

ECPGR PHASE X END-OF-PHASE REPORT

L. Maggioni
ECPGR Secretary

Oeiras, Portugal, 31 May 2023



Table of Contents

- Significant events of Phase X
- Implementation of Phase X
- Implementing decisions 16th SC meeting
- Highlights since Alnarp 2022
- Activity Grant Scheme
- Working Group meetings
- AEGIS
- Communication and public awareness
- *Genetic Resources Journal*
- Financial situation
- Acknowledgements



Phase X (2019–2023), Thessaloniki 2018:

- Five revised objectives
- Simplified mode of operation (inputs from WG Chairs)
 - Budget line Grant scheme
 - Budget line meetings (country quota)
- 24 Working Groups (new: Berries, Maize and Cryopreservation)
- Budget set at **€2.7M** for 36 countries



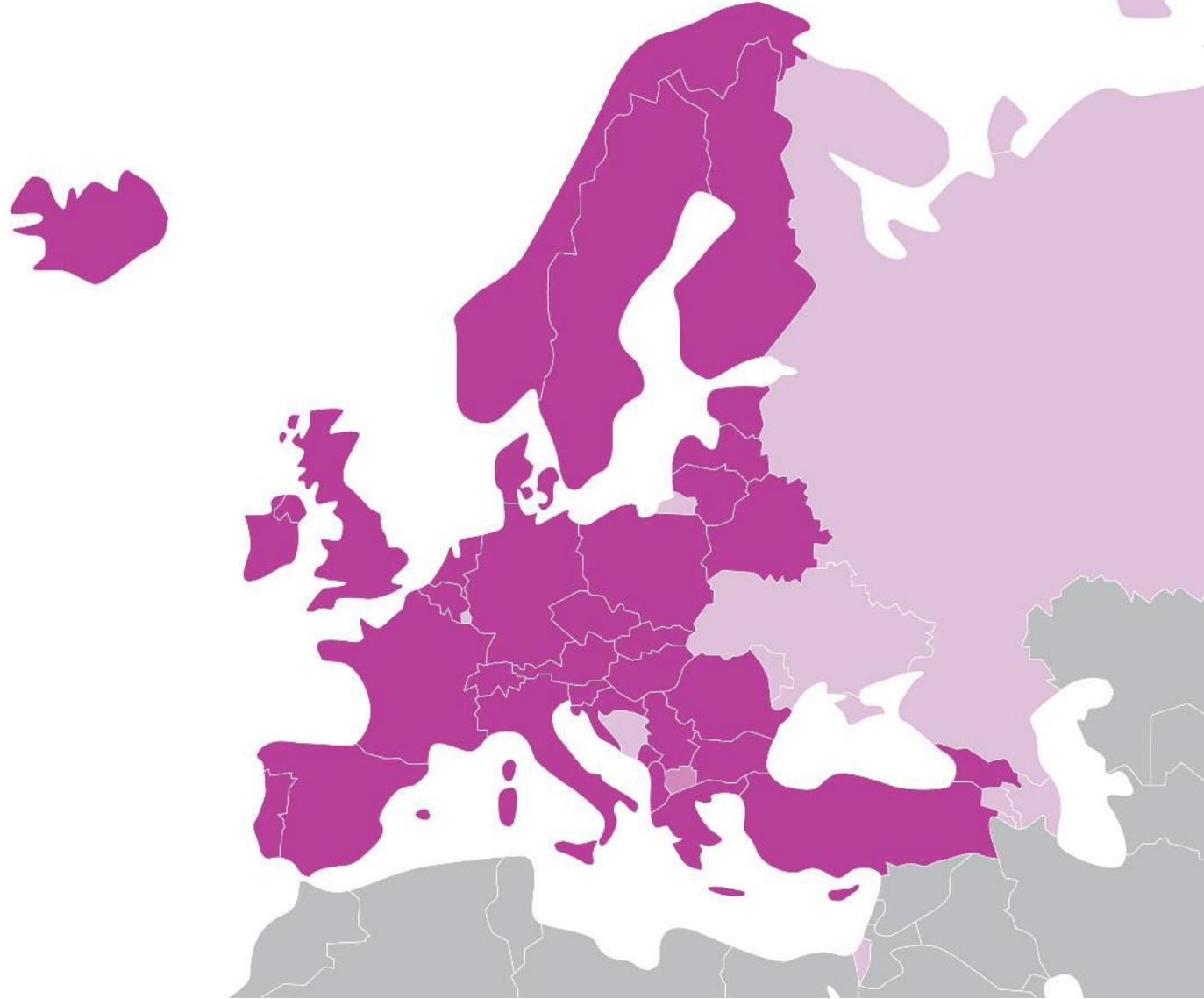
Increased up to **€4.4M**

Implementation of Phase X

Letters of Agreement with
35 countries
+ 1 paying (North Macedonia)

Bosnia and Herzegovina did not
join this Phase

Poland joined in 2023



Implementation of Phase X

- Six **Grant Scheme Calls** launched)
- Five **WG** meetings (Berries, Maize, *Allium*, CWR, Cryo) [MAPs, Doc&Info]
- Fifteen **ExCo meetings**
- Three **Steering Committee** meetings:
 - Online ad hoc meeting (GenRes Bridge) – Nov 2020
 - Mid-term (Alnarp – June 2022)
 - End-of-Phase (Oeiras, May 2023)
- One **EURISCO Advisory Committee** online meeting – July 2020
- Two **WG Chairs** online meetings – April 2022 and March 2023
- **Task Forces** in operation:
 - Jubilee Video (2019–21)
 - Drafting Team for Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) Strategy (2020–21)
 - European Coordination and Information Centre (ECIC) (2022–23)
 - Ukraine support group (2022)
 - ECPGR ToRs (2022–23)
 - Genebank Network (2023)



