments. Within EVA Boost they performed a field trial on common bean at their experimental station in Lyon, following an evaluation scheme with increasing participatory involvement as the complexity of trait evaluation increases, eventually also including tasting events. They have developed an evaluation protocol that combines the common bean descriptors with photographic examples and clear explanations, making it easier to use for non-experts. Their 2025 field trial included 12 accessions in two replicates, recording phenological, yield and disease traits. She noted that some accessions seem to be heterogeneous and that there were some issues with germination (perhaps due to seed treatment). They observed differences in disease susceptibility, drought tolerance and yield and will repeat the experiment in 2026.

C. Brezeanu (VRDS) reported on the common bean field trials in Bacau, Romania, which included 35 accessions from Portugal and NordGen. Their fields suffered from rabbit attacks during the early season, but could recover and had generally good conditions. Pictures were taken following the INCREASE protocol, and data collection is ongoing.

Marzieh Shahnazari reported on the field trial conducted by GSN Semences in France, where they evaluated 12 accessions for 21 traits, including agronomic, phenologic and stresses. They

noted virus symptoms as well as bacterial blight on some of the material; four accessions were not harvested for evaluation of seed traits. They plan to repeat the experiment in 2026.

Ca'Colonna had evaluated ten bean accessions on their farm in central Italy. They experienced early rain and a hot, dry summer. Beans showed consistent vegetative growth and high yield across all accessions, while the lentil regeneration conducted nearby was less productive, suggesting a higher sensitivity of lentils to environmental stress and crop management.

5.2 Chickpea field trials

A. Schillinger (GZPK) summarized the chickpea trials in Switzerland, which were conducted in two locations (Zurich and Bern). They observed good phenotypic diversity, but the trials were only set up for phenotyping until harvest, and no post-harvest data was collected. In these trials, winter grains were used to separate the chickpea plots. The trial in Zurich was sown in May and had good conditions in May and June, while rains in July caused some fungal infections. The trial in Bern had similar conditions but less rain in the summer, so it was somewhat better to score.

C. Brezeanu (VRDS) reported on the chickpea field trials in Bacau, Romania, which included 54 accessions from the INCREASE project, plus relevant control varieties. As per their nursery protocols, seeds were sown in trays and transplanted to the field after four weeks. They recorded data on 18 traits and noted overall good genetic diversity in the set, which would offer opportunities for selection of both high-yielding and stable-performing chickpea genotypes.

University of Maribor conducted an experiment on chickpea in 2025, but had big problems with poor germination. It was therefore repeated it in a pot experiment and data are still being collected.

5.3 Farmers field trials

Rachele Stentella (RSR) reported on the activities in the frame of the farmers' network they are coordinating within EVA Boost. The work in 2025 focused on multiplying 50 accessions each of chickpea, bean and cowpea to generate initial characterization data and material for farmer trials, which typically require more starting material. The chickpea multiplication in Tuscany suffered from a period of rain after sowing, which lowered germination and consequently also the yield. The trial was evaluated in a participatory manner involving ten farmers during a field day. To avoid the issues of germination and to better compete with weeds under organic farming conditions, the trial for 2026 was sown in autumn, and another participatory on-farm assessment is planned in 2025 with the decentralized trial via SeedLinked with 20 farms postponed to 2026/2027. The cowpea trial, using material from MBG-CSIC and CREA-ZA also encountered difficulties with germination in the field in Lombardy, where it was likely sown too late in the season. After sowing in mid-June, the crop had mostly vegetative growth during the summer and was still flowering in November, thus it could not be harvested. For 2026, the experimental scheme will be redesigned, the sowing date anticipated and an on-farm event planned for the participatory evaluation of the accessions together with farmers and students (September 2026). If possible, an additional on-farm assessment will be conducted in 2027 to recover data from the 2025 agricultural year. The common bean trial in 2025 focused on the 30 bushy accessions, as the material arrived too late to plant the 20 climbing bean accessions; these will be added in 2026. The trial conducted in the Veneto region of Italy also produced some evaluation data and six accessions were included in a sensory panel test at the 14th Let's Liberate Diversity Forum in Luxembourg on 4-6 September

2025. For 2026, all bean accessions will be further multiplied to supply decentralized trials with at least 20 farms in 2027.

5.4 Multiplication trials in 2025

As the results of the regeneration activities are immediately relevant to the work planning, they were presented during the sessions for the work plan discussions of the different crop groups.

6. EVA Legumes work planning for 2026/27

The main objective of the meeting was to develop feasible work plans for the different crop groups that would match the available budget from the EVA Boost project, maximizing efficiency and output and working towards the expected outcomes of the project. S. Goritschnig provided an overview of the current budget situation and noted that the budget should benefit all crops to similar levels, considering that costs and capacities are not equal. Partners had been requested to provide proposals for activities that they could contribute to in 2026/2027 for each crop, along with relevant funding requests. It was highlighted that funding would only be available to partners in active ECPGR member countries who have signed the cooperation agreement, and that, due to the limited budget available, co-funding is likely necessary for some activities. Furthermore, it was noted that priorities and capacities of partners have changed since the first survey, so not everyone will be able to contribute to all crop groups they had initially signed up for and therefore another effort to recruit additional stakeholders should be considered to increase the number of evaluation trials in all crops, drawing where possible on the stakeholder survey from ForEVA as well as on stakeholder communities within Horizon projects (INCREASE, BELIS).

Charles-Henry Duval noted that the collaboration between Lidea and Pro-Pulse has been terminated and they are no longer working on legumes. He offered some contacts within INRAE Montpellier and a farmers' network in Bretagne who could be interested in joining the EVA Legumes network. Other partners also agreed to reach out to their existing contacts.

