

Networking among Working Groups for discussing and coordinating the implementation of ECPGR objectives

Report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

J. Šuštar-Vozlič, F. Branca, E. Lipman and L. Maggioni



Participants in the meeting

August 2018

Report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Introduction of the meeting and agenda.....	1
Welcome addresses.....	1
Slovene Plant Gene Bank	2
Brief presentation of the participants.....	3
Update on ECPGR Phase IX	3
Information on C&E data in EURISCO	4
ECPGR Objectives of Phase IX	5
Interlink between the Chairs of crop-specific WGs and the Chairs of thematic WGs	9
Review of the progress in development, advocacy with potential sponsors and implementation of the ‘concepts’ (<i>In situ</i>, On-farm) produced by Task Forces working within ECPGR	11
ECPGR Concept for <i>in situ</i> conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe.....	11
ECPGR Concept for on-farm conservation	12
Update on upcoming Horizon 2020 call for proposal and ECPGR involvement	13
Overview of Private Public Partnerships project	13
Other items	14
Information on creation of a peer review system amongst <i>ex situ</i> genebanks in Europe.....	14
Final report of the Preparatory Action on EU Plant and Animal Genetic Resources that has recently been published	14
Towards the future: ECPGR Phase X	15
Second draft of the revised ECPGR Objectives for Phase X.....	15
First draft of the new Mode of Operation of ECPGR for Phase X.....	15
Recommendations for the ExCo	16
Concluding remarks	18
Annex 1. Agenda	20
Annex 2. List of participants	22
Annex 3. Acronyms and abbreviations	26

The presentations given at the meeting are available online at

<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/working-groups/common-working-activities/ecpgr-networking/presentations/>

Citation

Šuštar-Vozlič J, Branca F, Lipman E, Maggioni L. 2018. Networking among Working Groups for discussing and coordinating the implementation of ECPGR objectives. Report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting, 17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia. European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, Rome, Italy.

Photograph © KIS, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Copyright © 2018

INTRODUCTION

Introduction of the meeting and agenda

Jelka Šuštar Vozlič

The Activity “Networking among Working Groups for discussing and coordinating the implementation of ECPGR objectives”, in short “ECPGR Networking”, was accepted for funding under the Fourth Call of the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme. The Activity Coordinator, Jelka Šuštar Vozlič, welcomed all participants and guests and briefly presented the Activity.¹

The aim of the Activity was to strengthen the collaboration between the Chairs of the ECPGR Working Groups (WGs) in order to better implement the ECPGR objectives. In 2014-2015 Chairs were reconfirmed or nominated for all the 21 WGs; several of them had not chaired a WG before. During the ECPGR Phase IX the costs for meetings were reduced in a way that full regular WG meetings (or meetings of several WGs together) were no longer funded. Since the ECPGR objectives address the work of all WGs and the experience of WG Chairs was different (from very good to less skilled), there was a need and a general request for a face-to-face meeting of all WG Chairs to share their experience in order to better coordinate the actions needed to fulfil the ECPGR objectives within their WGs. There was also a need to improve the link between the crop WGs and the thematic WGs to ensure meeting their needs in the respective thematic areas.

Initially, two meetings were proposed, one at the beginning of the Activity and the other towards the end. Based on the decision of the ECPGR Executive Committee (ExCo), only one meeting was eventually granted.

The agenda of the two-days meeting was prepared according to the needs of the WG Chairs and suggestions from the ECPGR Secretariat and ExCo (see Annex 1). It was presented by the Activity Coordinator and accepted with small modifications

Thirty-one participants attended the meeting, including 20 out of 21 Working Group Chairs (with one substitute), two ex-WG Chairs, the Chair and all members of the ECPGR Executive Committee, members of the ECPGR Secretariat and three observers (see Annex 2).

Welcome addresses

Mr Andrej Simončič, Director, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS)

Tanja Strniša, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF)

The participants were welcomed by the Director of the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS), Prof. Andrej Simončič, Ph.D. and Ms Tanja Strniša, M.Sc., State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia. Prof. Simončič briefly summarized the long history of AIS in the collecting and conservation of plant genetic resources. Priority has been given to species that are traditionally grown in Slovenia and are important for sustainable agriculture. He emphasized the importance of the meeting where experts could exchange their knowledge in order to efficiently maintain genetic resources, and wished the participants a successful meeting.

Ms Strniša quoted at the beginning of her speech some words from the Foreword to the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) published by FAO, that in her opinion reflect the importance of plant genetic resources for

¹ See also the [Activity webpage](#)

modern agriculture and the environment: *“Plant genetic resources are a strategic resource at the heart of sustainable crop production. Their efficient conservation and use is critical to safeguard food and nutrition security, now and in the future. The loss of genetic diversity reduces the options for sustainably managing resilient agriculture, in the face of adverse environments, and rapidly fluctuating meteorological conditions. Well-managed genebanks both safeguard genetic diversity and make it available to breeders.”*

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food started financing the Slovene Plant Genetic Resources Programme in 1996 and established the Slovene Plant Gene Bank (SPGB). The main goal of the SPGB is to maintain, evaluate, regenerate and preserve Slovenian local species, varieties and landraces of agricultural plants and their wild relatives. Ms Strniša pointed out that Slovenia is committed to sustainable agriculture and preservation of natural resources and is well aware that preserving local plant genetic resources is a precondition to substantially improve food security. The Ministry will continue to support the activities for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. She explained that Slovenia is in the process of upgrading the national legislation in the field of conservation of genetic resources. It is also intended to strengthen coordination and cooperation among stakeholders and to continue with the support provided in the framework of Rural Development Programmes and in the field of research activities. The Ministry supports the long-term goal of the ECPGR to increase the interactions among National, Sub-regional and Regional Programmes in Europe for collaborative, rational and effective conservation of PGRFA, providing their access and increasing their utilization. Ms Strniša concluded by wishing the participants a successful meeting and a fruitful discussion.

Slovene Plant Gene Bank

Jelka Šuštar Vozlič, AIS and Joži J. Cvelbar, MAFF

To start with, some specificities of Slovenia and its agriculture were briefly presented. Almost 60% of the area is covered by woods and only 23.6% of the total area is utilized for agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing; even out of this, 75% are less favourable areas (mountain areas, areas with specific constraints). Slovenia is also characterized by a high number of agricultural holdings (mainly family farmers), small farm size (6.7 ha) and large number of fields per unit (5.9). The main agricultural activity is livestock production.

In Slovenia, early projects to collect plant genetic resources were initiated more than 60 years ago. In the early 1990s the Slovene Plant Gene Bank (SPGB) was established. Four institutions are involved in SPGB: the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS), Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana (BF), Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences of the University of Maribor (FALS) and Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing (IHPS). They hold more than 5400 accessions altogether, representing mainly autochthonous, local varieties and populations collected in Slovenia and their wild relatives. The largest collection is located at the AIS, comprising more than 3200 accessions (vegetable and forage species, cereals, potato, small fruits, grape vine), followed by the collections at BF (cereals, forage crops, fruit trees, medicinal and aromatic plants), IHPS (hop, medicinal and aromatic plants) and the collection at FALS (fruit trees and grape vine). The collections are used also for research purposes and breeding. The curators of individual collections are members of different ECPGR WGs.