© Fernando Luque / ECPGR

Significant events in Phase X

- Several projects funded by Germany (EVA Network, CWR in EURISCO and others)
- Involvement in three H2020 projects (GenRes Bridge; AGENT; PRO-GRACE)
- COVID-19 (online meetings + working from home) (2020–22)
- New ExCo Chair (Sep 2019)
- Changes of staff at ECPGR Secretariat (2020–21)
- ‘Bioversity International’ becomes ‘The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT’ and moves from Maccaresse to Rome (2020–21)
- MoU with Crop Trust
- New Working Groups
- Launch of PGR Strategy

Implementing SC decisions Alnarp 2022

1. Priority objectives of Phase XI correspond to PGR Strategy

- This is reflected in the proposed Table of Priorities

2. Establishment of Task Forces

- Revision of ECPGR ToRs – established and draft submitted
- Capacity development
- Communication and dissemination of results

Implementing SC decisions Alnarp 2022 - continued

3. Hosting arrangements

- Draft budget negotiated with Bioversity International

4. Support to Ukrainian genebank

- Donations provided for ca. €29,000

5. Implementation of Cryopreservation WG

- Two co-Chairs were nominated (Milos Faltus and Bart Panis)
- WG involved in *Allium* Garli-CCS Grant Scheme activity
- WG meeting in Prague, May 2023



Highlights since Alnarp, June 2022

- Meetings of *Allium*, CWR and Cryopreservation WGs
- Launch of Grant Scheme Sixth Call and approval of six new proposals
- EVA Carrot, Pepper and Wheat & Barley meetings and project extended to 2024
- *In situ* CWR populations in EURISCO extended to 11 pilot countries
- Approval of PRO-GRACE and kick-off (HORIZON-INFRA-2022-DEV)
- Submission of EURO CWR project proposal (HORIZON Call CL6-2023-BIODIV)
- WG Chairs online meeting and preparation of 17th SC meeting
- Recruitment of Research Specialist

Implementation of the Activity Grant Scheme



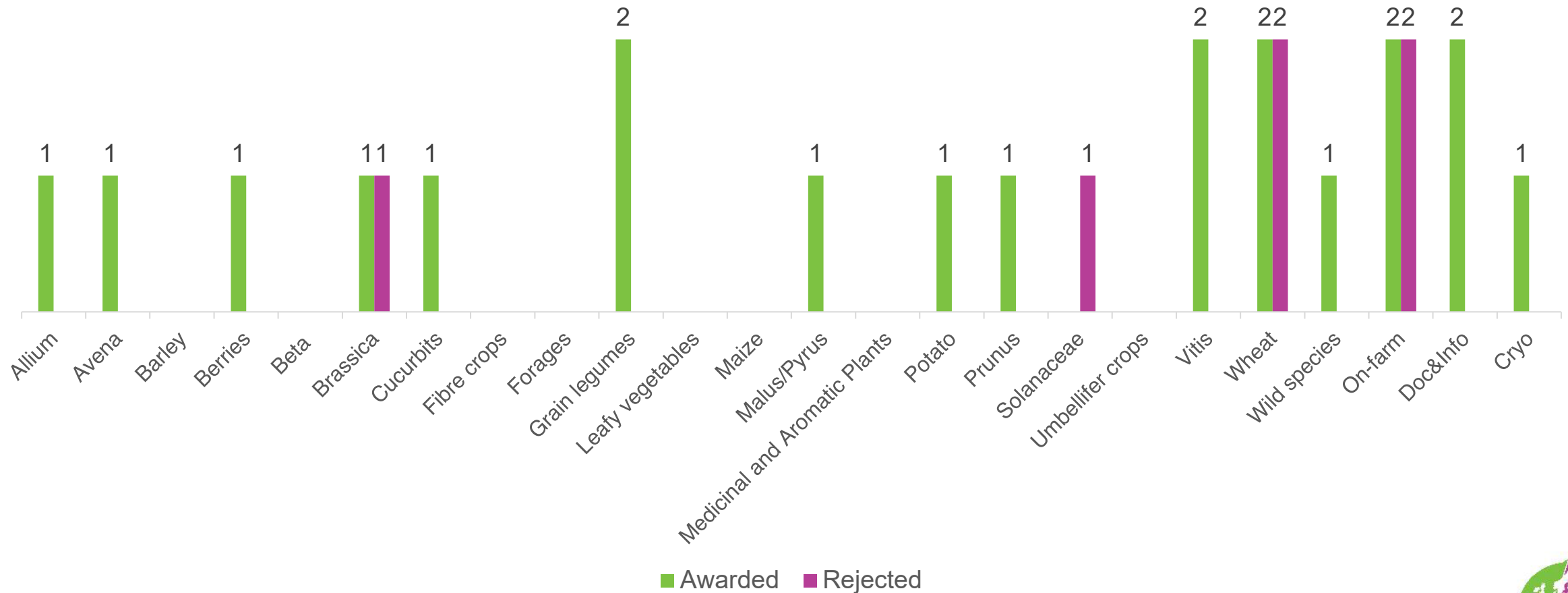
Grant Scheme proposals received, and budget awarded (Phases IX and X)

