European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources

ECP/GR

ECPGR PHASE XI

L. Maggioni

ECPGR Secretary

All-Chairs Working Group meeting,
Aranjuez, Spain, 3-4 March 2026

ECPGR – The European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources

ECPGR is a collaborative programme among most European countries aimed at ensuring the long-term conservation and facilitating the increased utilization of plant genetic resources (PGR) in Europe.

European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources

ECP/GR

ECPGR Objectives

- Sustaining *ex situ* conservation
- Strenghtening the plant genetic resources information system
- Expanding *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives & wild food plants
- Promoting on-farm conservation and management
- Promoting sustainable use of plant genetic resources

ECPGR Structure

European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
ECP/GR

Steering Committee

Executive Committee

Coordinating Secretariat

Alliance Bioversity & CIAT
CGIAR

Working Groups

Crop Working Groups

- *Allium*
- *Avena*
- Barley
- Berries
- *Beta*
- *Brassica*
- Cucurbits
- Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp)
- Forages
- Grain Legumes
- Leafy Vegetables
- Maize
- *Malus/Pyrus*
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
- Potato
- *Prunus*
- Solanaceae
- Umbellifer Crops
- *Vitis*
- Wheat

Thematic Working Groups

- Crop Wild Relatives
- Cryopreservation
- Documentation and Information
- On-farm Conservation and Management

Genebank Managers Network

Initiatives

- aegis
- eurisco — Finding seeds for the future
- EVA — European Evaluation Network
- Genetic Resources

ECP/GR

ECPGR has been a central and reliable coordinating hub for PGR conservation, use and research for 45 years

36
Member countries and National Coordinators

43
Eurisco National Focal Points, providing info on **> 2M** accessions

24
Working Groups and **830+** members collaborating on PGR conservation and research

35
AEGIS member countries, with **~70** institutes conserving unique accessions with agreed quality standards

Since 1980

European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources

ECP//GR

www.ecpgr.org

130+
EVA partner organizations evaluating crop diversity of European collections

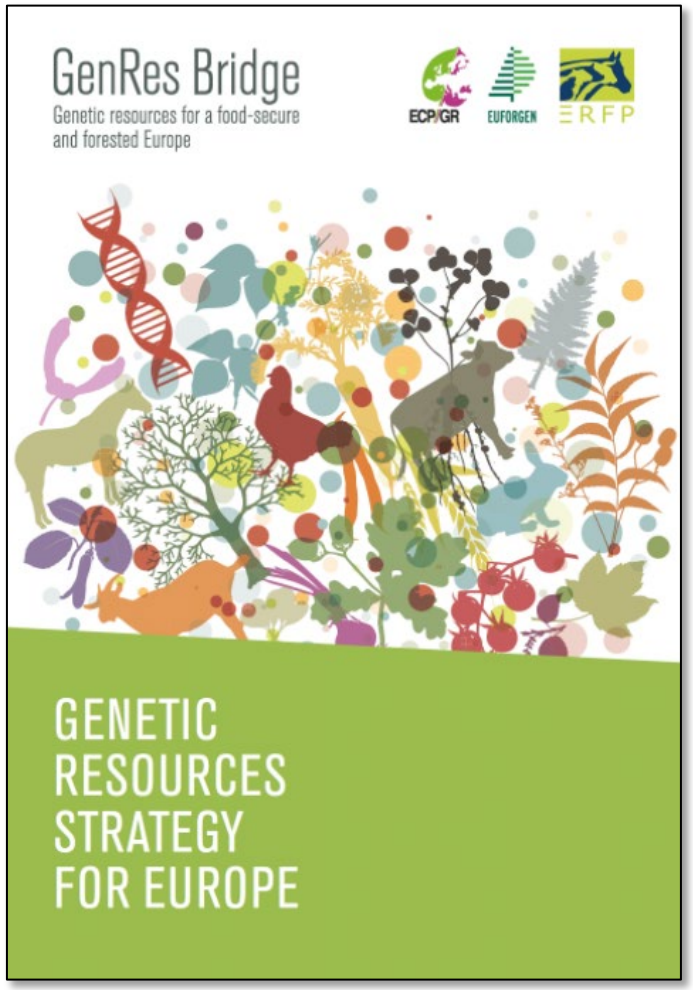
~420
Ex situ holding institutes conserving **43** national collections