Work planning discussions in each crop group covered the following topics: review of regenerations, review of protocols, planning of field trials, biotic stress trials, biochemical/nutritional analyses, new accession sets, and are described in detail below. Main action points to finalize the work plan are included for each crop.

6.1 Common bean – Work planning

Crop group lead Barbara Pipan (KIS)

Regeneration/available material: Common bean activities have so far included two sets of accessions, with Set 1 including 154 landraces from various genebanks and Set 2 including 106 SSD lines from INCREASE. One hundred accessions from Set 1 had been regenerated first in 2024 by Semences de Provence in France, and ~50 accessions had enough yield for further evaluation. Additional materials were made available from ExploDiv partners NordGen and INIAV for Set 1. The low-yielding 50 accessions were regenerated again in 2025 together with Set 2 by MBG-CSIC, totalling 156 accessions, of which 135 have enough for distribution to evaluators for trials in 2026. Antonio de Ron (MBG-CSIC) reported good production during their multiplication, with an average yield of 1.6kg and only four accessions failing. He noted that 97 accessions seemed to be indeterminate/climbing types.

Protocol: The current protocol is based on IPGRI descriptors and the INCREASE protocol. Partners have added some internal descriptors to the common protocol; they will be included as optional traits for future reference. The scoring protocol will also be checked for improved descriptions and inclusion of visual references.

Field trials: Six partners confirmed field trials for 2026 and 2027, but some feedback from companies was still missing, and phytosanitary requirements will have to be checked for partners in Serbia and Turkey. Field trial capacity has a maximum of 50 accessions, with a focus on bushy types, so maybe no further regenerations are necessary at the moment. The experimental design should be adapted to a maximum plant density of 20/m² plot and to a lattice design when a large number of plots is used. 'Hidalgo' and 'Black turtle' were confirmed as internal checks for bushy types, and the variety 'Golden Gate' was suggested as a check for climbing beans. Considering the available material and field trial commitments, it would be beneficial to invite additional stakeholders to conduct in-kind field trials, especially for climbing beans, which would also require a different experimental design. The RSR Farmers' network will also contribute to evaluations with on-farm evaluation in 2026 and a decentralized trial with up to 20 farms in 2027.

Biotic stresses: Ankara University has capacity for biotic stress trials under natural conditions in two locations, where they could monitor bacterial and fungal diseases. Import of beans requires a phytosanitary certificate, requirements should be checked in time. IFVCS could also do some bacterial diseases under controlled conditions; also here a phytosanitary certificate is required.

Biochemical analyses: Several partners (KIS, MBG-CSIC, IFVC, UNIVPM) could do NIRS nutritional analyses on materials from field trials. This would be best done when the seeds are dried and stabilized, at around two months post-harvest, so not before late 2026. MBG-CSIC proposed to develop a NIRS protocol for starch content in 2026, using 70–100 accessions from EVA and their own collection for the calibration, which could be available in time for NIRS analysis of protein and starch of MLFT material from 2026. MBG would request around 150g of material for NIRS, which could then be returned to the providers, if necessary.

New accession sets: Considering the capacity for field trials, we have sufficient material to supply the current evaluators, aiming for at least three locations per accession. IFVCS proposed to develop SSD lines from their collections, which could be useful for future evaluations, but for the moment, no further regenerations are foreseen.

Table 1: Action list common bean work planning

Crop	Action	Responsible	Due date
Bean	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Turkey	S. Goritschnig / A. Karakaya	2025-12-31
Bean	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Serbia	S. Goritschnig /A. Ilic	2025-12-31
Bean	Create field trial matrix for bushy types	S. Goritschnig /B. Pipan	2026-01-31
Bean	Propose experimental design for the different field trials	B. Pipan	2026-02-28
Bean	Call for additional in kind field trials, especially for climbing bean	S. Goritschnig , INCREASE and BELIS contacts	2026-01-31

Bean	Finalize plan for development of Starch NIRS (#acc, timeline, process, cost)	S. Goritschnig /A. De Ron	2025-12-31
Bean	Check for missing commitments from partners	S. Goritschnig	2025-12-31
Bean	Define check variety for climbing bean	B. Pipan	2026-01-31
Bean	Define which lines to make SSD for in Serbia	A. Ilic	2026-01-31
Bean	Collect missing data for 2025 trials	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Bean	Update protocol and data templates	S. Goritschnig	2026-02-28

6.2 Chickpea – work planning

Crop group lead Elena Bitocchi (UNIVPM)

Regeneration/available material: A first set of 199 chickpea accessions had been sourced from INCREASE and 169 accessions had enough seeds from regenerations in 2024 (by Semences de Provence and Pro-Pulse) to supply field trials in 2025. No second set has been defined yet and no further regenerations were done in 2025. Seed stocks from 2024 should be checked to supply additional field trials for Set 1. If necessary, Elena could check if UNIVPM may have some additional stocks to supplement this.

Protocol: The current protocol is based on IBPGR descriptors and a protocol developed in INCREASE. Traits will be updated based on experiences during the 2025 evaluations and suggestions from partners and shared in due course.

Field trials: Partners University of Maribor and GZPK have tested the whole Set 1 of chickpeas in 2025. GZPK will repeat the trials in 2026, using a randomized complete block design and would need to receive new seeds for sowing (70 accessions with 2 reps, max. 230 seeds per accession), since they did not harvest their trials. METK are interested in evaluating 20 early accessions in their conditions; these can be identified from the data collected so far. NPPC will evaluate their own varieties in field trials. IFVCS could test 20 accessions for drought tolerance, the phytosanitary clearance for this crop should not be difficult. The RSR Farmers' network will also contribute with on-farm evaluation in 2026 and a decentralized trial with up to 20 farms in 2027. 'Elixir' was suggested as a common check variety to be used in chickpea field trials.