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

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

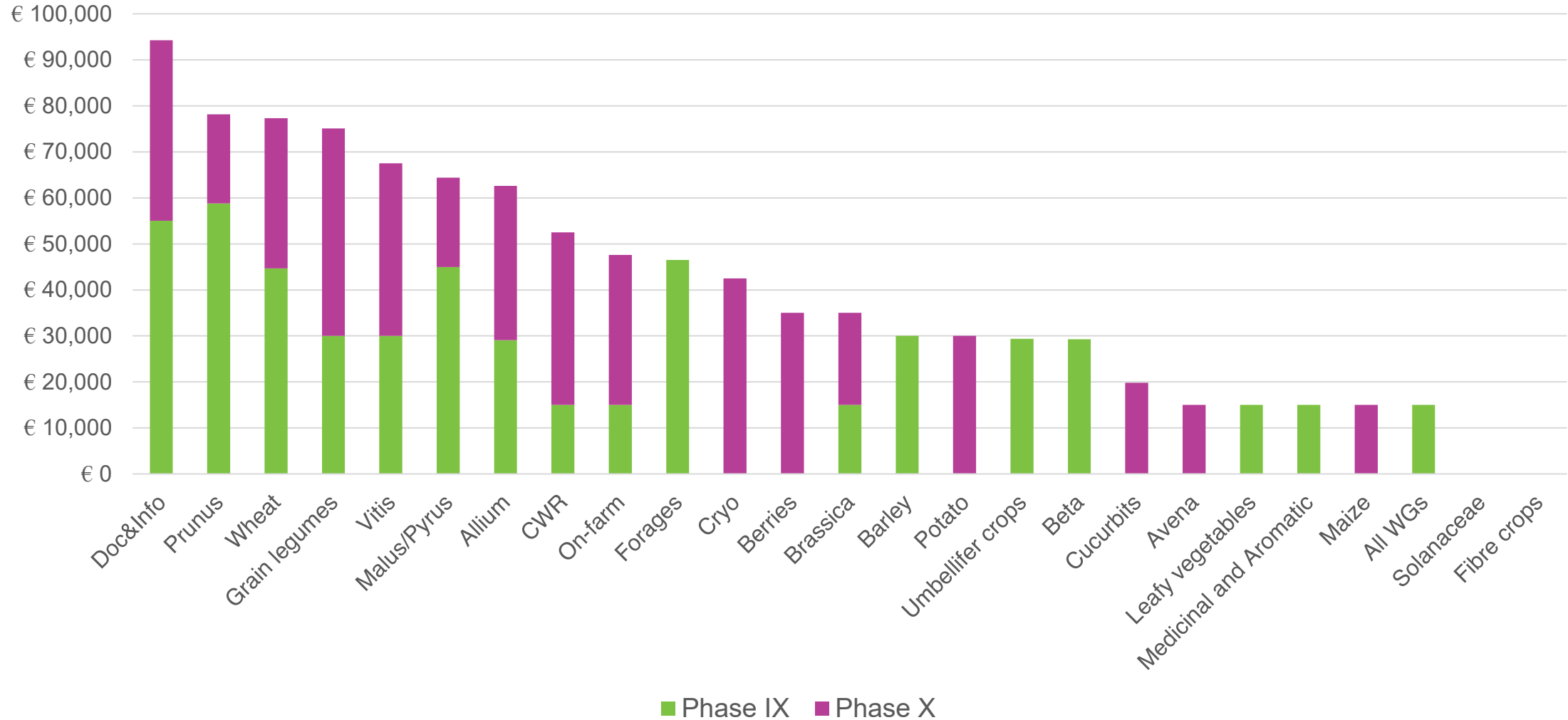


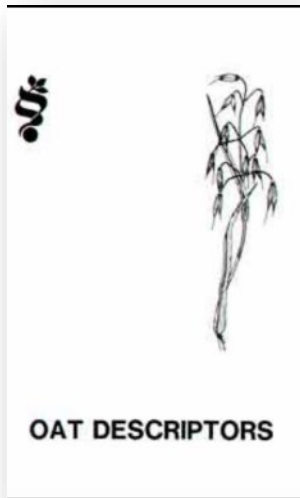
Activities awarded for each Working Group (Phase X)



Total funds allocated for each WG (2014–2023)

[Grant Scheme + meetings]





Awarded Activities in Phase X

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

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



2) *Brassica* WG: EUBRASWILD – October 2020–August 2023 (€ 20,000). Coordinator: Smiljana Goreta Ban, Croatia

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



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

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



Awarded Activities in Phase X (continued)



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

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

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

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

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

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



Awarded Activities in Phase X (continued)



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

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

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

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



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

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

Awarded Activities in Phase X (continued)

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

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

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

Ongoing – harmonized filed characterization of local accessions in 11 countries

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

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

Awarded Activities in Phase X (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Working Group meetings



Three meetings in 2022-23

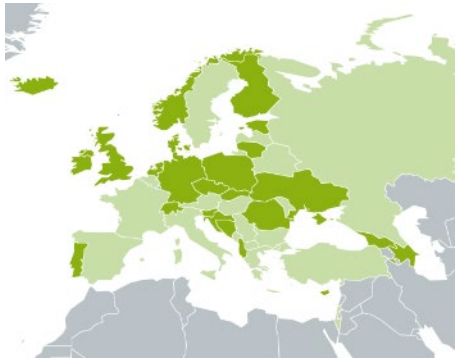
- **Maize:** Belgrade, Serbia, December 2019
- **Berries:** Dresden, Germany, January 2020
- **Allium:** Skierniewice, Poland, October 2022
- **CWR:** Thessaloniki, Greece, December 2022
- **Cryo:** Prague, Czech Republic, May 2023