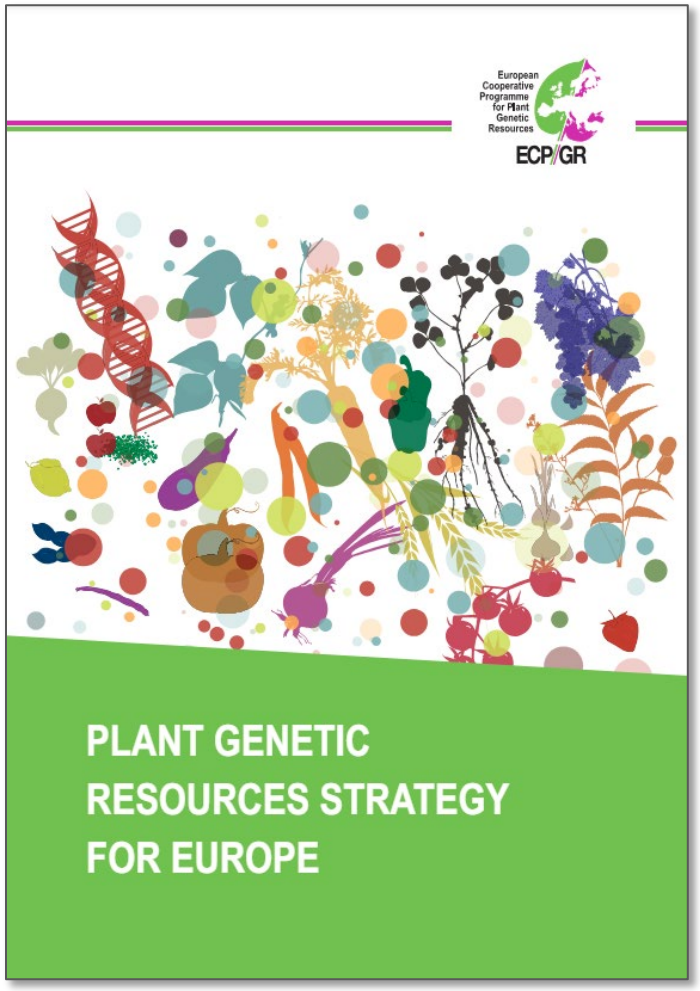
50+
Grant scheme activities since 2014, ~**200** publications by Working Groups

MoUs with FAO (ITPGRFA), Crop Trust, Euroseeds

Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe

Launched in Bruxelles, 30 November 2021





Developed via extensive consultations with experts and stakeholders

Identifies gaps and objectives to guide ECPGR priorities for the next decade

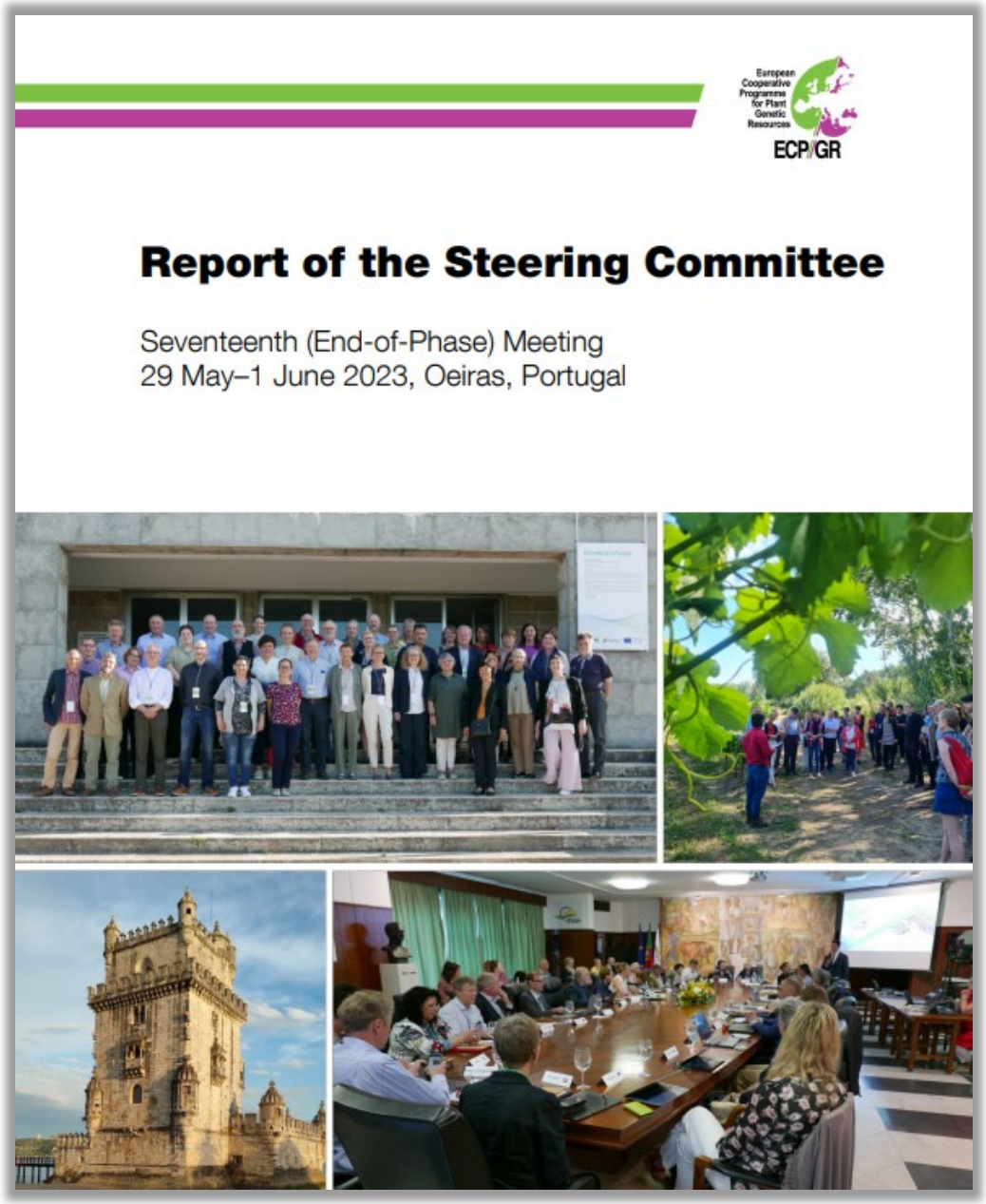
Implementation is subject to firm political will