Biotic stresses: E. Bitocchi noted that the INCREASE collection used in EVA Boost has not yet been evaluated for *Ascochyta* and *Xanthomonas*, so these tests could be very interesting. Ankara University has capacity for biotic stress trials under natural conditions in two locations where they could monitor bacterial and fungal diseases. IAS-CSIC would be interested in developing controlled condition protocols for chickpea diseases within EVA Boost. CNR-IBBR proposed to conduct abiotic stress tests under controlled conditions, applying low-water stress treatment in a growth chamber (evaluation of phenotypic traits, gene expression, productivity, and seed quality).

Biochemical analyses: CNR-IBBR could do biochemical analyses of chickpea for protein content, total phenolic content (TPC), phosphate levels and antioxidants, using standard protocols and/or HPLC. Several partners (METK, IFVCS, UNIVPM) could do nutritional analyses by NIRS, on material from MLFTs.

New accession sets: In the work planning survey, nobody offered to supply or regenerate new materials. Initially, several partners had offered their collections, and it should be checked with them again to define and regenerate a new accession set in 2026.

Table 2: Action list chickpea work planning

Crop	Action	Responsible	Due date
Chickpea	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Turkey	S. Goritschnig / A. Karakaya	2025-12-31
Chickpea	Check phytosanitary requirements in Serbia	S. Goritschnig / A. Ilic	2025-12-31
Chickpea	Check seed stocks from first regenerations in 2024	S. Goritschnig, C. de Chabot, P. Jeanson	2025-12-31
Chickpea	Identify regeneration capacity for ~100 accessions in 2026	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Chickpea	Define set 2 from partner's collections defined in first survey	S. Goritschnig / E. Bitocchi and partners	2026-01-31
Chickpea	Define 20 early accessions for METK	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Chickpea	Create field trial matrix for 2026	S. Goritschnig / E. Bitocchi	2026-01-31
Chickpea	Collect missing data for 2025 trials	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Chickpea	Update protocol and data templates	S. Goritschnig	2026-02-28
Chickpea	Define possible biotic stress trials at IAS - CSIC	S. Goritschnig / D. Rubiales	2026-03-31
Chickpea	Check availability of SVK accessions for MLFT evaluations	S. Goritschnig / E. Zetochová	2025-12-31
Chickpea	Collect existing phenotypic and genotypic data on INCREASE accessions for data analysis	S. Goritschnig / E. Bitocchi	2026-10-31

6.3 Lentil – work planning

Crop group lead Lucia de la Rosa

Regeneration/available material: Two sets of plant material with worldwide origins were made available to EVA Boost. Ninety-nine Lentil SSDs from the INCREASE T-Core collection with some evaluation data from field trials in Spain, Italy and Lebanon were regenerated by Ca'Colonna in Ravenna, Italy. However, yield results were not very good, and only a few accessions had more than 400 seeds available for evaluation trials. They reported some field effects where accessions only produced seed in half of the field. They also observed differences in maturity times and frequent seed abortion in early flowering accessions. The University of Leon also provided an international lentil panel of 48 SSDs, selected from 491 accessions from the Spanish collection included in a national project. This set is complementary by country of origin to the INCREASE set. In this assay, the regeneration trial has been made in both field and greenhouse. Here 43 accessions have more than 400 seeds available for evaluations and could be further multiplied. Both collections have been genotyped. IAS-CSIC also has several genotyped GWAS panels, with material from Australia, Canada and ICARDA, which have been tested for various diseases already, but these materials are no longer readily available to EVA.

Protocol: A standard scoring protocol was developed based on IPGRI descriptors, INCREASE and UPOV protocols and was presented to partners for review. Priority traits cover agronomic, phenological and stress susceptibility characteristics and partners were requested to provide feedback on the document.

Field trials: Field trial locations were confirmed by three partners, although IAS-CSIC are typically sowing in the fall, so this has to be postponed until the end of 2026. They also have access to a farmers' network, which could be involved in field trials. Some partners' feedback is still missing, and additional field trial locations should be recruited, although it was noted that there are few private breeders working on lentils in southern Europe. Field evaluations should be conducted in a 1 or 2-block design with 30 plants/m². 'Anicia', 'Flora' or 'Angela' were recommended as check varieties.

Biotic stresses: Ankara University has capacity for biotic stress trials under natural conditions in two locations where they could monitor bacterial and fungal diseases. University of Leon will be screening their collection for *Ascochyta*, and this data can be connected with EVA Boost. IAS-CSIC could test the collection for Rust and Broomrape under field and controlled conditions, and for Fusarium Wilt, *Aphanomyces* Root Rot and Stemphyllium Blight under controlled conditions. *Aphanomyces* was identified as a significant disease in Central Europe; it would be interesting to identify capacity for trials with this pathogen, and a suitable control would need to be defined as well.

Biochemical analyses: No NIRS protocol is available for lentils, and partners did not propose to conduct nutritional analyses on the EVA Boost lentil collection.

New accession sets: Given the limited capacity for field trials, the focus should be on ensuring material availability of the current set with worldwide diversity. Additional material could be sourced from genebanks based on their responses in the first survey.

