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Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen
Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

Discussion about the future cooperation – proposals for joint action

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WHAT BASES DO WE HAVE? – WHICH PREVIOUS PROJECTS?

1994 - 1995	European AIR project	1. inventory of strawberry: 900 cultivars of the main European collections
1998 - 2003	European COST action 836	1056 strawberry cultivars from 20 collections. 108 important cultivars were selected as the core mainly for historical reasons.
2007 - 2011	EU GENE BERRY	Ensure that agricultural biodiversity of small berries, strawberry and red raspberry, is preserved and characterized for using them in further breeding programs
2007 - 2011	EU RIBESCO	Establish cooperation between national collections in different countries in order to find the most valuable part of each collection and organize a decentralized core-collection for the safe and recognized conservation.
2011 - 2014	EUBerry	The sustainable improvement of European berry production, quality and nutritional value in a changing environment: Strawberries, Currants, Blackberries, Blueberries and Raspberries.
2016 - 2020	GoodBerry	The project provide the necessary knowledge and procedures to facilitate the development of highly productive and top quality berry fruits, even under multiple suboptimal growth conditions at competitive costs


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

History of THE ECPGR WG Berries

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
October 2019	Invitation for the 1. Meeting of the ECPGR WG Berries in Dresden
December 2019	Second curricular
January 2020	1. Meeting of the ECPGR WG Berries in Dresden



European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
ECP/GR

A safety network for our crops

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49 ECPGR Berries Working Group Members (22 countries)

[Email Distribution](#)

Chair: Monika Höfer ✉ monika.hoefer@julius-kuehn.de

[Full list](#)

Genebank Curator (13)

Crop specialist (22)

Information/Documentation (8)

Plant breeder (18)

Policy and law (3)

Other expertise (8)

Contact Persons (11)

▼ [List of Countries](#)

[Albania](#)

[Denmark](#)

[France](#)

[Ireland](#)

[Lithuania](#)

[Romania](#)

[Sweden](#)

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[Finland](#)

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18 members from 17 countries present

OBJECTIVES

Coordination of the genebank activities between the national

collections - Elaboration of a living European berries database sustained by a continuous long-term network co-operation

1. INVENTORY - CONSERVATION

- **Survey the collection composition** – in all European countries especially those not involved in former EU-projects
- **Development of an effective conservation strategy for berry genetic resources – rationalisation of conservation in *ex situ* collections** (Manual – common agreed standards). A combination of traditional *ex situ* conservation with cryopreservation has great potential to improve berry germplasm conservation and to foster conservation of valuable germplasm.
- Obtain information about the current **status of safety-duplication** in all collections and long term facilities. Partners will be encouraged to make plans for safety-duplication through organization of material exchange.

2. CHARACTERIZATION / EVALUATION

- Re-examination of **passport descriptor lists and characterization protocols** to improve **standardization/harmonization** and to develop primary and secondary descriptors.
- **Characterization of genotypes using molecular markers**, identification of health nutritional compounds and diseases evaluation
- **Re-actualisation of the core collections** obtained from the former projects and establishment of a core collection for all berry species

3. AEGIS – DOCUMENTATION

- **Development of criteria for acceptance to candidates to implement AEGIS collection of each berry species**
- Improve the information contained in the **present databases** – ensure the long-term durability of the databases
- Establish suitable links between these databases, **EURISCO and national information systems**

National inventory report	Matches																																								
<p>1-10</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>National Inventory</th> <th>No Of Accessions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Czech Republic</td> <td>79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estonia</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Germany</td> <td>470</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Italy</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Latvia</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lithuania</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Macedonia</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Russian Federation</td> <td>624</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spain</td> <td>128</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Switzerland</td> <td>568</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1-10 Download</p> <p>0.01 s</p>	National Inventory	No Of Accessions	Czech Republic	79	Estonia	13	Germany	470	Italy	24	Latvia	2	Lithuania	5	North Macedonia	17	Russian Federation	624	Spain	128	Switzerland	568	<p>Total number of selected accessions: 1930</p> <p>Search term: Fragaria xananassa</p> <p>Total number of accessions (including misspellings and synonyms): 1930 accessions were found. 8 different taxa were detected.</p> <p><i>Synonym names were derived from GRIN taxonomy and Mansfeld taxonomy.</i></p> <p> <input type="button" value="Select all"/> <input type="button" value="Deselect all"/> </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Select</th> <th>Taxon</th> <th>No Of Accessions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Fragaria xananassa Duchesne Ex Rozier</td> <td>470</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Fragaria x ananassa Duchesne</td> <td>143</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Fragaria x ananassa Duch.</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Fragaria x ananassa Duchesne in Lam. ex Rozier</td> <td>568</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Fragaria ananassa Duch.</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1 - 5 of 8 ></p>	Select	Taxon	No Of Accessions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fragaria xananassa Duchesne Ex Rozier	470	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fragaria x ananassa Duchesne	143	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fragaria x ananassa Duch.	24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fragaria x ananassa Duchesne in Lam. ex Rozier	568	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fragaria ananassa Duch.	5
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4. BREEDING AND OTHER USE