GenRes Bridge Genetic resources for a food-secure and forested Europe

www.ecpgr.org/pgrstrategy21

ECP/GR

New Phase XI (2024–2028) launched by the Steering Committee



Main decisions of the ECPGR Steering Committee (June 2023)

- Phase XI Budget
- Table of priorities for Phase XI
- ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers
- Terms of Reference of ECPGR for Phase XI

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a. List of countries with expected commitment

	UN rates (%) [1]	Category [2]	Annual contribution per year (Phase XI) [3] Euro
MONTENEGRO	0.004	A	3550
NORTH MACEDONIA	0.007	A	3550
ALBANIA	0.008	A	3550
GEORGIA	0.008	A	3550
AZERBAIJAN	0.030	A	3550
SERBIA	0.032	A	3550
ICELAND	0.036	A	3550
CYPRUS	0.036	A	3550
BELARUS	0.041	B	4500
ESTONIA	0.044	B	4500
LATVIA	0.050	B	4500
BULGARIA	0.056	B	4500
UKRAINE	0.056	B	4500
LITHUANIA	0.077	C	8450
SLOVENIA	0.079	C	8450
CROATIA	0.091	C	8450
SLOVAKIA	0.155	D	9700
HUNGARY	0.228	D	9700
ROMANIA	0.312	D	9700
GREECE	0.325	E	14300
CZECH REP.	0.340	E	14300
PORTUGAL	0.353	E	14300
FINLAND	0.417	F	15600
IRELAND	0.439	F	15600
DENMARK	0.553	F	15600
AUSTRIA	0.679	F	15600
NORWAY	0.679	F	15600
BELGIUM	0.828	G	16300
POLAND	0.837	G	16300
TURKEY	0.845	G	16300
SWEDEN	0.871	G	16300
SWITZERLAND	1.134	H	24700
NETHERLANDS	1.377	H	24700
SPAIN	2.134	I	26000
ITALY	3.189	J	63300
FRANCE	4.318	J	63300
UK	4.375	J	63300
GERMANY	6.111	K	66100

Annual Total:	**622,850**
Total 5 years:	**3,114,250**

ECPGR Budget Phase XI (2024–2028):

€3.1 M

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Phase XI budget: €3.1 M + carryover = €3.9 M

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Activities						
WG Chair's meeting			20,000		20,000	40,000
WG activities	102,064	102,064	102,064	46,816	46,816	399,824
EVA Coordination (90%)	21,165	55,046	64,106			140,317
AEGIS Coordination (20%)	27,486	28,486	30,610	24,103	24,826	135,511
Training workshops EURISCO		12,000		12,000		24,000
Activities Total	**150,715**	**197,596**	**216,780**	**82,919**	**91,642**	**739,652**

WG Activities target total: €510,000 over 5 years

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How to use the budget line ‘WG activities’

- **Grant Scheme**: Annual Calls launched and evaluated by the ExCo. WG Chair submits proposals

- **Meetings** (on a first-come first-served basis). WG Chair requests with justification:

    1) Which specific achievements it is expected to reach, in terms of facilitating the implementation of ECPGR priorities.
    2) Cost-effectiveness and synergies with other initiatives, e.g.:
        - Meetings in preparation for an EC project
        - Planning of new EVA Networks
        - Training of genebank information system officers, etc.