In 2017, Slovenia adopted amendments to the Agriculture Act, which were the basis for new regulations, also for plant genetic resources. The new Regulation on plant genetic resources will regulate the implementation of the public service for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and will specify participating institutions, coordination, public

service tasks, the methods, conditions and obligations to be fulfilled by the public service, knowledge transfer, reporting and supervision of the performance of the public service. The main Slovenian priorities are defined in the multiannual programmes for 2016-2017 and 2018–2024. The latter, in preparation, involves the implementation of the new legislation, strengthening of the *ex situ* conservation of PGR (national working groups, coordination, quality management system), implementation of monitoring for *in situ* and on-farm conservation of PGR, gradual systematic characterization and evaluation with regard to the available financial resources and upgrading of IT (information technology) system. The new legislation will come into force by the end of 2017 and the public service for plant genetic resources is foreseen to start operating early in 2018.

Brief presentation of the participants

The ExCo members, observers and Secretariat members introduced themselves briefly; the Chairs presented themselves at the beginning of their respective presentation (see below, page 6).

UPDATE ON ECPGR PHASE IX

Lorenzo Maggioni

Status of membership, structure, budget and objectives of ECPGR during the ongoing Phase IX were summarized, together with the changes in mode of operation introduced at the start of the Phase. WG Chairs were reminded of their own terms of reference. The Working Groups have reached an average size of 73 members per WG (ranging between 43 and 95 members). A total of 1163 WG members are listed among the existing contacts. The ECPGR Grant Scheme funded 26 activities through 4 Calls (ca. € 430 000), involving some WGs with more success than others. The budget was partly covered by voluntary German contributions (ca. € 89 000). The objective to make AEGIS (A European Genebank Integrated System) operational involves 34 member countries with 61 Associate member institutions. The European Collection consists of over 32 000 accessions provided by 19 countries. Of these accessions, 26% are not part of the Annex I of the FAO International Treaty. The AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS) is partially set up, with few (8) operational genebank manuals completed, conservation standards (FAO + crop-specific completed by 9 WGs, a safety-duplication policy and distribution guidelines endorsed). EURISCO, which is managed by the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben, Germany, gathers 1.97 M accession data from 380 institutions in 43 national inventories. Recent developments of EURISCO were the establishment of an Advisory Committee, the opportunity open for National Focal Points to upload non-standardized characterization and evaluation (C&E) datasets and the adoption of the multi-crop passport descriptors (MCPD) v.2.1 including additional descriptors (such as digital object identifiers, DOIs). Concepts for conservation of crop wild relatives and for on-farm conservation and management were endorsed at Steering Committee level in 2015 and 2017, respectively. A new initiative was funded by the German government to move towards the creation of a European Evaluation Network by developing an ECPGR framework that could facilitate public private partnerships.

Following the conclusion of the European Union (EU) preparatory action (June 2016), crop, animal and forest genetic resources networks will have a chance to join forces by submitting a joint proposal to the Horizon 2020 Call SFS-27-2018, expected for

November 2017. Decisions of the Steering Committee that will modify the mode of operation and the objectives of the next Phase were summarized.

INFORMATION ON C&E DATA IN EURISCO

Theo van Hintum

EURISCO (the European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources) has been active since 2003. It is currently hosted by IPK. The EURISCO National Focal Points (NFPs) upload passport data from their National Inventory (NI). EURISCO contains passport data for 1.9 million accessions from 43 NIs and 400 institutes. Data are shared with Genesys. EURISCO can be considered as the best-organized regional PGR data set.

A new feature of EURISCO is the possibility to upload phenotypic data (known as characterization and evaluation (C&E) data in the genebank community). This upload can be made by the NFPs and anyone delegated by the NFP. This allows reducing the distance between the uploader and EURISCO. The phenotypic data have to follow strict format rules, as defined in Excel templates provided (including score, trait/method, experiment and dataset). The upload mechanism will check integrity and report mistakes. The permission of the NFP is required before inclusion in EURISCO. The procedure is summarized in a diagram showing the respective roles of the NFP, data provider and EURISCO coordination (see presentation).

The current set-up is still a prototype: so far, there is no controlled vocabulary or ontology for traits, so that it is difficult to find a given trait; and the data are presented per experiment, making it also difficult to combine over experiments.

The development will involve, in a first step, obtaining sufficient data by stimulating where possible the inclusion of phenotypic data in EURISCO. The next steps will deal with crop-specific data (creating an ontology and mapping all available traits on it; creating “summary sets” for most important and easy traits), and the improvement of the search and visualization interface in EURISCO.

Discussion

Possible improvement of the procedure for search and visualisation data in EURISCO was discussed, as well as whether to include omics data in EURISCO or not. T. van Hintum mentioned the international initiative DivSeek (<http://www.divseek.org/>), that aims to create an infrastructure for dealing with omics data on PGR (data standards, storage solutions, analytical tools and platforms). The issue of the integration of the phenotypic data already included in the Central Crop Databases (CCDBs) into EURISCO was raised by M. Lateur. It was suggested to first organize them in the WG for the individual crop and only later include them in EURISCO.

EURISCO was further discussed later (see under the WGs presentations/discussion, page 8).

ECPGR OBJECTIVES OF PHASE IX

This session was dedicated to presentations made by the WG Chairs, addressing the items from the questionnaire below which had been sent to all Chairs before the meeting.

Questionnaire on the fulfilment of the ECPGR objectives of Phase IX in the individual Working Group

1. Information on the current state of fulfilment of the ECPGR objectives related to individual objective of Phase IX*:

- AEGIS (operational? accessions characterized and evaluated? ...).
- EURISCO (quantity and quality of data, functionality ...).
- *In situ* and on-farm conservation (if applicable) (implementation of conservation and management of priority crop wild relative (CWR) and landrace (LR) populations; mechanisms for more effective utilization of the conserved germplasm - in place?).
- Commitment and regular resources of national governments, of the European Commission and of other potential donors towards ECPGR (sustained / increased? additional resources?).
- Relations with users (strengthened?).
- Organizational structure and secretarial support (adequate to effectively sustain the operations of ECPGR?).

2. Information on positive development resulting from fulfilment of the objectives of the ECPGR of Phase IX (e.g. a success story) or any major gaps/constraints identified in fulfilment the objectives.

3. Recommendations to enhance opportunities and mitigate threats.

4. Review of the working mode in Phase IX / suggestions for modification of the mode of operation until the end of Phase IX.

5. Meeting the users' needs, are we maximising use of the conserved resource, how might we further enhance use.

6. Any other comments / suggestions.

* For details on the outcomes of individual objective look at: Objectives of ECPGR for Phase IX (2014-2018)

(http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/fileadmin/templates/ecpgr.org/upload/TORs_Phase_IX/Objectives_V2_April_2015.pdf)

Based on this questionnaire, the Chairs presented a review of the progress made in the implementation of ECPGR objectives of Phase IX within their respective Working Groups.

All 21 WGs were represented. The information provided by the two Chairs who were unable to attend was presented on their behalf (see list below). The presentations are available online ([here](#)).