Table 3: Action list lentil planning

Crop	Action	Responsible	Due date
Lentil	Update protocol and data templates	S. Goritschnig /L. De la Rosa	2026-02-28
Lentil	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Turkey	S. Goritschnig /A. Karakaya	2025-12-31
Lentil	Check with partners on evaluation capacity for 2026	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Lentil	Call for additional in kind field trials	S. Goritschnig, INCREASE and BELIS contacts	2026-01-31
Lentil	Check possibility to involve farmers network in Spain in evaluations	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-01-31
Lentil	Define possible biotic stress trials at IAS - CSIC	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-03-31
Lentil	Identify partner for <i>Aphanomyces</i> disease tests	S. Goritschnig /L. De la Rosa	2026-03-31
Lentil	Check availability of SVK accessions for MLFT evaluations	S. Goritschnig /E. Zetochová	2025-12-31
Lentil	Collect existing phenotypic and genotypic data on INCREASE accessions for data analysis	S. Goritschnig /L. De la Rosa	2026-10-31

6.4 Lupin – work planning

Crop group lead Luciano Pecetti (CREA-ZA).

Regeneration/available materials: The EVA Boost lupin collection includes 100 accessions of a genotyped worldwide collection, with 75 landraces and 25 improved cultivars. These had been regenerated by CREA-ZA in 2025, with 76 yielding enough seeds for evaluation trials. The remaining 24 will be grown again by CREA-ZA in 2026, together with another 50 accessions to include the whole world landrace collection held at CREA-ZA (deriving from a CREA-ZA/INRAE collaboration) in EVA Boost. The initial selection had been based on extensive prior phenotyping and could be suitable for both sub-continental and Mediterranean environments. The lines are not SSDs, but progeny from individual genotypes, whose genotypic identity has been assured by multiplying them under insect-proof cages (given the up to 10% outcrossing rate commonly observable in lupin in the presence of pollinators). Company partners also noted that they have cultivars which they could provide for testing in different environments, possibly as common checks.

Protocol: A draft protocol with a focus on agronomic, nutritional and stress traits has been developed based on IPGRI descriptors and the INCREASE protocol and is open for comments from partners. Additional protocols for specific traits will be extracted from publications as necessary. Alkaloid content was identified as an important trait, with a known mutation that could be used to cross varieties with landraces for low-alkaloid materials. The experimental design and plot size should be a compromise between characterization and production conditions (normally about 40 plants/m²) and 16 plants/m² (in a five plants by three rows layout, with plants at 25cm) was proposed as a density that is not too sparse but still ok for good characterization, especially if plots are established with no lateral gaps between each other, causing no border effects.

Field trials: Partners were reminded that seeds should be inoculated with specific *Rhizobium* for lupin at sowing: a common source would be ideal to make the trials comparable (CREA-ZA purchases it from Cériance, France, but other providers might be available). In Italy, autumn sowing is encouraged (mid-October to early-November), which helps balance winter survival with spring droughts that could happen in the region. So far, company partners have confirmed three locations for field trials in Germany and Poland, with some possibility to test for biotic stresses as well.

Biotic stresses: Ankara University has capacity for biotic stress trials under natural conditions in two locations where they could monitor bacterial and fungal diseases.

Biochemical analyses: CNR-IBBR could do biochemical analyses (protein content, total phenolic content (TPC), phosphate levels) and abiotic stress tests (drought stress) in controlled conditions. KIS can apply NIRs to Lupin accessions from MLFT trials, to be coordinated with evaluators.

New accession sets: The second regeneration at CREA-ZA in 2026 will complete the first set that they provided. INCREASE also has a core collection of lupin SSDs that could be made available with some regeneration, for which capacity needs to be identified (maybe in 2027).

Table 4: Action list Lupin work planning

Crop	Action	Responsible	Due date
Lupin	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Turkey	S. Goritschnig /A. Karakaya	2025-12-31
Lupin	Check with partners on evaluation capacity for 2026	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Lupin	Call for additional in-kind field trials	S. Goritschnig, INCREASE and BELIS contacts	2026-01-31
Lupin	Confirm <i>Rhizobia</i> inoculum used in field trials	S. Goritschnig and evaluators	2026-02-28
Lupin	Define set 2 from INCREASE	S. Goritschnig / K. Susek / L. Pecetti	2026-01-31
Lupin	Identify regeneration capacity for ~100 accessions in 2026 or 2027	S. Goritschnig	2026-03-31
Lupin	Update protocol and data templates	S. Goritschnig /L. Pecetti	2026-02-28
Lupin	Collect existing phenotypic and genotypic data on Lupin accessions for data analysis	S. Goritschnig /L. Pecetti	2026-10-31

6.5 Pea – work planning

Crop group lead: Diego Rubiales (IAS-CSIC)

Regeneration/available material: A first set of 100 landraces was regenerated in kind by IAS-CSIC in 2025, of which 53 have more than 100 seed yield. T. It should be noted that old landraces are typically indeterminate, and modern cultivars carry a mutation that causes leaves to form tendrils which is better for production as it helps the plant to attach to support structures. Peas are cultivated either as vegetables (harvesting immature pods of indeterminate plants) or dry/forage (harvested after lodging). Priority was given to dry spring peas, both for forage and human consumption. Some other partner genebanks have accessions available, even in larger amounts; these could complement the collection and provide materials for continental and northern environments in 2026 field trials. Company partners also noted that they have cultivars which they could provide for testing in different environments, possibly as common checks.

Protocol: A protocol has been developed based on FAO key descriptors and the CPVO protocol and is available for partners' comments. Flower and seed colour were considered important traits that should be added. The experimental design for the field should use around 1m² plots with 3x10 seeds to keep the plot contained. Agronomic density is 80 seeds/m², which is fine for production trials.

Field trials: IAS-CSIC has already planted two field trials with their collection, and is also involving a farmers' network. Several other partners have indicated capacity for field trials in 2026, with between 20 and 100 accessions in at least two replicates. AREI, IFVC and METK agreed to test the leafy landraces using an intercropping setup with spring wheat. Company partners also agreed to use the landraces in their trials.