- Pending requests: MAP; Doc & Info

AEGIS and the European Collection



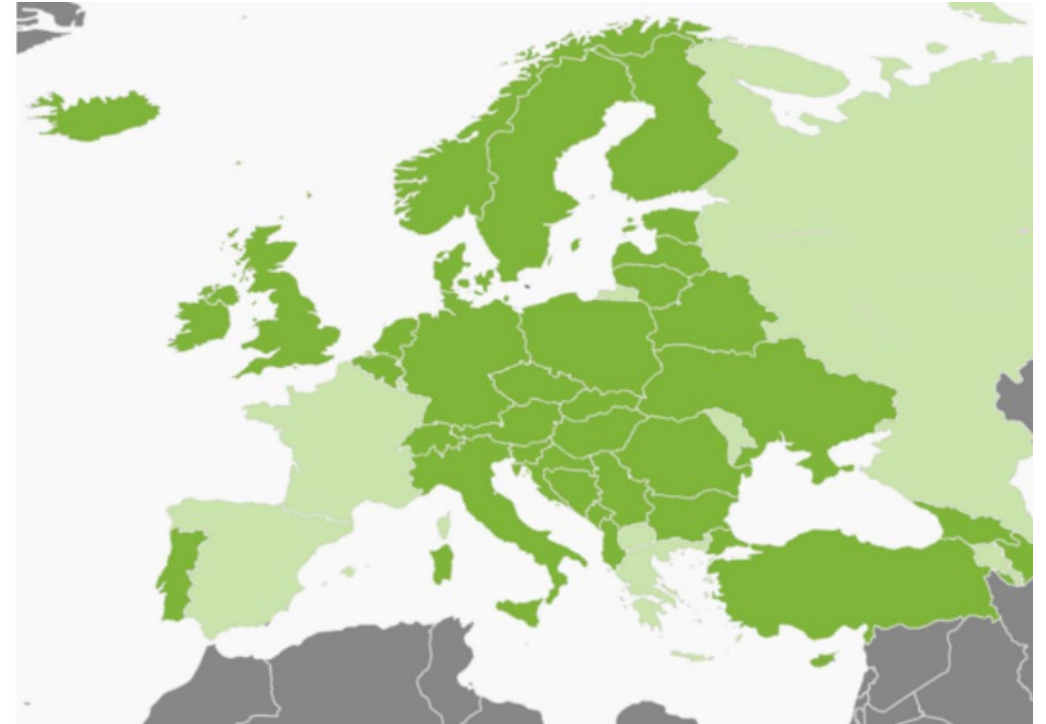
AEGIS Membership



2010 (25 countries)
19 Associate Member
(AM) Agreements



2016 (34 countries)
66 AM Agreements



2023 (**35** countries)
68 + 3 AM Agreements

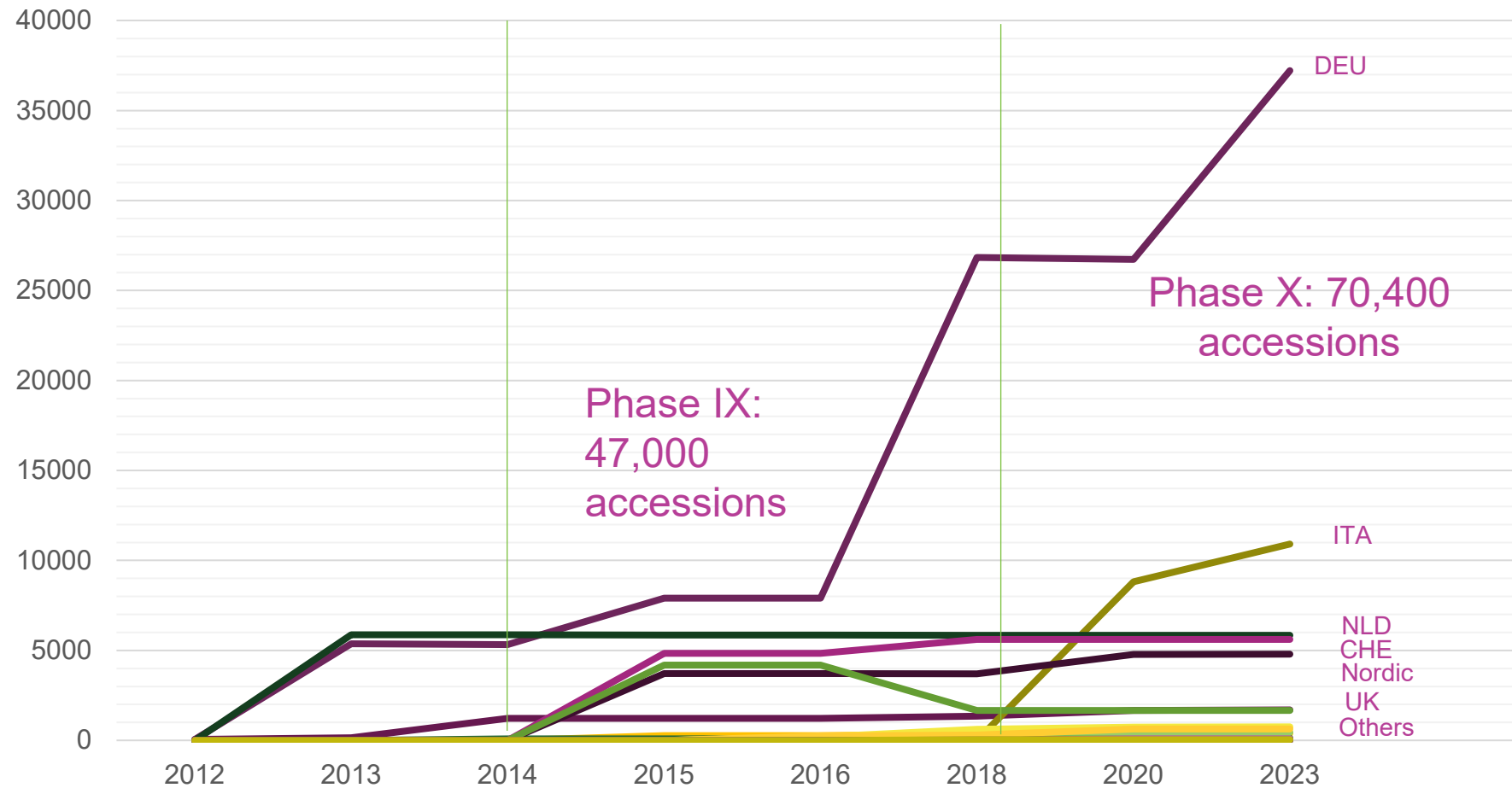
France: Declaration of Intent?
Spain: Possible membership?