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Table of priorities

https://www.ecpgr.org/grant-scheme/call-for-proposals

Tables 1 to 6: Objectives and targets of the Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe (PGR Strategy) and associated priorities for ECPGR Phase XI

Tables correspond to the objectives as identified in section 2 (Conserving and sustainably using plant genetic resources) of the PGR strategy.
Priorities are indicated as follows: **P1 – high** (starting or continuing at the beginning of Phase XI); **P2 – medium** (based on mid-term progress in the implementation of P1 activities and depending on available funds, could be supported by ECPGR in the 2nd part of Phase XI); **P3 – low** (Activities are too premature to be supported by ECPGR in Phase XI and should be considered for implementation during Phase XII)

Priorities highlighted in green (P1) or blue (P2) are open for possible Grant Scheme funding in 2024

Table 1: Expanding *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives and wild food plants

PGR Strategy for Europe Objectives	PGR Strategy for Europe Targets	Responsibility (main level/ responsible bodies)	Type of action that ECPGR could undertake	Potential sources of funding to cover the ECPGR action	Executive Committee (ExCo) proposal for activities to be included in Phase XI work plan
By 2030, Europe has significantly **increased** its **Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) and Wild Food Plants (WFP) inventories** to enable a more comprehensive view of available CWR and WFP genetic diversity, to better understand how this diversity is distributed across the region and its neighbouring countries, and to identify which are the priority populations to actively conserve.	1. All countries in Europe have included CWR and WFP conservation in national PGR programmes and actions	National	Support of Crop Wild Relatives WG activities contributing to Target 1	National funds/ European Commission (EC) project or external donor/**ECPGR Grant**	• **P1** - Disseminate methodologies and support documents and organize webinars on how to do diversity and gap analysis and how to develop National CWR strategies. • **P1** - Develop or improve an ECPGR CWR Portal compiling links to existing national checklists and inventories and the respective diversity and gap analysis to determine priority CWR populations. • **P2** - Work towards the preparation of an online map of European hotspots. • **P3** - CWR Working Group to develop Wild Food Plants conservation guidelines.
	2. All countries in Europe have identified CWR priority taxa and populations – including those in protected areas – forming the basis of their national and a European *in situ* network of CWR	National	Support of Crop Wild Relatives WG activities contributing to Target 2	National funds EC project or external donor **ECPGR Grant**	• **P1** - Extend the list of countries that prepare (or have already prepared) national inventories or lists for CWR priority taxa and provide *in situ* population data to EURISCO.

Examples of priorities for action (Grant Scheme)

- Support to countries to identify and include material into AEGIS, including regeneration and safety duplication (*ex situ*)
- Compilation and transfer of existing C&E data to EURISCO (documentation)
- Support to the creation of crops' public–private partnerships (use)
- At country level, prepare lists of CWR priority taxa and provide *in situ* population data to EURISCO (*in situ* CWR)

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ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers

The ToRs of the Network were approved

Genebank Managers Network

- Overall aim to strengthen the management of genebanks through the exchange of knowledge, cooperation and capacity building of genebanks, including the various aspects of leading and managing a genebank.

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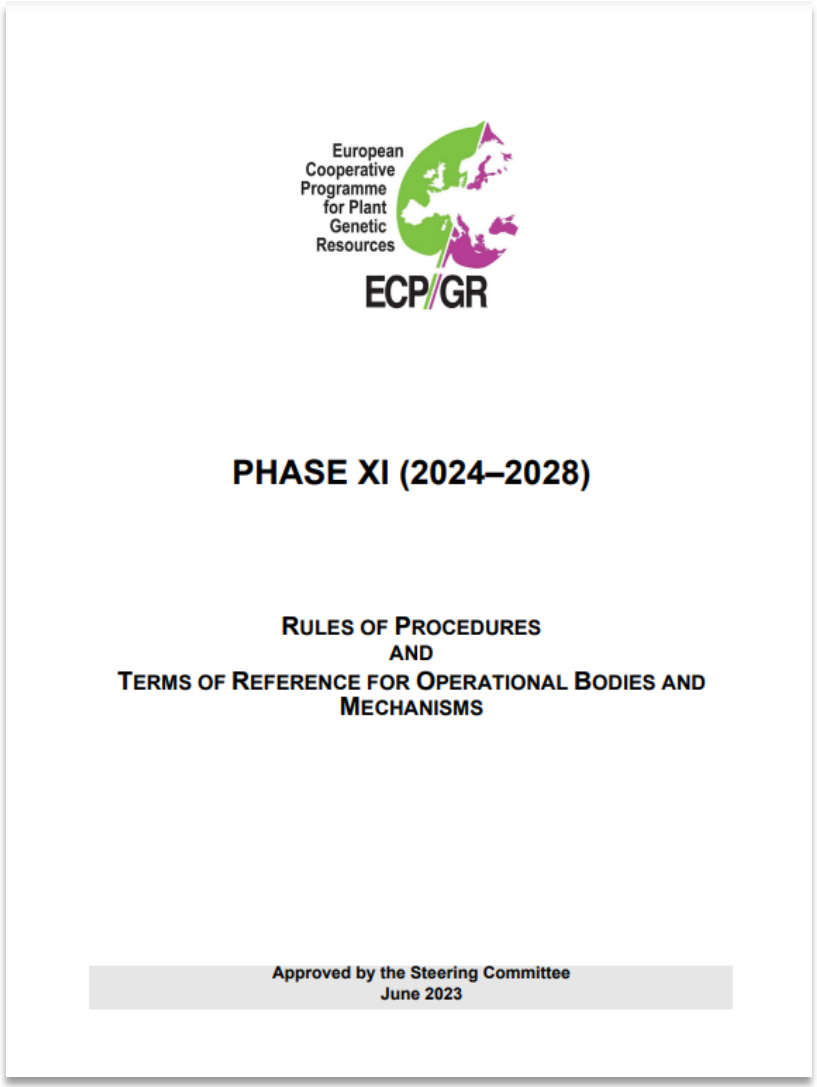
ToRs of ECPGR for Phase XI