Report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Working Group	Chair
<i>Allium</i>	Helena Stavělíková
<i>Avena</i>	Andreas Katsiotis
Barley	Jan Svensson
<i>Beta</i>	Parthenopi Ralli
<i>Brassica</i>	Ferdinando Branca
Cucurbits	María José Díez (<i>ex-Chair</i>) and Maria Ercolano
Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp)	Martin Pavelek
Forages	Anna Palmé
Grain Legumes	Creola Brezeanu
Leafy Vegetables	Jelka Šuštar Vozlič
<i>Malus/Pyrus</i>	Marc Lateur
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	Ana Maria Barata
Potato	Veli-Matti Rokka
<i>Prunus</i>	Daniela Giovannini
Solanaceae	Willem van Dooijeweert (<i>presented by Jelka Šuštar Vozlič</i>)
Umbellifer Crops	Charlotte Allender
<i>Vitis</i>	Thierry Lacombe
Wheat	François Balfourier
Wild species Conservation in Genetic Reserves	Nigel Maxted
On-farm Conservation and Management	Valeria Negri (<i>presented by Nigel Maxted</i>)
Documentation and Information	Theo van Hintum

In the discussion that followed, many common concerns emerged, and suggestions were made for improvement (see below).

• **General structure and WG operation**

The structure of the ECPGR WGs has to be improved by reducing the number of the members of each WG because the majority of them are not active. The WG Chairs face difficulties to have contact with their WG members, who often do not answer the requests and messages sent by the Chair. This difficulty emerged above all for the new WG Chairs who had few or no chances to meet physically during the ECPGR Phases VIII and IX. The budget dedicated to meetings has been drastically reduced and often the Chairs have never met the majority of the WG members. The new *modus operandi* since Phase IX involved in each WG any expert who declares interest in participation (upon approval of the National Coordinator) but the majority of them have shown no interest for the progress so far. The results are:

- now many WGs have more than twice as many members; many countries are represented by several experts representing different fields of expertise;
- many of these members are passive and the WG activity is not as high as expected;
- lack of contact among partners/experts outside project activities is still a major issue: lack of acquaintance with the partners hampers the development of ideas and enthusiasm to work “in kind”.

On the other hand, the active WG experts might be excluded due to:

- lack of country membership in ECPGR (outstanding contributions);
- lack of institutional membership in AEGIS;
- lack of available Country Quota.

The only possibility to meet is within the projects under the ECPGR Activity Grant Schemes (if the activity is approved), otherwise the WG members cannot meet and communicate with each other.

There is necessity to:

- ensure funding of all WGs in order to ensure any kind of activity;
- ensure contact among members including through better communication and transfer of information.

The following suggestions for improvement were given:

WG membership:

- the selection of experts should be made carefully (inquire on experts' qualifications/motivations: questionnaire, “application sheet” or else?),
- need to enhance communication on the importance of ECPGR objectives, and
- stimulate the country experts to meet their obligation once the Expression of Interest (EoI) to participate in an Activity is signed.

Alternatively, the mode of registration of experts could be revised, i.e. go back to one national expert who invites expert(s) with specific expertise only when needed (country level decision).

It was also emphasised that the position of WG Chair is not attractive; there is a considerable workload but little feedback and/or collaboration and “no voice”. It might help to re-introduce the concept of Vice Chair in order to share the leading work and to guarantee continuity in case of retirement

- **Strategy for ECPGR Phase X**

Development of the following joint activities was suggested:

- Improve contact between genebanks and seed companies;
- Improve contact between genebanks and small farmers producing for local consumption;
- Enhance collaboration between genebanks and local governments;
- Involvement of genebanks in EU projects (these projects have a strong visibility and dissemination activities).

- **AEGIS**

Based on the outcome of the survey within individual WGs, it was concluded that too few accessions are flagged as AEGIS accessions in the majority of WGs, too few institutions and countries are involved, and many accessions are flagged representing very few countries/institutions). The constraints identified are:

- Work is time-consuming/based on in-kind contributions;
- Uncertainty concerning future funding for basic activities related to maintenance and quality (conservation, regeneration, germination testing);
- Reluctance at institutional level to dedicate time and capacities to AEGIS (in-kind/funding);
- It is felt difficult and complicated to identify and flag varieties for inclusion in AEGIS;
- Uncertainty on how to unflag an accession from the AEGIS catalogue;
- The problem is also insufficient funding, which makes it difficult also for people who know how to do.

Suggestions were given for improvement:

- Involvement of genebanks in training activities (especially for genebanks located in universities);
- Introduction of the term “AEGIS candidate” in order to speed up flagging and registration (reduce delays due to administrative procedures);
- Exploring options for AEGIS to gain ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) status;
- Introduction of a genebank mentorship system to stimulate collection holders to flag AEGIS accessions.

• **EURISCO**

Questions were raised on how to:

- Make EURISCO a source of all available data;
- Make all the data available to everybody with user-friendly and efficient search tools;
- Download harmonized genetic (microsatellites) and –omics data, pictures;
- Make a better link between the ECCDBs and EURISCO and CWR-GRIN;
- Satisfy the requests of any kind of user and stakeholder (breeder, database manager, researcher, farmers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), policy makers, etc.).

Further steps needed:

- Actions should be initiated to encourage upload of C&E data into EURISCO on a larger scale.
- Development of a EURISCO feature for downloading of C&E data at experiment level.
- Evaluation of the possibility to include C&E data from accessions that are currently not documented in EURISCO.
- Establishment of a quality check system in EURISCO, for example regarding taxonomy and geographic coordinates.

The Chairs also addressed the project proposals under the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme. The following remarks were made:

- There is little interest from the experts’ side;
- The budget is too small with respect to other options;
- The short duration of the Activities is not attractive.

It was also pointed out that procedural/legal doubts are related to the lack of arrangements on safety duplications and the phytosanitary constraints to germplasm exchange.

It was agreed that it is necessary to:

- enhance institutional capacities in order to promote utilization of germplasm:
 - to carry out basic genebank operations,
 - to enable inter-institutional cooperation (e.g. for safety duplication in AEGIS);
- improve the visibility of the genetic resources in the European genebanks, for example via Crop Portals and communication targeted to breeders;
- involve the users in the selection/collection of relevant genetic resources to be stored in the genebank.

- **Relations to users, stakeholders**

The implementation of the relationship with the stakeholders (European Seed Association (ESA), the International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS), the NGOs involved in exploitation of PGRs, grower and consumer associations) has to be stimulated by inviting them to join our efforts for exploitation of PGRs, which is the main reason for safeguarding them, and to organize appropriate meetings also by workshops 2.0, summer schools, etc. The involvement of AEGIS stakeholders is very important for its progress but, as observed till now, not all the European countries support it and few ECPGR members of the several WGs belonging to Institutions are actually associate members.

A synthesis of the “observations and suggestions emerging from the questionnaires” and the discussions was prepared and presented by Petra Engel and Jelka Šuštar Vozlič, and finalized in plenary session the next day. All comments made by the Group were incorporated and the final document was presented at the session on Recommendations (see below, page 16).

INTERLINK BETWEEN THE CHAIRS OF CROP-SPECIFIC WGS AND THE CHAIRS OF THEMATIC WGS

(Moderators – Chairs of the thematic WGs: Nigel Maxted, Theo van Hintum)

N. Maxted introduced the topic using the “*In situ* WG”² as example and a discussion followed.

Discussion

L. Frese stressed the need not only to bridge the gap between the ECPGR *in situ* and crop WGs but also between the ECPGR *in situ* WG / national conservation agencies. N. Maxted said that the link has been made already in some countries; where we fail is with crop groups (it was made only for *Beta* and Forages).