The European Collection (May 2023)

Country	No of accessions	Last year growth
Albania	8	
Belgium	2	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29	
Bulgaria	391	
Croatia	90	
Czechia	1,695	+13
Estonia	134	
Germany	37,220	
Italy	10,917	+226
Latvia	27	
Lithuania	45	
Montenegro	31	
Netherlands	5,840	-1
Nordic Countries	4,785	
Poland	443	
Portugal	86	
Romania	752	
Slovakia	640	
Slovenia	21	+2
Switzerland	5,611	
United Kingdom	1,659	
Total	70,426	+240



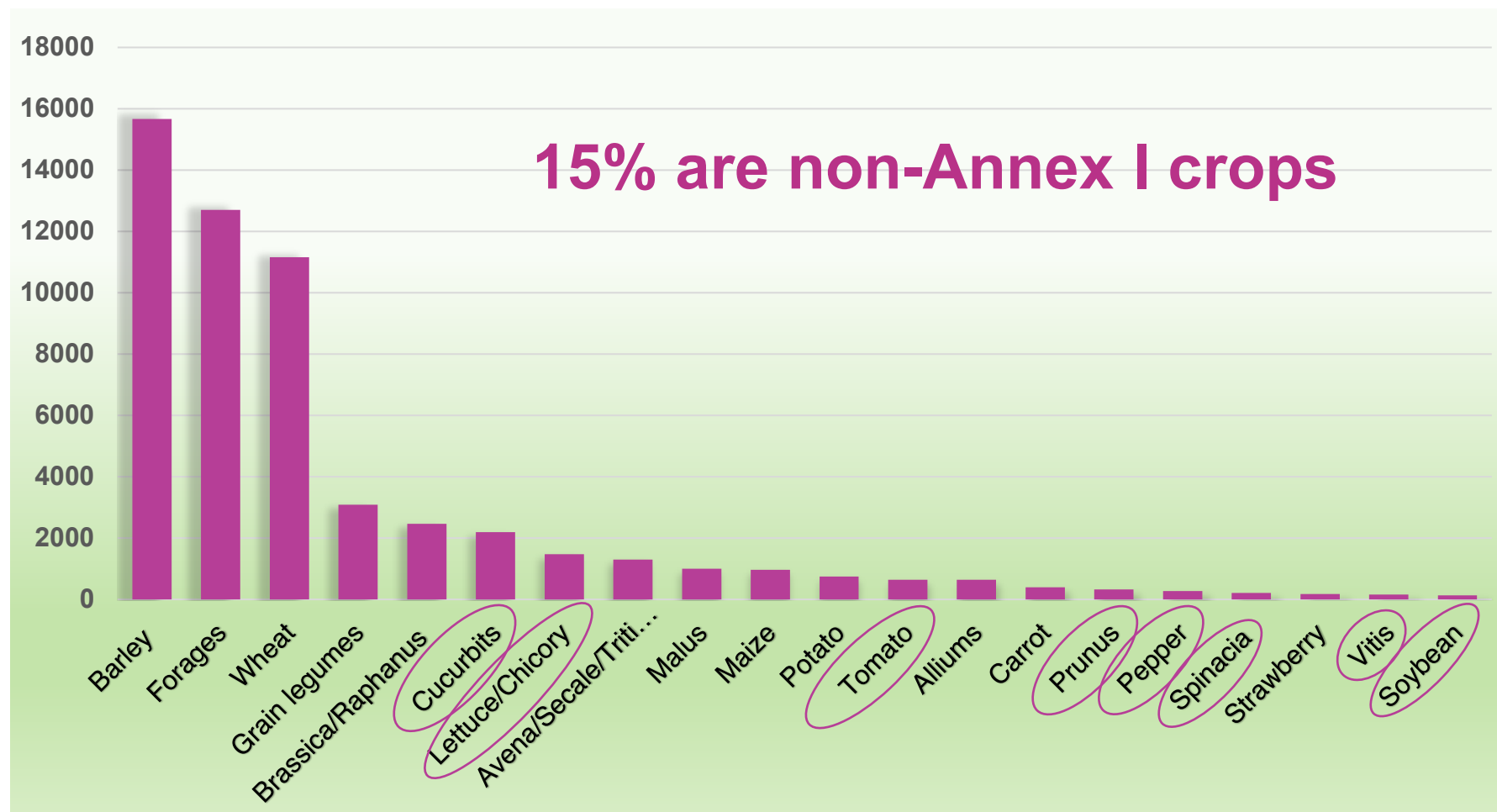
AEGIS - European Accessions growth



AEGIS statistics - 2023

	May 2023
Members	35
Not members	France, Greece, North Macedonia, Spain
AEGIS members with no accessions	Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine
AEGIS members with no Associate member inst.	Ireland, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine
Associate members institutions	68 + 3
Associate members inst. not contributing to AEGIS	40 (59%)
Total accessions held by Associate member inst.	698,331
Total accessions in AEGIS	70,426 (10%)
	CHE 51%; NLD 25%; ITA 23%; DEU 22%; NordGen 12%

European Collection by crops



AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS)



- **14** operational genebank manuals published
- 9 WGs have completed crop-specific standards
- Safety duplication – no coordinated activity
- Peer review
 - GenRes Bridge: 3 genebanks (2019)
 - AGENT: 6 genebnks (2022) + 4 genebanks (2023)