Biotic stresses: IAS-CSIC is planning dedicated disease screenings of their pea collection under controlled conditions. Ideally, it would be good to find partners who could test for *Aphanomyces* under field conditions, since IAS-CSIC could cover only screenings under controlled conditions, as this is a significant pest in central Europe, but fortunately does not exist yet in Southern Spain. Also powdery mildew, Rust, Fusarium Wilt, Ascochyta blight and Broomrape are important diseases that can be tested at IAS-CSIC. Ankara University has capacity for biotic stress trials under natural conditions in two locations where they could monitor bacterial and fungal diseases.

Biochemical analyses: Three partners indicated that they could apply NIRs for protein content on MLFT materials; this will be planned for the end of 2026.

New accession sets: Given the great interest in pea, both for human consumption and as feed and forage crop, it will be interesting to create complementary accession sets with possible adaptation to different European climates, taking into account prior and ongoing genotyping efforts, which could be used for association studies.

Table 5: Action list Pea work planning

Crop	Action	Responsible	Due date
Pea	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Turkey	S. Goritschnig /A. Karakaya	2025-12-31
Pea	Define check varieties for fresh and dry peas	D. Rubiales	2026-01-31
Pea	Develop field trial matrix for 2026	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-01-31
Pea	Define set 2 for adaptation to different European climates	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-01-31
Pea	Identify regeneration capacity for ~100 accessions in 2026 or 2027	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Pea	Update protocol and data templates	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-02-28
Pea	Plan controlled condition trials for biotic stresses	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-02-28
Pea	Collect existing phenotypic and genotypic data on Pea accessions for data analysis	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-10-31

6.6 Faba bean – work planning

Crop group lead: Lea Narits (METK)

Regeneration/available material: The faba bean accessions were divided into a northern set with 20 accessions from NordGen and the Baltic genebanks, regenerated as SSDs by METK, and a Mediterranean set with 37 accessions from CGN, regenerated as SSDs by KIS. Both organizations experienced some problems with the SSD production, which they had done for the first time, and requested advice from network partners on how to improve pollination and production of viable seeds. Both regenerations will be repeated in 2026, meanwhile some material could be sourced from a field trial at METK or directly from genebanks. D. Rubiales noted that it is necessary to differentiate between the use of faba beans, as they have different quality parameters (e.g. fresh beans are harvested as immature pods), and highlighted the interest of

breeders in small (pea-size) faba beans for processing; AREI has a small-seeded cultivar that they can provide. Some registered cultivars had been proposed by partners; these could be considered as controls for the trials. W. Groenink noted that a solution should be found for the conservation of the newly generated SSD lines, as they could be valuable for future projects.

Protocol: A scoring protocol was developed based on IPGRI and CPVO descriptors. Nutritional content are especially important traits for faba bean, including protein, tannin and glucoside content as well as the presence of antinutritional vicine-convicine. Wet chemistry experiments may be necessary for these. Flower colour is correlated with the presence of antinutritional compounds and is therefore also important.

Field trials: At this moment, field trials were proposed by three partners in the Nordic region and three in the Mediterranean region for 2026 and 2027, with their capacity matching the currently available materials.

Biotic stresses: Ankara University has capacity for biotic stress trials under natural conditions in two locations where they could monitor bacterial and fungal diseases. IAS-CSIC could test for relevant pathogens (Chocolate spot, Ascochyta blight, Rust and Broomrape) under controlled conditions and in the field, while METK could test for *Botrytus*, *Ascochyta* and *Fusarium* in the field.

Biochemical analyses: NIRS analyses for protein and tannins could be done by several partners. Taking into account the size of the seeds, a sufficient high number of seeds is needed for that. Chemical experiments may be necessary for glucosides and antinutritional compounds.

New accession sets: IAS-CSIC have a GWAS panel and breeding lines that could be included in the EVA project; also CGN and IPK have additional materials.

Table 6: Action list Faba bean work planning

Crop	Action	Responsible	Due date
Faba bean	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Turkey	S. Goritschnig /A. Karakaya	2025-12-31
Faba bean	Develop field trial matrix for 2026	S. Goritschnig /L. Narits	2026-01-31
Faba bean	Define check varieties for faba bean	L. Narits	2026-01-31
Faba bean	Define set 2 for adaptation to different European climates	S. Goritschnig /L. Narits/D. Rubiales	2026-01-31
Faba bean	Identify regeneration capacity for Set2 accessions in 2026 or 2027	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Faba bean	Plan controlled condition trials for biotic stresses	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-01-31
Faba bean	Update protocol and data templates	S. Goritschnig /L. Narits	2026-02-28

6.7 Orphan legumes - work planning

Crop group lead: Penelope Bebeli, AUA/Daniele Cavalli, CREA-ZA

Regeneration/available material: Cowpea was selected as the first orphan legume to be worked on, since there was interest from the Italian Farmers' network. CREA-ZA regenerated 30 accessions of their collection, which are genotyped, although not phenotyped for diseases. RSR also regenerated 15 of these accessions and also added 35 sourced from MBG-CSIC for the Farmers network, all climbing types. MBG could also provide additional accessions from available seed stocks. Grasspea (*Lathyrus*) have not yet been selected, D. Rubiales offered to provide accessions from their genotyped collection for field trials in 2026. It was suggested that the EVA set could include five well-characterized accessions plus ten uncharacterized accessions from participating genebanks, creating a diverse set and linking with existing data.

Protocol: A draft protocol was prepared for cowpea based on IPGRI key descriptors. D. Cavalli suggested a plot size of 1,5 x 3m with 18-20 plants/m² (or 13 plants/m² in non-irrigated trials). Depending on the use of the crop (as forage, grain or cover crop), the growing season is in spring or summer (if sown after winter crops), and the crop type (climbing or prostrate) also affects the desired sowing density. The focus of evaluation should be on the grain, looking also at photoperiod sensitivity and amenability for mechanical harvesting. The protocol will be adjusted based on the discussions and other feedback from partners.