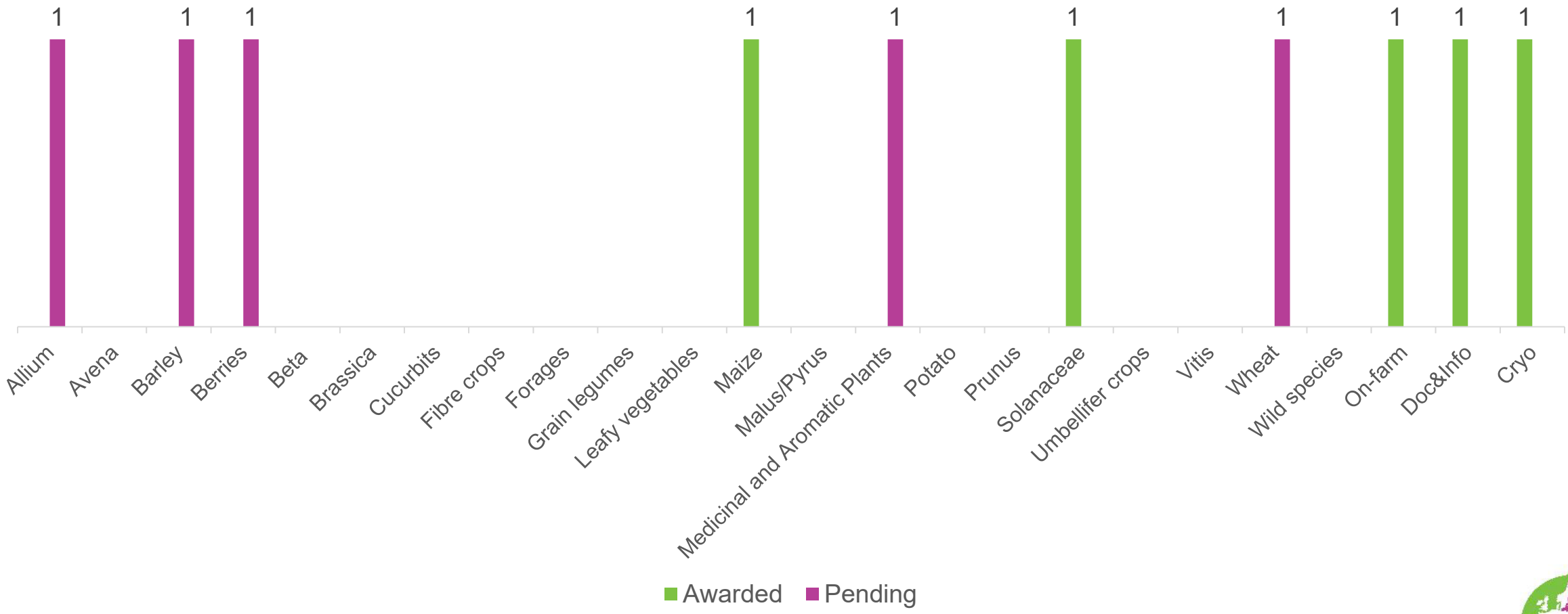


Available at
https://bit.ly/ECPGR-TORS

ECP/GR

Implementation Phase XI (2024–2025)