T. van Hintum added that thematic WGs also provide reports, tools, knowledge etc. N. Maxted said that success is to have a network of sites, to develop standards and make the groups use them.

Regarding the contribution of crop WGs to the “*In situ*” WG, N. Maxted said that experts in crop wild relatives (CWR) from the WGs would be needed; analysis of the WG composition should be made to identify them.

M. Lateur stressed that there is a challenge for ECPGR WGs to build a strategy for *in situ* and on-farm, this is a global approach. It could be an objective for ECPGR Phase X, how to make a capacity for *in situ* and on-farm within each WG.

G. Đurić said that *in situ* depends on nature conservation within national agencies, where there can be a conflict between protection and utilization. N. Maxted replied that conservationists want to conserve species, not GR/biodiversity, therefore they need to be educated. He said that farmers immediately see the advantage of conservation of CWR. G. Poulsen said that it should be defined what to conserve in certain areas, and that an

² Formal name = Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves Working Group

agreement is needed. F. Branca asked what to conserve, real CWRs or escapes. Modalities should be discussed.

T. van Hintum stressed that there are good examples in cross-linking of WGs. The Documentation and Information WG has:

- built expertise and created capacity on PGR documentation in the countries, thus benefiting the Crop WGs;
- created and maintained tools and resources in EURISCO;
- advised WGs on *in situ* and on-farm items.

F. Balfourier asked what to do with old crop-specific databases (CCDBs) now that it is possible to upload data directly to EURISCO. The purpose is different, CCDBs are more dedicated to users, breeders etc., whereas EURISCO was at the beginning more a political issue. For the time being only a part of data from CCDBs are in EURISCO. T. van Hintum said that it is a need to include all PGR passport and phenotypic data in EURISCO. This is possible and requires only limited capacity. He gave as an example the CGN database where you can download all phenotypic data and also select for specific trait; all these data are also in EURISCO. The tools from EURISCO should be used to collect data from the WG. Based on more complete data in EURISCO it would become possible to, for example, select sets of elite accessions.

A. Palmé mentioned crop portals: it is rather easy to put up a portal, for example using project funding, but the problem is long-term maintenance.

T. van Hintum said that for example the lettuce and potato portals are being maintained (see www.pgrportal.nl). The portals need quality content, if there is no content there is no use.

M. Lateur asked where and how to keep genotyping data. He also raised the question on how to proceed if you are doing nonparametric statistics. T. van Hintum answered that later also these issues will be addressed, but at the moment EURISCO is not concentrating on this. Genebanks generally do not provide data on simple sequence repeats (SSRs), they publish elsewhere and provide a link.

T. Lacombe said that they have many data in the *Vitis* DB and use them. T. van Hintum suggested to keep the DB if it meets their needs. However, it is important that CCDBs that are still active make sure their data are as much as possible also available in EURISCO.

F. Branca said that the availability is politically very sensitive. They decided that they will not keep the *Brassica* CCDB, but there is a problem to upload all the data to EURISCO, since passport data can be uploaded only by the NFP.

REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT, ADVOCACY WITH POTENTIAL SPONSORS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ‘CONCEPTS’ (*IN SITU*, ON-FARM) PRODUCED BY TASK FORCES WORKING WITHIN ECPGR

ECPGR Concept for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe

Nigel Maxted

The need for *in situ* networks of Crop Wild Relative (CWR) populations was recognized at global level by the 13th Regular Session of FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (2011) and at European level by the 13th meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee (2012), who recommended the development of a concept for *in situ* conservation of CWR in Europe. The ECPGR Concept was published in 2015.

The functions of such networks would include:

- Facilitating the coordination of the many ongoing initiatives dealing with *in situ* conservation and/or on-farm management of PGRFA;
- Fostering stronger partnerships (funding) at national, regional and global levels;
- Impacting positively on activities at country-level and demonstrate benefits that directly support the ultimate custodians of PGRFA, the local communities that may be found in and around protected areas/reserves and/or farmers and farming communities who are involved in day-to-day management of crops and varieties;
- Achieving the desired fundamental outcome of both *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA: the safeguarding in perpetuity of important genetic resources for use either directly by farmers or by plant breeders and other scientists in crop improvement. Thus, another important function of the network(s) is to catalyse better linkages between conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA for the benefits of current and future generations.

Required characteristics of the networks were also discussed: geopolitical and administrative scales; physical versus virtual management; national sovereignty over genetic resources; management and coordination responsibilities; location; spatial structure; target taxa; populations; management; quality standards for the protected areas selected for the establishment of genetic reserves.

A schematic representation of the “European regional CWR conservation strategy” showing the respective contribution of national and EU policies towards an integrated CWR conservation strategy for Europe was presented.

The finances needed for the development of the networks, including international and national costs, are estimated to a total amount of € 12 300 K. Potential sources of funding include the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Treaty, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Foundations, *In Situ* Trust, Farmer’s Pride+ UK Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

Discussion

In the discussion, T. van Hintum said that because of the climate change and shifting distribution ranges national sovereignty can hinder the implementation of proper conservation strategies. Procedures to access PGR maintained *in situ* and on-farm site is lacking, therefore information and guidelines should be developed and implemented. Genebanks could develop into ‘Genetic resource centres’ caring for the conservation of

PGR, irrespective of the methodology, and providing access to information and biological material of all these PGR.

ECPGR Concept for on-farm conservation

Valeria Negri (presented by Nigel Maxted)

The ECPGR Concept for on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture was published in January 2017. It includes:

- A rationale for on-farm conservation and management in Europe;
- A framework for the ECPGR concept – how conservation might be implemented;
- The discussion of legislation and policy implications, type of materials grown on-farm, different management approaches and their objectives, actors and stakeholders.

Priority actions to be taken were identified as below:

- a) Create a European Inventory
 - Develop a European Inventory of on-farm genetic diversity;
 - Coordinate activity to reach agreements on common descriptors, data exchange format and data flow mechanism.
- b) Develop indicators for monitoring diversity and level of threat
 - Establish and operate a Task Force to propose indicators;
 - Establish a knowledge base of case studies on genetic erosion and monitoring of diversity in the field in Europe.
- c) Promote practices for on-farm management and conservation and adding value
 - Establish the knowledge base of success stories and best practices in Europe.
- d) Establish European sites of on-farm diversity of cultivated plants
 - Coordinate a sub-group of country representatives towards the creation of a European Network of sites of on-farm diversity of cultivated plants.
- e) Propose legal and technical solutions
 - Establish and implement Task Forces of dedicated experts to study, analyse and propose solutions to issues hampering on-farm conservation and management, as well as its complementarity to *ex situ* conservation.

The current state of the art for the implementation of these priority actions was reported:

- a), b), c), e):
 - Achievements reported for some countries in bibliography;
 - Other significant achievements obtained by previous projects and, in particular, by PGR Secure, see <http://www.pgrsecure.bham.ac.uk/>;
- Future expected achievements on all items (a-e): Farmers’ Pride (proposal submitted under Horizon 2020);
- Plus for e) on-farm and *ex situ* complementarity: LINKAGES (Activity funded by the ECPGR Grant Scheme, Third Call).