No protocol for grasspea is available at the moment. Partners highlighted flower colour and presence/absence of ODAP as relevant traits. A NIRS equation for ODAP may be available from a previous project. The field design for grasspea recommends 30 plants/m². A scoring protocol will build on existing protocols for regeneration and available descriptors.

Field trials: At this moment, we only have two confirmed offers for field trials on cowpea (including biotic stresses) (KIS and Ankara U). An additional location could perhaps be done in collaboration with University of Leon. Cowpea will also be grown in the Italian Farmers' network. For grasspea, we have offers for four locations and could do trials in 2026, if materials are available.

Biotic stresses: D. Cavalli noted that it would be very interesting to test cowpea for nematodes. Ankara University has capacity for biotic stress trials under natural conditions in two locations where they could monitor bacterial and fungal diseases on both cowpea and grasspea. IAS-CSIC could do controlled condition assays for various priority pathogens on grasspea, also in the field.

Biochemical analyses: KIS proposed to apply NIRS to test for protein content, including wet chemistry, for both cowpea and grasspea. ODAP content of grasspea will be measured by IAS-CSIC. CNR-IBBR could do biochemical analyses (protein content, ODAP, total phenolic content (TPC), phosphate levels) and abiotic stress tests (drought stress) in controlled conditions.

New accession sets: GEVES plans to include ten cowpea accessions in their regeneration trial; these could become available for trials in 2027. Grasspea accessions could be sourced from IAS-CSIC, IFVCS and GEVES, which would require regeneration. INIA-CSIC will regenerate landraces. Collections in France, Spain and Greece may overlap and should be checked for duplicates. The New University of Lisbon has genotyped SSD lines of grasspea from a previous project, which could perhaps be sourced for EVA.

Table 7: Action list Orphan legumes work planning

Crop	Action	Responsible	Due date
Cowpea	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Turkey	S. Goritschnig /A. Karakaya	2025-12-31
Cowpea	Develop field trial matrix for 2026	S. Goritschnig /P. Bebeli/D. Cavalli	2026-01-31
Cowpea	Define check varieties for cowpea	D. Cavalli	
Cowpea	Update protocol and data templates	S. Goritschnig /D. Cavalli	2026-02-28
Grasspea	Check phytosanitary requirements and diseases in Turkey	S. Goritschnig /A. Karakaya	2025-12-31
Grasspea	Define set for field trials	S. Goritschnig /P. Bebeli/D. Rubiales	2026-01-31
Grasspea	Define check varieties for grasspea	P. Bebeli	2026-01-31
Grasspea	Develop field trial matrix for 2026	S. Goritschnig /P. Bebeli	2026-01-31
Grasspea	Plan controlled condition trials for biotic stresses	S. Goritschnig /D. Rubiales	2026-02-28
Grasspea	Identify regeneration capacity in 2026 or 2027	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Grasspea	Develop protocol and data templates	S. Goritschnig /P. Bebeli	2026-02-28

7. Outlook – Data analysis and other activities

In a final discussion round, participants commented on the work planning and approach followed by the EVA Boost project.

Overall, the availability of materials and the capacity of partners will allow the implementation of interesting and valuable experiments for all crops in 2026. Communications and outreach will be used to invite additional stakeholders to participate in field trials to further enrich the multilocation data collection. As workplans are finalized, virtual meetings for the crop groups will be organized in early 2026 to coordinate activities and settle open issues.

In terms of facilitating analyses, partners were reminded to collect meteorological data from their trials. Accession metadata will also be completed, with origin and background information, especially for SSD lines and other collections provided by partners. Genotypic and phenotypic data from previous projects will also be collected, where available, and used to complement the analyses and allow the development of interesting publications. In general, funding of biotic stress trials and biochemical characterization should allow the generation of publishable data, complementing existing datasets.

C. Brezeanu expressed her satisfaction with seeing the continued interest in the collaboration and suggested using the EVA network as a complementary approach to ongoing high-throughput breeding projects. The EVA network activities could focus on the valuation of landraces, with partners contributing as per their capacity, and could continue to support the exploitation of other projects' results. As such, a closer linkage between relevant projects would be beneficial, with common communication and outreach activities, starting with updated information on the EVA

website. Participants discussed how to make EVA more visible among stakeholders and involve more breeders and private partners in the activities. It was noted that in Europe most of the pre-breeding in legumes is done by the public sector as there is not enough private investment in these often niche crops. The EVA network should be used to share knowledge and materials, develop methods for use in breeding populations and provide opportunities for breeders to see new varieties.

Breeders provided some feedback on their main objectives within EVA Legumes, which revolve around biotic and abiotic resistances, with different issues depending on the crop and the region. They appreciated that some of the tested landraces showed resistances.

Partners suggested developing specific communication materials and packages, which they could use to amplify, for which they should also provide relevant input (e.g. photos, videoclips, social media account info). This could also include the calls for additional partners to conduct field trials on EVA materials. Outreach events such as the field visits and participatory evaluations organized by RSR are good ideas to introduce the crops and their diversity to the general public and producers. The INCREASE project provided good examples of outreach activities with their citizen science experiment or a cooking competition for the 2025 World Pulses Day (<https://www.increasepulsesday.com/>).

A final project meeting is foreseen for 2027 and it was suggested to take place during the growing season at a location where field visits could be organized. Alternatively, a satellite meeting could be organized on the sidelines of a legume symposium organized by C. Brezeanu and E. Bitocchi in Bucharest, Romania, in September 2027, to which all partners were invited and where a session dedicated to participatory approaches and the EVA network could be organized.