Phase XI Activities awarded/pending



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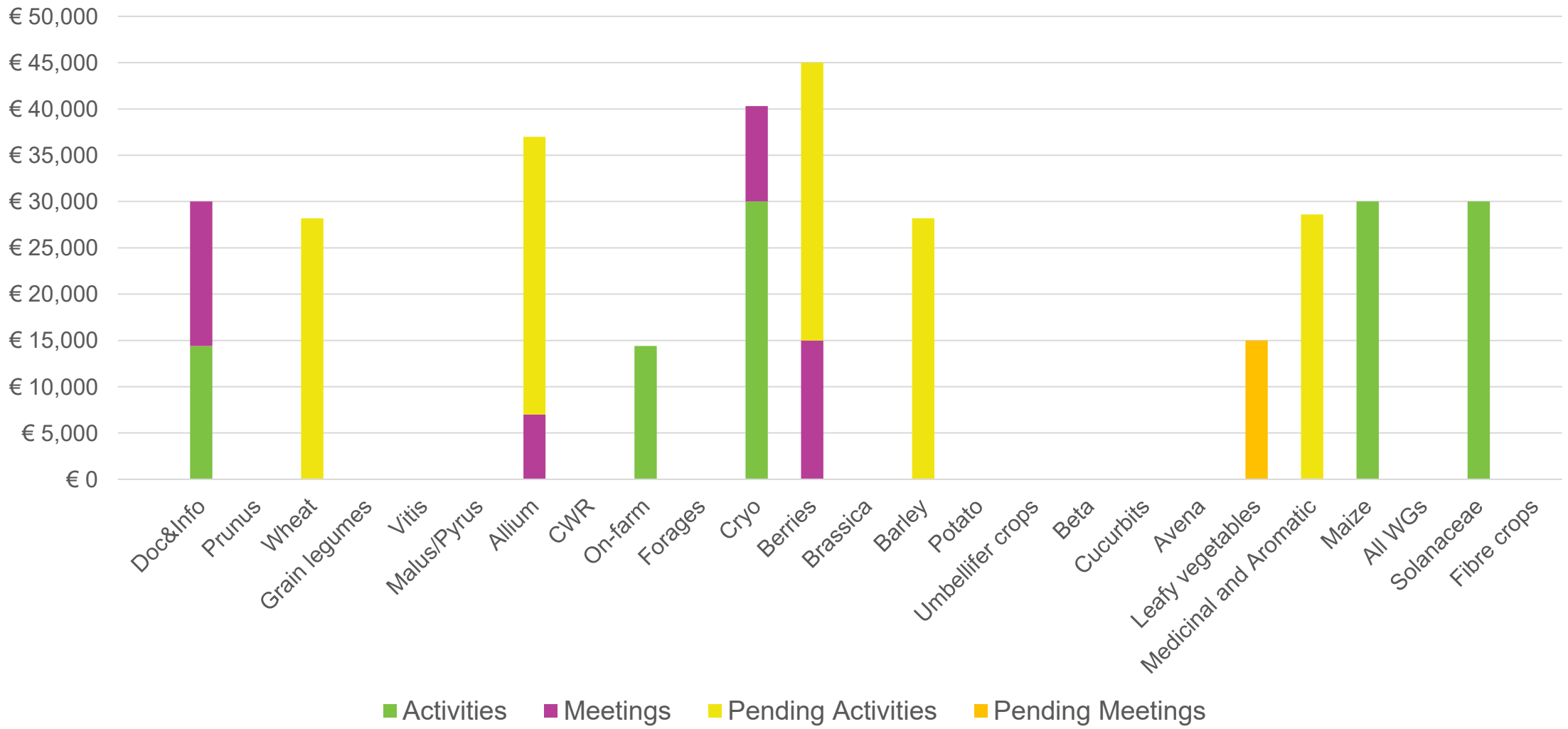
Total funds allocated for each WG (2024–2026)
[Grant Scheme + meetings]



ECP/GR

German-funded projects

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity

TOTAL: €982,679 between 2021–2027

Europe's crop wild relatives *in situ* data now in EURISCO

Background

Crop wild relatives (CWR) – wild plant species closely related to cultivated crops – are key genetic resources for crop improvement due to their rich and evolving diversity. As climate change intensifies, utilizing this diversity becomes more urgent. Global agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the FAO Global Plan of Action (GPA), and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) emphasize the importance of documenting and conserving CWR, especially *in situ*, i.e. in the natural habitats where they occur, and enabling their sustainable use. However, conservation efforts across Europe vary strongly, with scattered or missing data, making it difficult to find and access these resources.

An ECPGR project, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity, aimed to improve this situation by encouraging the establishment of national CWR inventories and integrating *in situ* data into the central European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources (EURISCO).

The project

The project successfully extended the EURISCO catalogue to include CWR *in situ* data. Early efforts focused on defining clear criteria for identifying CWR populations eligible for inclusion – specifically, those under active conservation and potentially available to users. These criteria were published in the document *Principles for the Inclusion of CWR Data in EURISCO*, developed in consultation with the ITPGRFA Secretariat and endorsed by project partners and the EURISCO Advisory Committee.

A standardized data exchange format was established, and CWR National Inventory Focal Points were appointed to manage national data flows into EURISCO.

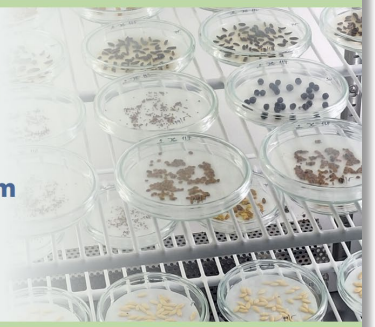
Pilot countries were supported in organizing their internal data collection processes and successfully submitted initial datasets, using EURISCO-specific descriptors. The data were reviewed and uploaded to the system, enabling broader access. As of January 2026, 16 countries have contributed data covering over 19,000 CWR populations. EURISCO now offers a centralized, searchable resource that links users to managing institutions or liaison contacts, facilitating access to the material.

This project marks a significant advancement in harmonizing CWR preservation and documentation efforts across Europe, supporting both conservation goals and crop improvement through better access to this valuable genetic diversity.