**Communication,
public awareness
and
dissemination**



Communication and public awareness



Facilitating the use of the European ...
Guarda più... Condividi

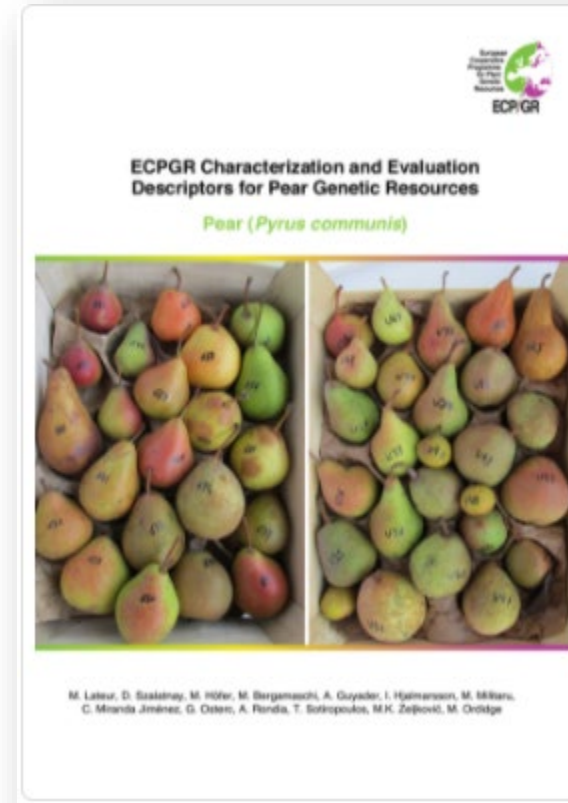
ECP GR

LIVE WEBINAR

FACILITATING THE USE OF THE EUROPEAN PERENNIAL RYEGRASS COLLECTION
The experience of the ImprovLoliumCol project

23 FEBRUARY 2023
14:00-15:00 (CET +1)

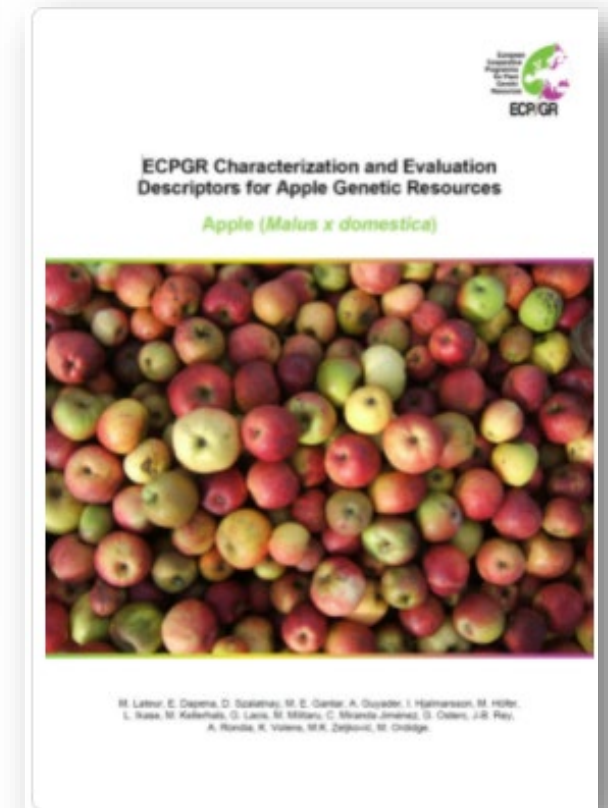
PRESENTER: JEAN-PAUL SAMPOUX
Geneticist, consultant
Institut national de recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement (INRAE), France



ECP GR

ECPGR Characterization and Evaluation Descriptors for Pear Genetic Resources
Pear (Pyrus communis)

M. Leter, D. Szalainy, M. Höfer, M. Bergamaschi, A. Guyader, I. Hämmerlein, M. Millari, C. Miranda Jiménez, G. Oster, A. Ronda, T. Sotiropoulos, M.K. Zepková, M. Ortlige



ECP GR

ECPGR Characterization and Evaluation Descriptors for Apple Genetic Resources
Apple (Malus x domestica)

M. Leter, E. Depina, D. Szalainy, M. E. Gantar, A. Guyader, I. Hämmerlein, M. Höfer, L. Kase, M. Kellenhub, G. Laine, S. Millari, C. Miranda Jiménez, G. Oster, J.B. Rey, A. Ronda, R. Vian, M.K. Zepková, M. Ortlige



Safeguarding Potato Onion and Garlic...
Guarda più... Condividi

ECP GR

LIVE WEBINAR

SAFEGUARDING POTATO ONION AND GARLIC DIVERSITY IN NORTHERN EUROPE AND THE BALTIC REGION
The experience of the SafeAlliDiv project

17 APRIL 2023
14:00-15:00 (CET)

PRESENTERS
Helena Stavěliková
Crop Research Institute, Czech Republic
Dainis Rungis
Latvian State Forest Research Institute, Latvia