- Facilitate the use of berry genetic resources by breeders and other possible users



ELABORATION OF A WORK PLAN



WHAT POSSIBILITIES/ BUDGET LINES FOR COOPERATION DO WE HAVE?



Mode of Operation of ECPGR – Phase X

Steering Committee decisions
(October 2018)

Working Group activities are covered by **two budget lines** of similar amounts:

1. **Budget line ‘Meeting’**: Meetings should be planned in order to enable proactive Working Group members to collaborate towards implementing the ECPGR objectives
2. **Budget line ‘other activities’**: Additional activities directed to implement the ECPGR objectives will be funded through the Grant Scheme based on selection of proposals by the Executive Committee.

Third Call for Phase X of ECPGR (2019 – 2023)

The Executive Committee decided the launch of the Third Call for ECPGR-funded actions during November 2019, with **deadline for submission 14 February 2020**.

Expected budget: The maximum amount for each Working Group should not exceed € 20 000.

Scope

Proposed Activities should address elements of the **objectives of the ECPGR for Phase X**

OBJECTIVES OF ECPGR FOR PHASE X (2019-2023)

(agreed at the 15th Steering Committee meeting, May 2018)

LONG-TERM GOAL

Stakeholders in Europe collaboratively, rationally and effectively conserve *ex situ* and *in situ* PGRFA, provide access and increase sustainable use.

OBJECTIVES

click on the 'objective' below to go to the respective page

1	To efficiently conserve and provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through AEGIS and the European Collection
2	To provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGRFA diversity <i>ex situ</i> and <i>in situ</i> through the EURISCO catalogue
3	To improve <i>in situ</i> conservation and use of crop wild relatives
4	To promote on-farm conservation and management of European PGRFA diversity
5	To promote use of PGRFA

Eligible expenditures






Eligible expenditures to carry out **proposed Activities include staff costs, equipment, supplies, travel and meeting costs.** Overheads are not eligible. There is no limitation whether these activities should be meetings or different actions and the country quota does not apply.

Preparation for proposal submission

Proposals can only be submitted by the **Chairs of ECPGR WGs.** However, any member of an ECPGR WG can be **Activity Coordinator** and submit proposals through the channel of his/her respective WG Chair.

Submission of proposals

The submission of the proposal must be done by the **Working Group Chair** by completing the **online Proposal Application form** (below) and attaching the following forms (*to be prepared by Activity Coordinator and sent to WG Chair, if a different person*):

-  **Activity Proposal** (86 KB)
-  **Budget table (152 KB)** Excel file:  **Budget table** (37 KB)
-  **Expressions of Interest (163 KB)** Word file:  **Expressions of Interest** (74 KB)



Which topic?

Who?

When?



Ideas for Activities?

**Developing dynamic management and documentation
Berry genetic resources collection *ex situ***

**Harmonize and enhance management of existing *ex situ*
collections and databases of berry genetic resources**

**Conduct an inventory of potentially unique and important traditional
cultivars of each / selected berry species**

- cultivars,
- Passport data

Developing criteria for candidate acceptance to implement **AEGIS
collection of each / selected berry species**

- Labelling of accessions as part of the AEGIS

Documentation – Which database? - **EURISCO**

**Develop crop-specific technical guidelines for genebank
management incl. Minimum quality standards - Manual**

- virus tested,
- In vitro/ cryopreservation
- safety-duplication

Developing/ implementation of a safety strategy for AEGIS candidates