Funded by: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity

NEW AEGIS

Strengthening the AEGIS Quality System and EURISCO data coverage



The 'New AEGIS' project was launched at the end of 2024 to strengthen *ex situ* conservation and documentation in Europe by improving transparency, harmonizing quality standards, and enhancing the effectiveness of the European Genebank Integrated System (AEGIS), as well as expanding access to characterization and evaluation data for research and breeding through the European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources (EURISCO).

New AEGIS is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity.

About the project

AEGIS is an initiative of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) aiming to create a **coordinated, high-quality and cost-effective European genebank system.**

However, differences in operational capacity and documentation standards among Associate Member genebanks limit its full potential.

The New AEGIS project responded to these challenges by **building capacity and quality assurance**, and **enhancing data management** among AEGIS Associate members through activities including:

- Developing and harmonizing **operational genebank manuals** and **Standard Operating Procedures**
- Establishing and testing a **Genebank Metrics Tool** to monitor performance and increase transparency
- Supporting **peer-to-peer learning** through reciprocal genebank visits
- Enhancing **data availability and interoperability** by integrating existing phenotypic and evaluation data into **EURISCO**.

EVA Boost Project

Implementation of the ECPGR European Evaluation Network on legumes and preparatory actions for the creation of a new network on perennial plants (berries and fruit trees)

Background

European genebanks conserve over 2 million accessions of plant genetic resources, essential for breeding crops that are more nutritious, productive and resilient to pests, diseases and climate change. However, there is limited information on these resources, such as their agronomic characteristics, quality traits, pest or disease resistance, and performance in different environments. This information is crucial for leveraging plant genetic resources in breeding and cultivation practices, making European agriculture more sustainable and climate-resilient.

To address this, the **ECPGR European Evaluation Network (EVA)** has united public and private sector actors since 2019 to generate standardized evaluation data for crop accessions, including landraces, conserved in European genebanks. EVA builds on prior projects, develops new tools and protocols, and relies on partner contributions.

Through existing crop-specific networks for carrot, lettuce, maize, pepper, wheat and barley, EVA has so far collected over 500,000 phenotypic data points for 5,000+ accessions.

The project

Building on this legacy, EVA Boost aims to expand the initiative by establishing a new legume network and laying the groundwork for one on perennial plants (fruit trees and berries).

The **EVA Legumes** network, launched in 2024, focuses on seven crops: common bean, chickpea, faba bean, lentil, lupin, orphan legumes and pea. The network targets key traits such as disease resistance, drought tolerance, and nutritional quality. Standardized experimental and scoring protocols will ensure comparable results across multilocation field trials conducted at around ten locations per crop annually across Europe. This initiative brings together 51 partner organizations from 23 countries to share resources and data for characterization and evaluation. It will also generate purified lines – suitable for genotyping and field evaluation – from underutilized genebank resources, enhancing knowledge of genetic diversity.

EVA Boost also aims to establish a roadmap for the **EVA Perennials** network, focusing on berries and fruit trees. Leveraging insights from past European projects and fostering public–private partnerships, the network will identify sources of disease resistance to address the intensifying biotic and abiotic stresses caused by climate change. It also aims to increase diversity in marketed fruit varieties, making valuable genebank materials and research data accessible to breeders and growers across Europe.

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In situ CWR in EURISCO (2021–2025)
€ 317,315

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity

Watch the video at: https://www.ecpgr.org/cwr-in-eurisco#c14751

ECP/GR

Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

NEW AEGIS (2024–2025) € 136,548

- 22 new operational genebank manuals provided online
- All manuals analyzed and compared. Recommendations for improvement
- Two crop-specific genebank standards completed (Berries and Maize)
- 3 SOPs published online
- 14 genebanks tested the genebank metrics. A peer reviewed paper published
- Nine reciprocal visits of genebanks completed (**Nordgen**/Austria/Hungary; **Netherlands**/Latvia/Portugal; **Czech**/Georgia/Romania)
- Final in-person meeting to discuss results, 22 May 2025, Prague