Genetic Resources

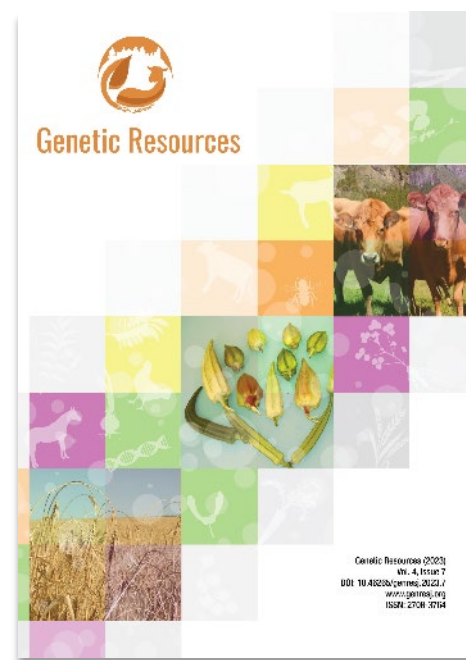
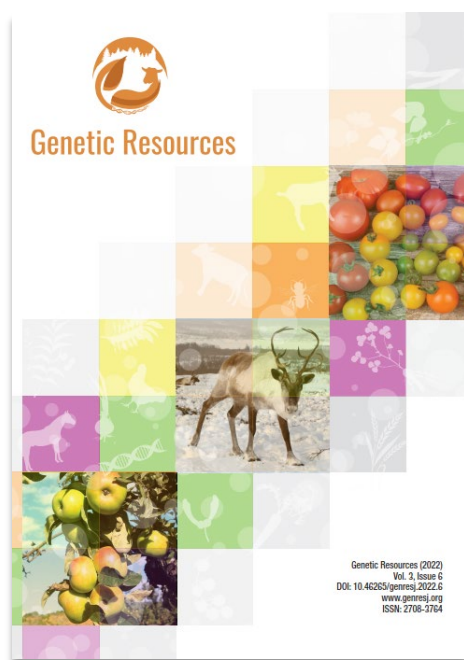
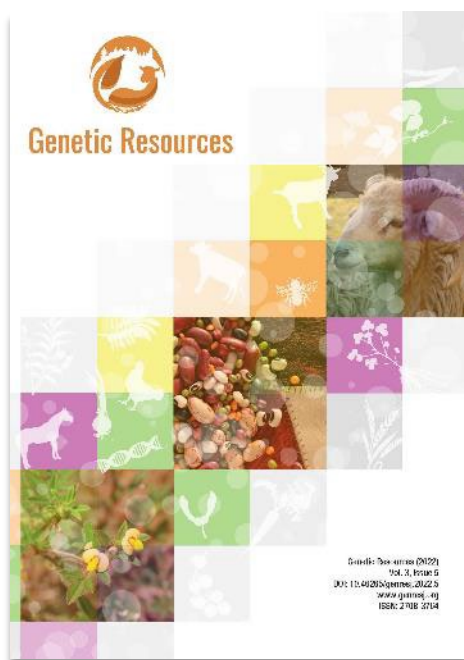
***Genetic Resources: a NEW Open access
journal for the GenRes community***

Sandra Goritschnig
Journal Managing Editor

www.genresj.org

Genetic Resources in 2022

- New cover layout
- Issues published in June and Dec (14 articles)
- 2023: Vol 4 Issue 7 on track with 5+ articles



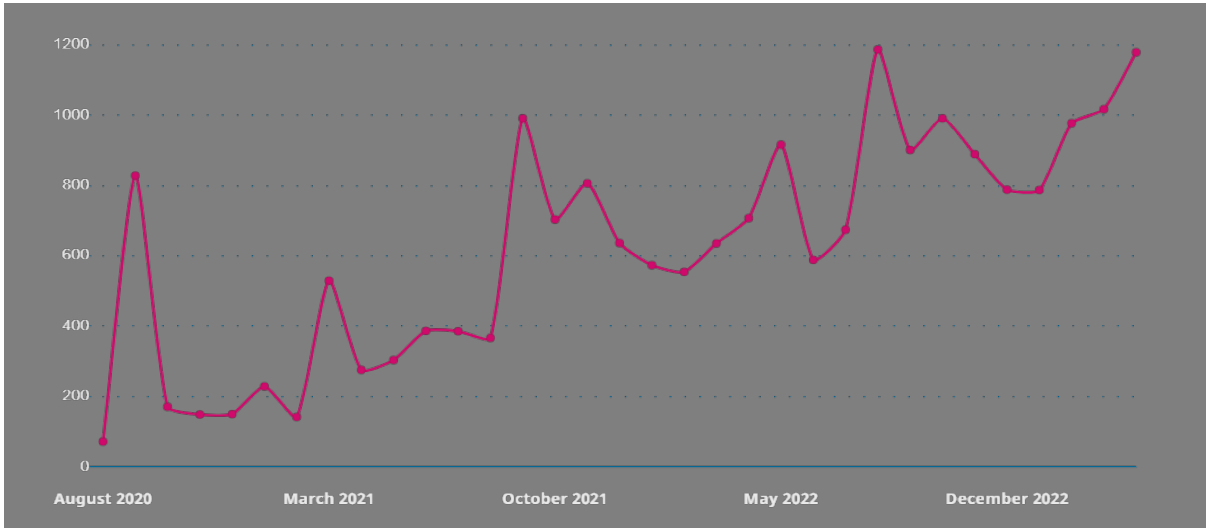
👉 Follow us on Twitter
@GenResOAJ



ECP/GR

Journal Statistics

Abstract views since 2020



Submissions			
year	received	accepted	published
2020	22	12	12
2021	26	11	11
2022	24	15	14
2023	13	4	4
	85	42	41

Publications by categories:

- 24 Plant Genetic Resources
- 20 Animal Genetic Resources
- 6 Forest Genetic resources

*including cross-cutting articles

Editorial Team

Managing editor:

Sandra Goritschnig (European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, Italy)

Plant Genetic Resources:

Joana Magos Brehm (University of Birmingham, UK)

Emmanuel Geoffriau (Institut Agro Rennes-Angers, France)

Georgios Koubouris (Hellenic Agricultural Organization ELGO-DIMITRA, Greece)

Igor Loskutov (Vavilov Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, Russia)

Lorenzo Maggioni (European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, Italy)

Nigel Maxted (University of Birmingham, UK)

Alvaro Toledo (International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, Italy)

Animal Genetic Resources:

Peer Berg (Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway)

Grégoire Leroy (Animal Genetics, FAO, Italy)

Richard Osei-Amponsah (University of Ghana, Ghana)

Enrico Sturaro (University of Padova, Italy)

Etienne Verrier (AgroParisTech, France)

Indexing:

Scopus®

DOAJ

ScienceGate

Google Scholar

ROAD
DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS SCHOLARLY RESOURCES



GenResJ: Sustainability

2020-2021
GenResBridge

2022-2023
Bridge funding
ECPGR/ERFP

2024→
Phase XI ECPGR

Using an open-source platform we created a professional product that can be maintained at low running costs.