Challenges were mentioned:

- The main actors in on-farm conservation are farmers (not conservationists);
- Farmers are the owners of their genetic resources;
- Farmers maintainers for PGR on-farm are scattered all over Europe.

Needs for a tight cooperation with Crop WG specialists were identified in order to:

- Identify and collect information on on-farm PGR (to create the European Inventory);
- Develop indicators for monitoring diversity and level of threat;
- Promote practices for on-farm management and conservation;
- Establish European sites of on-farm diversity of cultivated plants;
- Propose legal and technical solutions.

Discussion

Recommendation: case study for individual crop. It is also important to work with socio-economic experts so that the farmers are encouraged to preserve the species.

UPDATE ON UPCOMING HORIZON 2020 CALL FOR PROPOSAL AND ECPGR INVOLVEMENT

Lorenzo Maggioni

A call for proposals for a Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action SFS-28-2018 - Joining forces for GenRes and biodiversity management, is expected to be launched in November 2017. The three Secretariats of ECPGR, the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) and the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) genetic resources networks agreed to oversee and facilitate the preparation of a project proposal on behalf of the three networks. A draft outline of the proposal was circulated in August 2017 to the respective Steering Committees for comments and seeking expressions of interest. Based on feedback received by 15 September 2017, the Secretariats started to select participants that would be invited to a preparatory meeting in Rome, 6-8 November 2017. The offer by the EUFORGEN Secretariat to lead the proposal received consensus. It is expected that a balanced split of funds be across the three Networks will be requested. The project will gather few partners per each domain, with the intention to organize workshops involving the three communities, to develop strategies, standards, guidelines, capacity building and communication. In the case of plant genetic resources, the expectation is that the project should help improving the AEGIS system, enriching EURISCO in quality and quantity of data and advancing the establishment of the evaluation network.

OVERVIEW OF PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

Lorenzo Maggioni (on behalf of Imke Thormann)

A voluntary contribution from Germany prompted the ECPGR Secretariat to pursue the implementation of output 5 of the ECPGR objectives: “Relations with users of germplasm strengthened”. The intention is to achieve the establishment of partnerships between genebanks and researchers. The first phase of a project to increase ECPGR knowledge and opportunities on “Private Public Partnerships (PPP) for the use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” went on between February and July 2017. A searchable online knowledge base was set up providing information on PPP examples in Europe with a focus on use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA). A workshop on PPPs in June 2017 allowed to share experiences from existing PPPs and to discuss a proposal for a European PGRFA Evaluation Programme. The creation of a European Evaluation Network was recommended as of strategic importance for Europe, with a critical role in facilitating

adaptation of European agriculture to climate change through increasing use of genetic diversity in plant breeding and the diversity of stakeholders using PGRFA. A second phase of the initiative, also funded by Germany, will run between August 2017 and March 2018, with the aim to prepare a framework for a European Evaluation Network, including network structure, draft agreement documents, type of standards and methods to be harmonized, and defining steps towards the implementation of the network. Future Horizon 2020 calls may be suitable to help in this direction.

***Discussion on how to propose a more coherent strategic approach for financing
(all the participants)***

ECPGR should work towards strengthening the basis for funding of genebanks in Europe. It was pointed out that PPP pre-breeding projects could be one of the options for financing.

As for the new ECPGR Phase it is not clear what the budget would be. Increasing the budget for meetings could stimulate a good interaction among the Chair and the WG members in order to reach the final ECPGR goals.

OTHER ITEMS

Information on creation of a peer review system amongst *ex situ* genebanks in Europe

Theo van Hintum

This initiative aims at increasing the collaboration between genebanks and the reliability of conservation and access to material. Based on experiences with reviewing genebanks of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), it was suggested that genebank staff visit each other to review and discuss their facilities and their mode of operation and produce a report describing their management, facilities and procedures, identifying strong and weak spots. This could lead to the development of an expert-based improvement plan.

It is expected that through this exercise, genebanks will learn from each other's constructive feedback, weak spots can be identified and solutions can be proposed, the expert-based review report can be used as instrument for fund raising, the quality level (facilities, expertise, protocols) will increase, and transparency will be created regarding PGR actors.

Discussion

M. Lateur said that there is a need to build a kind of capacity building, a mentorship. T. van Hintum added that we need transparency about the quality (reliability, continuity, etc.) of genebanks to allow collaboration in AEGIS.

Final report of the Preparatory Action on EU Plant and Animal Genetic Resources that has recently been published

Theo van Hintum

This project was based on a tender from the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (EU-DG-AGRI) with the objective to create an

overview of the European Genetic Resources’ situation. It ran for 24 months (2014-2016), covering all GR sectors (plants, animals, forestry and microbes). Activities included: the mapping of actors, activities, initiatives, networks, etc.; a literature review; 300 interviews with stakeholders; 21 case studies; 7 thematic workshops and a final one-day conference.

The project was executed by: Valdani Vicari & Associati (VVA); Arcadia International, Wageningen UR (Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands [CGN], other parts of Plant Research International [PRI, now WPR] and the Socio-Economics Research Institute [LEI]); the Fungal Biodiversity Centre of the Royal Academy of Arts and Science (CBS-KNAW); and the Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity of the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE-IBV).

The project came up with a set of 12 overall recommendations that were discussed at the final conference in Brussels. There was broad consensus amongst all stakeholders that the EU should better coordinate and support genetic resources conservation and use. The current H2020-SFS27-2017 call and AgroForest Bridge initiative (which brings together ECPGR, ERFP and EUFORGEN) might be considered an outcome.

TOWARDS THE FUTURE: ECPGR PHASE X

Second draft of the revised ECPGR Objectives for Phase X

Lorenzo Maggioni

The ECPGR Steering Committee had requested the Secretariat to propose revised objectives for Phase X by submitting a final draft resulting from a wide consultation with National Coordinators and Working Groups. The Secretariat presented the second draft of the revised objectives, prepared after receipt of comments following circulation of the first draft. A few small changes were suggested and these will be included in a third draft, which will be uploaded and remain open for comments until a final draft will be included among the background documents to the Steering Committee meeting of May 2018.

Discussion

N. Maxted pointed the issue of democracy again – we discuss here but decisions are taken without our voice.

T. van Hintum said that this group wants to be heard since we have the hands-on experience and knowledge. Regular meetings are needed, at least once in a Phase (mid-term and/or end-of-term meeting before Steering Committee meeting). It should be an advisory body, this would also make the work of WG Chairs more attractive and the functioning of ECPGR more effective.

N. Maxted said that it would also be an incentive to the position of Chair to know that they have a possible say in the decisions.

First draft of the new Mode of Operation of ECPGR for Phase X

Lorenzo Maggioni

A proposal prepared by the Secretariat for the Mode of Operation during Phase X foresees the management of two budget lines, one exclusively dedicated to meetings and the other

one to other activities. It should be possible for each Working Group to organize meetings by a simple application that specifies purpose of the meeting, criteria of efficiency and cost-effectiveness, possible synergies, names of participants and suggested date and location of the meeting. Country quotas would regulate the participation, based on availability of quotas at country level. The budget for other activities would continue to be managed through the implementation of the ECPGR Grant Scheme, as in the previous phase, but country quotas would not be relevant in this case and no limitation would be imposed on the ratio of funds to be dedicated to meetings versus other actions. It was noted that this proposal received general appreciation from the WG Chairs. The proposal will be included among the background documents for discussion at the Steering Committee meeting of May 2018.