8. Wrap up of meeting

S. Goritschnig summarized the main results of the discussions during the meeting and actions to be taken by participants (see general action list in Appendix 3). She thanked all partners, including those connecting online for their active participation and especially local host Penelope Bebeli and her team from the Agricultural University of Athens for their assistance with logistics.

Appendix 1. Meeting agenda

Venue: Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
	Welcome and introductory session	CHAIR: PENELOPE BEBELI
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome by local host, ECPGR	<i>P. Bebeli</i> <i>S. Goritschnig</i>
09:10 – 09:20	Overview of the current status of the ECPGR Evaluation Network EVA	<i>S. Goritschnig</i>
09:20 – 09:30	Review of EVA Boost Legumes network workplan 2024-2027	<i>S. Goritschnig</i>
09:30 – 10:30	Updates from connected Horizon projects and other initiatives	CHAIR: CREOLA BREZEANU
	INCREASE BELIS ExploDiv	<i>E. Bitocchi</i> <i>D. Rubiales</i> <i>C. Brezeanu</i>
10:30 – 11:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
	Data management	
11:00 – 11:30	Review of EURISCO-EVA intranet and TEAMS space	<i>S. Goritschnig</i>
11:00 – 14:30	Review of activities in 2025	CHAIR: WOUTER GROENINK
11:30-13:00	Review of experiments and evaluation field trials 2025 (summaries and preliminary results) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common bean – 10x - Chickpea – 4-5x - Farmers network 	<i>KIS x 2</i> <i>NPPC</i> <i>ILVO</i> <i>GSN</i> <i>Ca'Colonna</i> <i>CRBA</i> <i>Maribor</i> <i>GZPK</i> <i>VRDS</i> <i>RSR</i>
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH	

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025		
14:00 – 18:00	Experimental planning for 2026-2027 by crop group	CHAIR: SANDRA GORITSCHNIG
14:00 – 14.45	Planning for common bean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of protocols - Review of regenerations - Planning of field trials - Biotic stress trials - Biochemical/nutritional analysis - New accession sets? 	<i>Crop lead</i> <i>Barbara Pipan</i>
14:45 – 15:30	Planning for chickpea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of protocols - Planning of field trials - Biotic stress trials - Biochemical/nutritional analysis - New accession sets? 	<i>Crop lead</i> <i>Elena Bitocchi</i>
15:30 - 16:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
16:00 – 17:00	Planning for lentil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of protocols - Review of regenerations - Planning of field trials - Biotic stress trials - Biochemical/nutritional analysis - New accession sets? 	<i>Crop lead</i> <i>Lucia De la Rosa</i>
17:00 – 18:00	Planning for lupin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of protocols - Review of regenerations - Planning of field trials - Biotic stress trials - Biochemical/nutritional analysis - New accession sets? 	<i>Crop lead</i> <i>Luciano Pecetti</i>
20:00	SOCIAL DINNER	

Venue: Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2025		
09:00 – 12:00	Experimental planning for 2026-2027 by crop group	CHAIR: SANDRA GORITSCHNIG
09:00 – 09:45	Planning for peas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of protocols - Review of regenerations - Planning of field trials - Biotic stress trials - Biochemical/nutritional analysis - New accession sets? 	<i>Crop lead</i> <i>Diego Rubiales</i>
09:45 – 10:30	Planning for Faba bean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of protocols - Review of regenerations - Planning of field trials - Biotic stress trials - Biochemical/nutritional analysis - New accession sets? 	<i>Crop lead</i> <i>Lea Narits</i>
10:30 – 11:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
11:00 – 12:30	Planning for orphan legumes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of protocols - Review of regenerations - Planning of field trials - Biotic stress trials - Biochemical/nutritional analysis - New accession sets? 	<i>Crop lead</i> <i>Penelope Bebeli</i>
12:30 - 13:30	LUNCH	
	Outlook – Data analysis and other activities	CHAIR: CREOLA BREZEANU
13:30 – 14:30	Data analysis approaches Available genotyping data Volunteers for different crops Desired outputs/format for breeders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Markers, materials, traits - Possible publications? - Data inclusion in EURISCO 	<i>All</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Other activities for the network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissemination activities - Communication and outreach - Farmers network 	
15:00 – 15:30	Final discussions and wrap-up Any other business	<i>All</i>
15:30	End of meeting	

Appendix 2. List of participants

Penelope Bebeli
Laboratory of Plant Breeding and Biometry
Department of Crop Science
Agricultural University of Athens
Greece
Email: bebeli@aua.gr

Elena Bitocchi
Polytechnic University of Marche
Via Brece Bianche,
60131, Ancona
Italy
Email : e.bitocchi@univpm.it

Creola Brezeanu
SCDL BACAU
Calea Bârladului no 220
Bacau
Romania
Email : creola.brezeanu@yahoo.com

Charles-Henry Duval
GEVES
Unite de Brion – La Boisseliere – Brion
49250 Les Bois d’Anjou
France
Email : charles-henry.duval@geves.fr

Iveta Čičová
NPPC-VÚRV Piešťany
Bratislavská cesta 122
92101 Piešťany
Slovakia
Email : iveta.cicova@nppc.sk

Lucía De la Rosa
CSIC, Centro Nacional INIA
Finca La Canaleja, Autovía Aragón km 36
28805 Alcalá de Henares. Madrid.
Spain
Email : lucia.delarosa@inia.csic.es

Antonio M. De Ron
CSIC, Mision Biologica de Galicia
Carballeira 8, El Palacio-Salcedo.
36143 Pontevedra
Spain
Email : amderon@mbg.csic.es