Budget estimate (based on publication of ~15 articles per year):

~ 3,000 € p.a. fixed costs (website, software etc)

~ 3 person months for editorial office (~ 20,000 € p.a., part of Communications in Phase XI)

Total: ~23,000 € p.a.

ERFP financial support of *Genetic Resources* in 2023: 10,000 € (towards fixed costs)



Submit your paper to www.genresj.org

Contact s.goritschnig@cgiar.org with expressions of interest to join the editorial team



Financial status



Evolution of Phase X budget

	Euro
Total budget Phase X agreed in Thessaloniki 2018	2,688,250
Reduction for Bosnia and Herzegovina not joining Phase X	-15,750
New Total budget at 31.12.2021	2,672,500
Carryover from past Phases	324,154
Voluntary contribution (Hungary 2019)	12,000
GRAND TOTAL -1	3,008,654
Voluntary contributions (pledges from Germany 2019–24)	1,370,328
GRAND TOTAL budget at 31.12.2022	4,378,981

* 2023 Additions: POL: €14,400; ERFP: €10,000

Financial status – contributions

Regular contributions received at 31.12.2022

Year	Contributions received in €	Number of contributing countries
2019	523,000	35
2020	534,500	35
2021	534,500	35
2022	499,150	30
2023	12,600	2
Total	2,103,750	

Outstanding
at May 2023:
€31,400
Belarus,
Greece,
Iceland

Voluntary contributions received at 31.12.2022

Year	Voluntary contributions received in €	Country
2019	12,000	Hungary
2019–2021	1,043,066	Germany
Total	1,055,066	

Voluntary contributions from Germany – Phase X



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

- GenR 2017-3 (Apr 2017–Sep 2019): €105,000
(supporting Grant Scheme activities)
- GenR 2018-1 (Sep 2018–Feb 2019): €69,000
(AEGIS workshop)
- GenR 2018-3 (Sep 2018–Apr 2019): €40,000
(EVA preparatory workshops)
- GenR 2019-2 (Jul 2019–Dec 2024): €1,001,700
(EVA Networks)
- GenR 2019-5 (Sep 2019–May 2020): €60,000
(Maize and Berries meetings and public awareness)
- GenR 2021-1 (Nov 2021–Dec 2023): € 250,000
(*In situ* CWR data in EURISCO)

€1,525,700
(2017–2024)



Contributions from EC projects



GenRes Bridge (2019–2021) – ECPGR budget: €210,613

- Genetic Resources Strategies
- *Genetic Resources* journal

AGENT (2020–2025) – ECPGR budget: €276,825

- One-year extension of EVA Network Wheat & Barley and involvement of farmer's network
- Genebank peer reviews and training

PRO-GRACE (2023-2025) – ECPGR Budget: €185,000

- Coordination of infrastructure design WP
- Website

EURO CWR (2024-2027) – ECPGR Budget: €481,530



Financial status

Cash balance at 31.12.2022

	Euro
Total regular contributions received (2019–2022)	2,103,750
Carry over funds past Phases	324,154
Voluntary contribution (Hungary 2019)	12,000
Voluntary contributions Germany Phase IX – funds balance	58,673
Voluntary contributions Germany received 2019–2022	1,043,066
TOTAL received (at 31.12.2022)	3,541,643
Expenditures Phase X (2019–2022)	-1,618,437
Expenditures German projects (2019–2022)	-1,035,853
Cash balance at 31.12.2022	887,353

Outlook of projected carry-over

- Staff costs – projected balance at end-of-phase: **€211,000**

	Total Budget for actions (net)	Expenditures 2019–22	Committed	BALANCE
WG meetings	188,599	-	19,325	169,274
WG – other actions	188,599	7,875	180,724	0
Carryover	255,208	159,308	95,900	0
Ukraine	28,896	28,896	-	0
Voluntary unrestricted	10,359	-	10,359	0
WG Chairs meeting	31,500	-	-	31,500
Travel EURISCO	11,250	-	2,250	9,000
Other (website)	0	-	16,058	-16,058
POL 2023	12,431	-	12,332	99
EFRP contribution	8,500	-	2,300	6,200
TOTAL	735,342	196,079	339,248	€200,015

211,000 +
200,000 =
411,000
(Estimated
net carry over)

Acknowledgments: Secretariat team



Sandra Goritschnig



Loredana
Maria



Nora
Capozio

Acknowledgments

- EURISCO office: Stephan Weise, Pragna Kotni, Suman Kumar
- ExCo: Eva Thörn, Marianne Lefort, Külli Annamaa, Petra Engel, Pavol Hauptvogel, Vojtech Holubec, Marc Lateur, Birgitte Lund, Benvindo Maçãs, Beate Schierscher
- Consultants: Vanessa Bryant, Jeremy Chesterton and Duckrabbit, Jan Engels, Vincent Johnson, Lina Weibull
- Internships: Sonja Ensslin, Fernando Luque
- Several Task Forces' members and other Alliance staff



© Fernando Luque / ECPGR

A coastal scene featuring a rocky beach in the foreground, a green plant with long, thin leaves growing from the rocks, and a cliff face in the background. The sky is clear and blue. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A horizontal bar with a color gradient from green to purple is positioned below the text.

THANK YOU