Discussion

In general, the new Mode of Operation of ECPGR for Phase X was appreciated and considered an improvement. Some requests for clarification were answered.

P. Ralli said that it seemed to be a combination of the two last phases (Phase VIII and Phase IX). She also raised concern on what would happen if people who attend meetings are not willing to participate in proposals and implement the ECPGR objectives.

L. Maggioni replied that indeed the meetings must be well prepared by the Chair and the Secretariat to guarantee their efficiency.

D. Giovannini found it good to be able to involve more countries in meetings, but brainstorming would be needed before a proposal. A.M. Barata was satisfied with the draft; she stressed that NCs should be more attentive in the nomination of WG members. M. Lateur also thought that it was an improvement. L. Frese asked whether the meetings would aim to prepare projects (as was the case in the past). L. Maggioni said that it would not be a rule; there can be other reasons for meetings as well. M. Lateur thought that the meetings also have a role of capacity building, very important to share among members (newcomers / older members). A. Katsiotis asked to what kind of projects the meetings would be aimed at, only ECPGR or also others? In the first case it would not be very efficient to spend more efforts and funds just to get €15 000.

Recommendations for the ExCo

WG Chairs

The print-out of the synthesis made from the presentations of the Chairs (“ECPGR Objectives Phase IX: observations and suggestions emerging from the questionnaires sent to Working Group Chairs”- see above, page 5) was distributed and discussed.

Based on this synthesis, a summary of Recommendations to be presented to the ExCo and discussed at their meeting to be held the next two days (19-20 October) was prepared (see below). Most were agreed unanimously, in a few cases agreement had to be reached by vote.

Recommendations from the Working Group Chairs to the ExCo

- Colour code:
- Recommendation
- Possible recommendation

We recommend the following:

1. WG Membership

Two types of membership: Full member and expert in the subject and Associate member(-s), i.e. a person who wishes to be kept informed about the outcomes of the WG. All members of a WG must complete a proforma that stipulates their expertise and what level of input they have to the WG. Grant participation would normally be associated with Full Members.

Alternative: 1 person per country and then to have Associate members who are kept informed by the Full member

2. WG Representation

The WG Chairs believe it would be to the benefit of ECPGR in general if the WG Chairs had a chance to make recommendations and input to the decision-making process within ECPGR. Currently there is a feeling that decisions are taken without consultation of the WGs which are then required to implement the decisions.

3. Deputy Chair

Re-introduce the concept of Vice Chair (**Deputy Chair**) in order to share the leading work and to guarantee continuity in case of retirement.

4. Chairs Committee meeting

The Chairs Committee should meet at least twice in a Phase, prior to the Steering Committee (SC) meeting, to review their suggestions to be put before the SC.

5. Fund all WGs

- To ensure all WGs are active, provide funding of all WGs.

6. Inter-WG communication should be improved

- Ensure contact among members including through better communication and transfer of information.

7. Promote utilization of germplasm

- ECPGR needs to establish a Task Force to
- review the operation of basic genebank operations
- promote inter-institutional cooperation (e.g. for safety duplication in AEGIS)

8. Crop Portals

To improve the visibility of the genetic resources in the European genebanks the development of Crop Portals and communication targeted to breeders and other stakeholders are developed.

9. Maximize funding for ECPGR activities

ECPGR needs to establish a Task Force to review potential funding sources to enhance the opportunity of ECPGR action.

10. Develop joint activities

Particularly promote activities that build links between

- a. genebanks - seed companies
- b. genebanks - small farmers producing for local consumption
- c. genebanks and local governments
- d. genebanks and training activities (specially for genebanks located in universities)
- e. genebanks and biodiversity agencies

11. AEGIS-related activities

- Introduce the term “AEGIS candidate” in order to speed up flagging and registration (for accessions which do not officially meet the AEGIS criteria but for which registration would be worthwhile for other specific reasons, such as uniqueness);
- ECPGR should work towards strengthening the basis for funding for genebanks in Europe
- Exploring options for AEGIS to gain ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) status
- Introduce a genebank mentorship system to stimulate collection holders to flag AEGIS accessions.
- Actions should be initiated to encourage upload of C&E data into EURISCO on a larger scale.

12. EURISCO

- Development of a EURISCO feature for downloading of C&E data at experiment level
- Evaluate the possibility to include C&E data from accessions that are currently not documented in EURISCO
- Establishment of a quality check system in EURISCO, for example regarding taxonomy and geographic coordinates
- Evaluate the possibility to include genetic and omics data of accessions in EURISCO.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Jelka Šuštar Vozlič and Ferdinando Branca summarized the outcomes of the meeting as follows:

- i) An overview of the current state of fulfilment of ECPGR objectives within individual WGs was obtained (related to AEGIS, EURISCO, *in situ* and on-farm conservation – if applicable, relations with users, implementation of quality system, etc.);
- ii) Cooperation between the WG Chairs and interlink between the Chairs of crop-specific WGs with the Chairs of thematic WGs were established;
- iii) Progress in development, advocacy with potential sponsors and implementation of the ‘concepts’ produced by Task Forces working within ECPGR was reviewed;
- iv) A strategy for the remaining part of Phase IX was defined. The definition of the progress until the end of the Phase and identification of gaps will help setting priorities for Phase X;
- v) Recommendations addressing the work of WG Chairs and implementation of the ECPGR objectives were prepared for the ExCo’s consideration.

The established good cooperation between all the partners involved (WG Chairs, ExCo and Secretariat) will enable WG Chairs to work in a harmonized way and better coordinate the actions needed to efficiently fulfil and synergistically implement the ECPGR objectives in each individual WG.

Report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The participants agreed that it was a fruitful meeting and there was a general agreement that the face-to-face meeting contributed to strengthening the networking and exchange of experiences between WG Chairs, which will enable better implementation of ECPGR objectives in the future. The WG Chairs supported the idea that they should meet at least twice in a Phase prior to the Steering Committee meeting to review the progress and propose suggestions to be put before the Steering Committee.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair of the ExCo, Eva Thörn stressed the importance of the meeting and said that the outcomes will be relevant not only to all the WGs but also to the ECPGR Steering Committee and ExCo. She said that the recommendations prepared by the WG Chairs would be discussed the following day at the ExCo meeting and forwarded to the Steering Committee.³

³ The recommendations were addressed during the 10th ExCo meeting (see the [Minutes of the meeting](#)).

The report of the ‘ECPGR Networking’ meeting was presented also at the Steering Committee (SC) Meeting in Thessaloniki in May 2018. The decisions addressing recommendations of the WG Chairs are presented in Part II of the [Report of the Steering Committee, Fifteenth meeting](#).

