

WG Berries

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UNTIL 2019, THERE IS NO WG FOR BERRIES. BUT EUROPEAN PROJECTS HAVE BEEN REALIZED SO FAR

Problems

1. only a limited number of partners/countries could be involved
2. the time frame was limited
3. the topic “genetic resources” covers only a very limited part

- Strawberry is on the Annex 1 list of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- ECPGR WGs for *Malus/Pyrus* (1995) and *Prunus* (1983 as one of the original six WGs) with a long active work

December 2018	Proposal to the ECPGR Executive/Steering Committee for the establishment of a Berries Working Group
January 2019	Expression of Interest to serve as ECPGR Working Group Chair during Phase X
March 2019	Nomination of the WG Chair
From April 2019	Nomination of the members of the WG by respective National Coordinators
January 2020	1. Meeting of the ECPGR WG Berries in Dresden



ECPGR Berries Working Group

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47 ECPGR Berries Working Group Members

[✉ Email Distribution List](#)

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(22 countries)

Genebank Curator (15)

Crop specialist (22)

Information/Documentation (9)

Plant breeder (16)

Policy and law (4)

Other expertise (7)

Contact Persons (7)

▾ LIST OF COUNTRIES

Albania

Denmark

France

Ireland

Lithuania

Romania

Sweden

United Kingdom

Austria

Estonia

Germany

Italy

Norway

Serbia

Switzerland

Czech Republic

Finland

Greece

Latvia

Portugal

Slovenia

Türkiye



18 members from 17 countries present

1. Meeting of the ECPGR WG Berries, 14-15 January 2020, Dresden, Germany

It was organized in collaboration with the Julius Kühn-Institut, Institute for Breeding Research on Fruit Crops, Dresden, Germany and financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

➔ Proposal for a project for the Fourth Call for proposals under the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme (Phase X).

‘Collaborative action for updating the documentation on berry genetic resources in Europe’

First discussion – What is included in the genetic resources in berries?

In **botanical terminology**, a berry is a simple fruit with seeds and pulp produced from the ovary of a single flower, in which the complete pericarp is still juicy or at least fleshy when ripe (Kiger and Porter, 2001).

Traditionally and in everyday language, the term has different meanings and is usually used for small, sweet fruits, and the berry fruit.

Berries under both definitions include blueberries, cranberries, lingonberries, and the fruits of many other members of the heather family, as well as gooseberries (*Ribes* L.), goji berries (*Lycium* L.) and elderberries (*Sambucus* L.)

The fruits of currants (*Ribes* L.), such as blackcurrants, red currants and white currants, are **botanical berries, even though their most commonly used names do not include the word "berry"**.

On the other hand, **several different kinds of fruit commonly called berries are not botanical berries**. Blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries are aggregate fruit; they contain seeds from different ovaries of a single flower.

Because a large number of plant species belong to berry fruit genetic resources, the activities of the Berry WG will be diverse, and prioritization will take into account the economic importance of the crop.

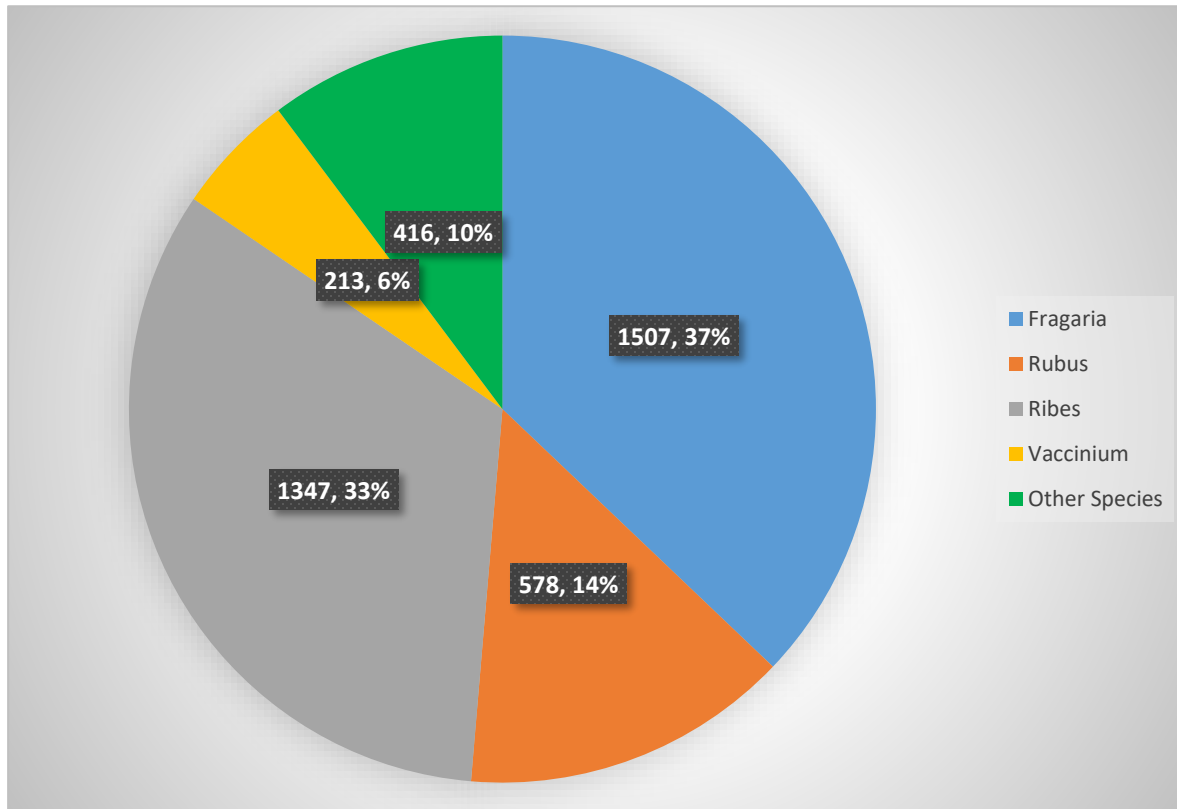


Photo: Luke

Results of the project, EUROPE.BERRIES'

1

Documentation of berries genetic resources in Europe



Altogether 4.061 accessions of beery genetic resources were reported.

17 partners of 16 countries sent inventories. The data was finally transferred to the EURISCO database.



2

Elaboration of crop-specific technical guidelines for genebank management of berries genetic resources

All objectives of the EUROPE.BERRIES project were achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS – PERSPECTIVE

- This action gave the newly established working group the opportunity **to work together for the first time within the framework of the ECPGR** and to make themselves known with its working methods of the ECPGR.
- The project was the basis for establishing the first step towards a long-term work for conservation/ characterisation/ documentation and utilisation of genetic resources in berries.
- A grant was requested for a second group meeting to present the results to a majority of the members and to discuss further projects and define responsibilities.
- **Second Meeting of the Berries Working Group, 17-19 June 2025, Kaunas, Lithuania**



A collection of fresh berries including strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries on a black background. A horizontal bar with a rainbow gradient (yellow, orange, red, purple) is positioned across the middle of the image. The text "THANK YOU" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters across the center of the image, partially overlapping the berries and the gradient bar.

THANK YOU