Wouter Groenink
CGN (Centre for Genetic Resources the
Netherlands)
Droevendaalsesteeg 1
Building 107
6708 PB Wageningen
The Netherlands
Email : wouter.groenink@wur.nl

Aina Kokare
Institute of Agricultural Resources and
Economics in Latvia (AREI)
Zinatnes iela 2
Priekuli
Priekulu pagasts
Latvia
Email : aina.kokare@arei.lv

Domitille Mukankubana
CRBA
357, rue de l'Eglise
France,
Email : d.mukankubana@crba.fr

Lea Narits
Centre of Estonian Rural Research and
Knowledge
J. Aamisepa 1
Jogeva
Estonia
Email : lea.narits@metk.agri.ee

Luciano Pecetti
CREA-ZA
viale Piacenza 29
26900 Lodi
Italy
Email : luciano.pecetti@crea.gov.it

Barbara Pipan
Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
Hacquetova ulica 17
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Email : barbara.pipan@kis.si

Carlos Polanco de la Puente
Universidad de León
Area de Genetica, Fac. CC. Biologicas y
Ambientales
E-24071 Leon
Spain
Email : carlos.polanco@unileon.es

Diego Rubiales
Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, CSIC
Spain
Email : diego.rubiales@ias.csic.es

Wilma Sabetta
CNR-Institute of Bioscience and BioResources
(CNR-IBBR)
via Amendola n. 165/A
Bari
Italy
Email : wilma.sabetta@cnr.it

Lovro Sinkovič
Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
Hacquetova ulica 17
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Email : lovro.sinkovic@kis.si

Ana Uhlarik
Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops
Maksima Gorkog 30
Novi Sad
Serbia
Email : ana.uhlarik@gmail.com

Madalena Vaz
Portuguese Plant Gene Bank (BPGV /
INIAV)Quinta de S. José, S. Pedro de Merelim,
4700-859, Braga
Portugal
Email : madalena.vaz@iniav.pt

Erika Zetochová
NPPC-VÚRV Piešťany
Bratislavská cesta 122
92101 Piešťany
Slovakia
Email : erika.zetochova@nppc.sk

ECPGR Secretariat

Sandra Goritschnig
The Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT
Via San Domenico 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Email: s.goritschnig@cgiar.org

Online participants

Jérôme Auzanneau
Agri Obtentions
France
Jerome.Auzanneau@agri-obtentions.fr

Gian Luca Bagnara
Ca'Colonna
Italy
bagnara@ettorefieramosca.it

Claire Barbet-Massin
Terres Inovia
France
c.bmassin@terresinovia.fr

Daniele Cavalli
CREA-ZA Lodi
Italy
daniele.cavalli@crea.gov.it

Clémence de Chabot
Semences de Provence
France
cdechabot@semencesdeprovence.com

Åshild Gunilla Ergon
Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Norway
ashild.ergon@nmbu.no

Barbara Gorynowicz
HR SMOLICE (Smolice Plant Breeding Limited
Liability Company)
Poland
barbara.gorynowicz@hrsmolice.pl

Tiia Kangor
Centre of Estonian Rural Research and
Knowledge
Estonia
tiia.kangor@metk.agri.ee

Aziz Karakaya
Ankara University
Turkey
karakaya@agri.ankara.edu.tr

Mohammad El-Khalifeh
NordGen
Sweden
mohammad.el-khalifeh@nordgen.org

Sebastian Kussmann (External)
Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz
Switzerland
s.kussmann@gzpk.ch

Macarena Martin
Protealis
Belgium
macarena.martin@protealis.com

Chiara Matarazzo
Ca Colonna
Italy
chiamatarazzo7@gmail.com

Beate Schierscher-Viret
Agroscope
Switzerland
beate.schierscher-viret@agroscope.admin.ch

Andrin Schilliger
Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz
Switzerland
a.schilliger@gzpk.ch

Marzieh Shahnazari
GSN Semences
France
marzieh.shahnazari@gsn-semences.fr

Loredana Sigillo
CREA-OF Pontecagnano
Italy
loredana.sigillo@crea.gov.it

Rachele Stentella
Rete Semi Rurali
Italy
rachele.stentella@semirurali.net

Karolina Susek
Institute of Plant Genetics, Polish Academy of
Sciences
Poland
ksus@igr.poznan.pl

Primož Titan (External)
University of Maribor
Slovenia
primoz.titan1@um.si

Hussein ZEAITER
Gautier Semences
France
hussein.zeaiter@gautiersemences.com

Appendix 3: Action list

Activity	Action	Responsible	Due date
General	Compare phenotypic protocols between ExploDiv and EVA Legumes for different crops	S. Goritschnig / C. Brezeanu	2026-01-31
General	Check for ExploDiv material that could be made available to EVA crop groups	S. Goritschnig / C. Brezeanu	2026-01-31
General	collect data from missing trials in 2025	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
Crop groups	Finalize work planning as per action lists in relevant sections	S. Goritschnig /crop group leaders	2026-01-31
Crop groups	Finalize and update experimental and scoring protocols	S. Goritschnig /crop group leaders	2026-02-28
Crop groups	Organize virtual meetings of crop groups to finalize trial planning	S. Goritschnig to coordinate	2026-02-28
General	Collect input for communication material (photos, videoclips, social media account info) from partners	S. Goritschnig	2026-01-31
General	Prepare communication material for different crop groups	S. Goritschnig to coordinate	2026-06-30
General	Issue call for partners and additional evaluation trial locations among stakeholder groups (INCREASE, BELIS, ECPGR, EUROSEEDS)	S. Goritschnig to coordinate	2026-01-31
General	Organize and promote outreach activities within the network	all partners	