ANNEX 1. AGENDA

Networking among Working Groups for discussing and coordinating the implementation of ECPGR objectives

“ECPGR Networking” meeting, 17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Monday 16 October 2017

Arrival of participants

Tuesday 17 October 2017

- 9.00 – 9.30 1. Welcome address and introduction of the meeting (*hosts*)
- Jelka Šuštar Vozlič: *Introduction of the meeting and agenda*
 - Andrej Simončič, *Director of AIS: Welcome address*
 - Tanja Strniša, *State Secretary, MAFF: Welcome address*
 - Jelka Šuštar Vozlič, *AIS and Joži J. Cvelbar, MAFF: Slovene Plant Gene Bank*
- 9.30 – 9.45 2. Brief presentation of the participants (*all the participants*)
- 9.45 – 10.15 3. Update on ECPGR Phase IX (*Lorenzo Maggioni*)
- 10.15 – 10.30 4. Information on C&E data in Eurisco (*Theo van Hintum*)
- 10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.00 – 13.00 5. ECPGR objectives of Phase IX. Items addressed:
- Information on the current state of fulfilment of the ECPGR objectives related to individual objective of Phase IX (AEGIS, EURISCO, *in situ* and on-farm conservation – if applicable, relations with users, implementation of quality system, etc.);
 - Information on positive development resulting from fulfilment of the objectives of ECPGR Phase IX (e.g. a success story) or any major gaps/constraints identified in fulfilment the objectives;
 - Recommendations to enhance opportunities and mitigate threats (setting priorities and actions needed to be taken within each individual WG to fulfil the gaps identified);
 - Review of the working mode in Phase IX / suggestions for modification of the mode of operation until the end of Phase IX. Preparation of the strategy for finishing Phase IX;
 - Meeting the users’ needs, are we maximising use of the conserved resource, how might we further enhance use.
- (presented by WG Chairs)*
- 13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch on the premises*
- 14.30 – 15.30 5. ECPGR objectives of Phase IX (continued)
- 15.30 – 16.00 Discussion
- 16.00 – 16.30 *Coffee break*

Report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- 16.30 – 17.30 6. Interlink between the Chairs of crop-specific WGs and the Chairs of thematic WGs;
(Moderators – Chairs of the thematic WGs: Nigel Maxted, Theo van Hintum)
- 17.30 – 18.00 7. Discussion, wrap-up of the day
- 19.30 Dinner downtown

Wednesday 18 October 2017

- 9.00 – 10.00 8. Review of the progress in development, advocacy with potential sponsors and implementation of the ‘concepts’ (*In situ*, On-farm) produced by Task Forces working within ECPGR (Moderator: Nigel Maxted)
- 10.00 – 10.40 9. Update on upcoming Horizon 2020 calls for proposals and ECPGR involvement (including Private Public Partnership plans currently developed and the ‘AgroForest Bridge’ plans) (Lorenzo Maggioni, other participants)
- Discussion on how to propose a more coherent strategic approach for financing (*all the participants*)
- 10.40 – 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 – 13.00 10. Towards the future: ECPGR Phase X:
- Presentation of the second draft of the revised ECPGR objectives prepared by the Secretariat, after taking into account comments received by 15 September (Lorenzo Maggioni)
 - Discussion on the revised objectives (*all the participants*)
 - Presentation of first draft of Mode of operation of ECPGR for Phase X (Lorenzo Maggioni)
 - Discussion
 - Recommendations for the ExCo (WG Chairs)
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch on the premises
- 14.30 – 15.15 10. Towards the future: ECPGR Phase X (continued)
- 15.15 – 16.15 11. Other items:
- Information on creation of a peer review system amongst *ex situ* genebanks in Europe (Theo van Hintum)
 - Final report of the Preparatory Action on EU Plant and Animal genetic Resources that has recently been published (Theo van Hintum);
 - Support from the ECPGR Secretariat to the WG Chairs (How can we make the position of WG Chair easy and attractive? How can we make the participation of WG members attractive?) (*all the participants*)
- 16.15 – 16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30 – 17.30 12. Recommendations to WGs for the final period of Phase IX and to ExCo for the future Phase X (Proposed moderators: Jelka Šuštar Vozlič, Ferdinando Branca)
- 17.30 – 18.00 13. Any other business and conclusions
- Free evening

Thursday 19 October 2017

Departure of participants (unless attending the ExCo meeting)

ANNEX 2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Networking among Working Groups for discussing and coordinating the implementation of ECPGR objectives

“ECPGR Networking” meeting, 17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Working Group Chairs

Charlotte Allender (*Umbellifer Crops*)

University of Warwick, School of Life Sciences
Wellesbourne Campus
Warwick CV35 9EF
United Kingdom
Tel: (44) 24 7657 5014
Email: charlotte.Allender@warwick.ac.uk

François Balfourier (*Wheat*)

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
Genetics, Diversity and Ecophysiology of
Cereals (INRA UMR)
5 chemin de Beaulieu
63000 Clermont-Ferrand
France
Tel: (33) (0) 443 76 15 86
Email: francois.balfourier@inra.fr

Ana Maria Barata (*Medicinal and Aromatic
Plants*)

Banco Português de Germoplasma Vegetal
(BPGV-INIAV)
4700-859 Braga
Portugal
Tel: (351) 969509792
Email: ana.barata@iniav.pt

Ferdinando Branca (*Brassica*)

Dipartimento di Agricoltura, Alimentazione e
Ambiente (Di3A)
Via Valdisavoia 5
95123 Catania
Italy
Tel: (39) 095 234307 (dir) / (39) 3395012092
Email: fbranca@unict.it

Creola Brezeanu (*Grain Legumes*)

Vegetable Research and Development Station
Bacau
Calea Birladului Street no. 220
600388 Bacau
Romania
Tel: (40) 234 544963 / (40) 744642567
Email: creola.brezeanu@yahoo.com

Maria José Diez Niclós (*Cucurbits ex-Chair*)

Instituto de Conservación y Mejora de la
Agrodiversidad Valenciana (COMAV)
Ciudad Politecnica de la Innovación,
Edificio 8E, Access J - Camino de Vera s/n
46022 Valencia
Spain
Tel: (34) 963879421
Email: mdiezni@btc.upv.es

Maria Ercolano (*Cucurbits*)

DIA – Università degli Studi di Napoli
Federico II
Via Università 100
80055 Portici
Italy
Tel: (39) 081 2539431
Email: ercolano@unina.it

Lothar Frese (*Beta ex-Chair*)

Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI) – Federal Research
Centre for Cultivated Plants
Erwin-Baur-Str. 27
06484 Quedlinburg
Germany
Tel: (49) 394647701
Email: lothar.frese@julius-kuehn.de

Daniela Giovannini (*Prunus*)

Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi
dell'economia agraria (CREA-OFA)
47121 Forlì
Italy
Tel: (39) 0543 89566 (ext.4)
Email: daniela.giovannini@crea.gov.it

Report of the "ECPGR Networking" meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Andreas Katsiotis (*Avena*)
Cyprus University of Technology
30 Archbishop Kyprianou str.
3036 Limasol
Cyprus
Tel: (357) 25002498
Email: andreas.katsiotis@cut.ac.cy

Thierry Lacombe (*Vitis*)
INRA - UMR AGAP, Equipe Diversité,
Adaptation et Amélioration de la Vigne
34060 Montpellier cedex 1
France
Tel: (33) (0) 499 61 22 53
Email: thierry.lacombe@inra.fr

Marc Lateur (*Malus/Pyrus*)
Centre Wallon de Recherches Agronomiques
(CRA-W)
Bâtiment Emile Marchal
Rue de Liroux, 4
5030 Gembloux
Belgium
Tel: (32) 81 620333 (direct: (32) 81 620314)
Email: m.lateur@cra.wallonie.be

Nigel Maxted (*Wild Species Conservation in
Genetic Reserves*)
School of Biosciences
Birmingham B15 2TT
United Kingdom
Tel: (44-121) 4145571
Email: nigel.maxted@dial.pipex.com

Anna Palmé (*Forages*)
Nordic Genetic Resource Center
Box 41
230 53 Alnarp
Sweden
Tel: (46) 40 536642
Email: anna.palme@nordgen.org

Martin Pavelek (*Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp)*)
AGRITEC, výzkum, šlechtění, služby s.r.o.
Zemědělská 16
787 01 Šumperk
Czech Republic
Tel: (420) 583382106
Email: pavelek@agritec.cz

Gert Poulsen (*On-farm Conservation and
Management*) - on behalf of Valeria Negri
Danish Seedsavers
Madvigs Alle 5, 3th
1829 Frederiksberg C
Denmark
Tel: (45) 30264220
Email: nbggpo@gmail.com

Parthenopi Ralli (*Beta*)
Hellenic Agricultural Organization - DEMETER
Institute of Plant Breeding and Phytogetic
Resources
Thessaloniki-Polygyrou National Road
57001 Thermi-Thessaloniki
Greece
Tel: (30) 2310471110
Email: rallip@agro.auth.gr

Veli-Matti Rokka (*Potato*)
Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
Myllytie 1
31600 Jokioinen
Finland
Tel: (358) 29 5317685
Email: veli-matti.rokka@luke.fi

Helena Stavělíková (*Allium*)
VÚRV, v.v.i. Odd. zelenin a speciálních plodin
Šlechtitelů 29
783 71 Olomouc - Holice
Czech Republic
Tel: (420) 702087801
Email: stavelikova@genobanka.cz

Jelka Šuštar Vozlič (*Leafy Vegetables*)
Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije / Agricultural
Institute of Slovenia
Hacquetova ulica 17
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel (386) (0) 1 2805188
Email: jelka.vozlic@kis.si

Jan Svensson (*Barley*)
Nordic Genetic Resource Center
PO Box 41
230 53 Alnarp
Sweden
Tel: (46) 40536557
Email: jan.svensson@nordgen.org

Report of the "ECPGR Networking" meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Theo van Hintum (*Documentation and Information*)
Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN)
PO Box 16
6700 AA Wageningen
The Netherlands
Tel: (31) 317 480913
Email: theo.vanhintum@wur.nl

Executive Committee

Küllü Annamaa
Estonian Crop Research Institute (ECRI)
J. Aamisepa 1
48309 Jõgeva
Estonia
Tel: (372) 7768372
Email: kylli.annamaa@etki.ee

Flavio Roberto De Salvador
Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (CREA)
Via Fioranello, 52
00134 Roma
Italy
Tel: (39) 0679348185
Email: fr.desalvador@gmail.com

Gordana Đurić
University of Banja Luka, Institute of Genetic Resources
Univerzitetski grad, Bulevar vojvode Petra Bojovića 1A
78000 Banjaluka
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel: (387) 51 348080
Email: gordana.djuric@igr.unibl.org

Marc Lateur (*also Chair of Malus/Pyrus WG*)
Centre Wallon de Recherches Agronomiques (CRA-W)
Bâtiment Emile Marchal
5030 Gembloux
Belgium
Tel: (32) 81 620333 (direct: +32-81 620314)
Email: m.lateur@cra.wallonie.be

Lorenzo Maggioni
Bioersity International
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese, Rome
Italy
Tel: (39) (06) 6118 231
Email: l.maggioni@cgiar.org

Eva Thörn (ExCo Chair)
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
230 53 Alnarp
Sweden
Tel: (46-40) 415587
Email: eva.thorn@slu.se

Observers

Joži Jerman Cvelbar
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Dunajska 22
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: (386) 1 478 9117
Email: jozi.cvelbar@gov.si

Petra Engel
Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (CREA)
Via Fioranello, 52
00134 Roma
Italy
Tel: (39) 0679348109
Email: petra.engel@gmail.com

Vladimir Meglič
Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije / Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
Hacquetova ulica 17
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: (386) (0) 1 2805180
Email: vladimir.meglic@kis.si

Tanja Strniša
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Dunajska 22
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: (386) (0)1 478 9103
Email: tanja.strnisa@gov.si

Report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Andrej Simončič

Director,
Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije / Agricultural
Institute of Slovenia
Hacquetova ulica 17
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: (386) (0)1 280 52 20
Email: andrej.simoncic@kis.si

ECPGR Secretariat

Lorenzo Maggioni (*ExCo member*)

Biodiversity International
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese, Rome
Italy
Tel: (39) (06) 6118 231
Email: l.maggioni@cgiar.org

Elinor Lipman

Biodiversity International
Parc Scientifique Agropolis II
34397 Montpellier
France
Tel: (33) (0) 467 04 13 03
Email: e.lipman@cgiar.org

Working Group Chairs unable to attend

Valeria Negri (*On-farm Conservation and
Management*)

Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie, Alimentari e
Ambientali (DSA3); Unità di Ricerca - Genetica
Agraria e Biotecnologie Genetiche
Borgo XX Giugno, 74
06121 Perugia
Italy
Tel: (39) 075 5856218
Email: valeria.negri@unipg.it

Willem van Dooijeweert (*Solanaceae*)

Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands
(CGN)
PO Box 16
6700 AA Wageningen
The Netherlands
Tel: (31-317) 480917
Email: willem.vandooijeweert@wur.nl

ANNEX 3. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEGIS	A European Genebank Integrated System
AIS	Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
AQUAS	AEGIS Quality System
BF	Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
BLE-IBV	Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity of the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food
C&E	Characterization and evaluation
CBS-KNAW	Fungal Biodiversity Centre of the Royal Academy of Arts and Science
CCDB	Central Crop Database
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CGN	Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands
CGRFA	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (FAO)
CWR	Crop wild relative
DOI	Digital object identifier
ECPGR	European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
Eol	Expression of Interest
ERFP	European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
ESA	European Seed Association
EU	European Union
EU-DG-AGRI	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission
EUFORGEN	European Forest Genetic Resources
EURISCO	European Internet Search Catalogue
ExCo	Executive Committee
FALS	Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences of the University of Maribor, Slovenia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCRF	Global Challenges Research Fund, UK
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IHPS	Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing, Slovenia
IPK	Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research, Gatersleben, Germany
ISHS	International Society for Horticultural Sciences

Report of the “ECPGR Networking” meeting

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

IT	Information technology
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
LEI	Socio-Economics Research Institute
LR	Landrace
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia
MCPDs	Multi-crop passport descriptors
NFP	National Focal Point (for EURISCO)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PGR	Plant genetic resources
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
PPP	Private Public Partnership
PRI	Plant Research International (now WPR)
SC	Steering Committee
SPGB	Slovene Plant Gene Bank
SSRs	Simple sequence repeats
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VVA	Valdani Vicari & Associati
WG	Working Group