ECP/GR

Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

AEGIS Plus (2025–2026) € 175,076

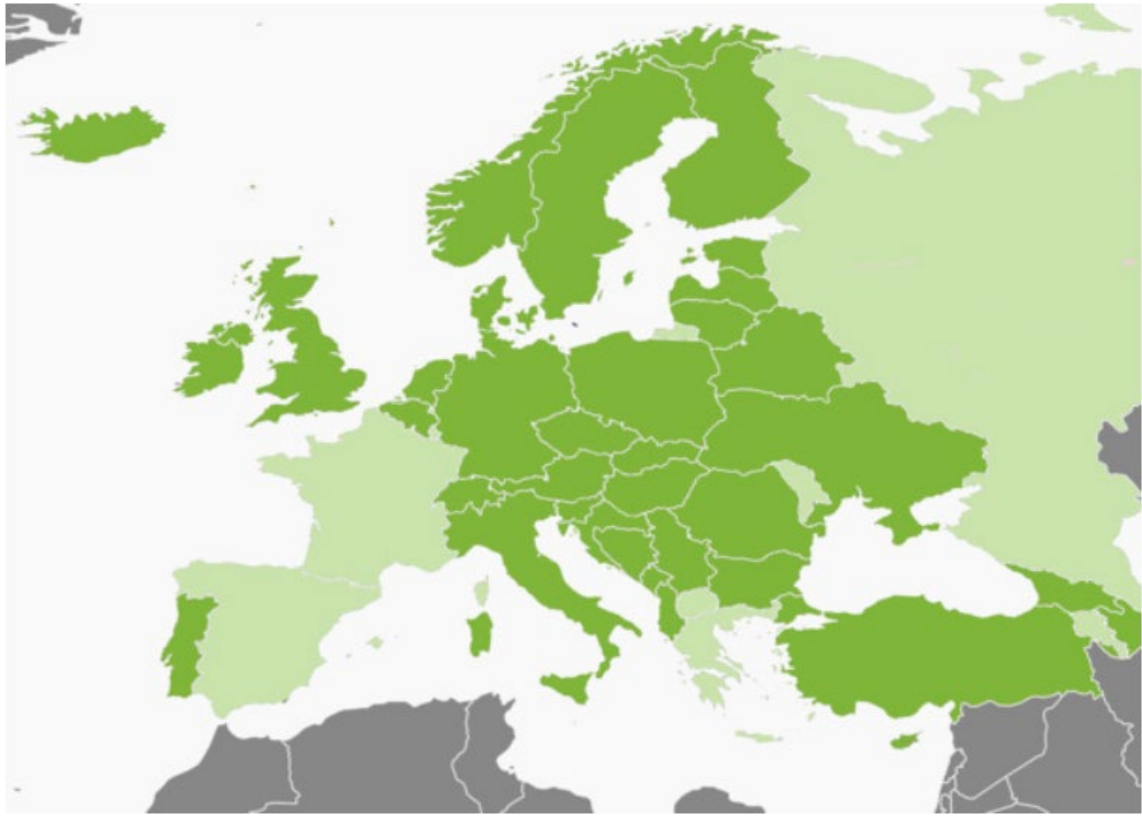
- Trainings for genebank managers
- Updated template for operational genebank manual
- Twelve reciprocal visits of genebanks (also field genebanks): (Nordgen/JIC/Madeira; Netherlands/Albania/Italy; Czech/Serbia/Warwick; Reading/Walloon/Dresden)
- Desk study on access to AEGIS material
- Support for safety duplication
- Final in-person meeting jointly with Genebank Managers Network

ECP/GR

AEGIS – A European Genebank Integrated System

Conserving in a **collaborative way** and at **agreed quality standards**, the **genetically unique** and important accessions for Europe of **all crops** and making them **available** for breeding and research **through SMTAs**

35	Member countries
70+	Associate Member Agreements
120,500+	AEGIS accessions
450+	Genera



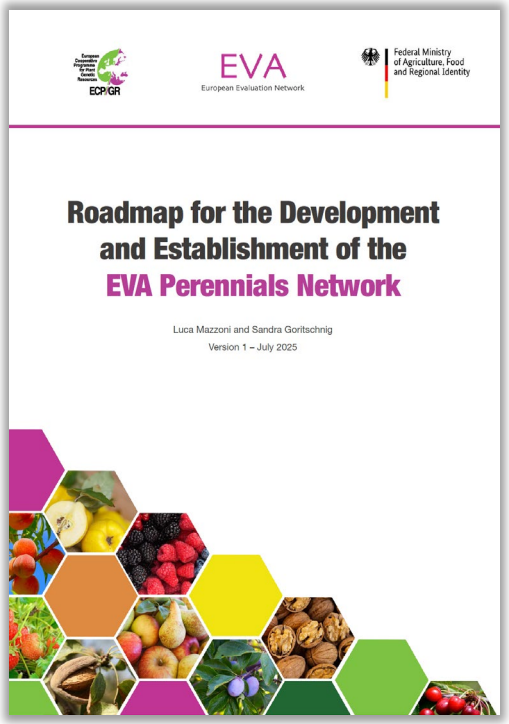
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by ECPGR

www.ecpgr.org/aegis

EVA Boost (2024–2027) € 353,740

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity

- Implementation of **EVA Legumes network** under coordination of ECPGR Secretariat
  - ~50 partners jointly evaluate up to 200 accessions each of seven crops, exploiting where possible materials from previous projects
  - Field trials for phenology and agronomical priority traits
  - Biochemical, nutritional analyses and (a)biotic stress trials
  - On-farm evaluations of grain legumes
  - Curation of existing and novel C&E data for EURISCO
- Preparatory actions towards an **EVA network for berries and/or fruit trees**
  - Identify relevant stakeholders
  - Workshop with WG members and stakeholders
  - Development of Implementation Roadmap

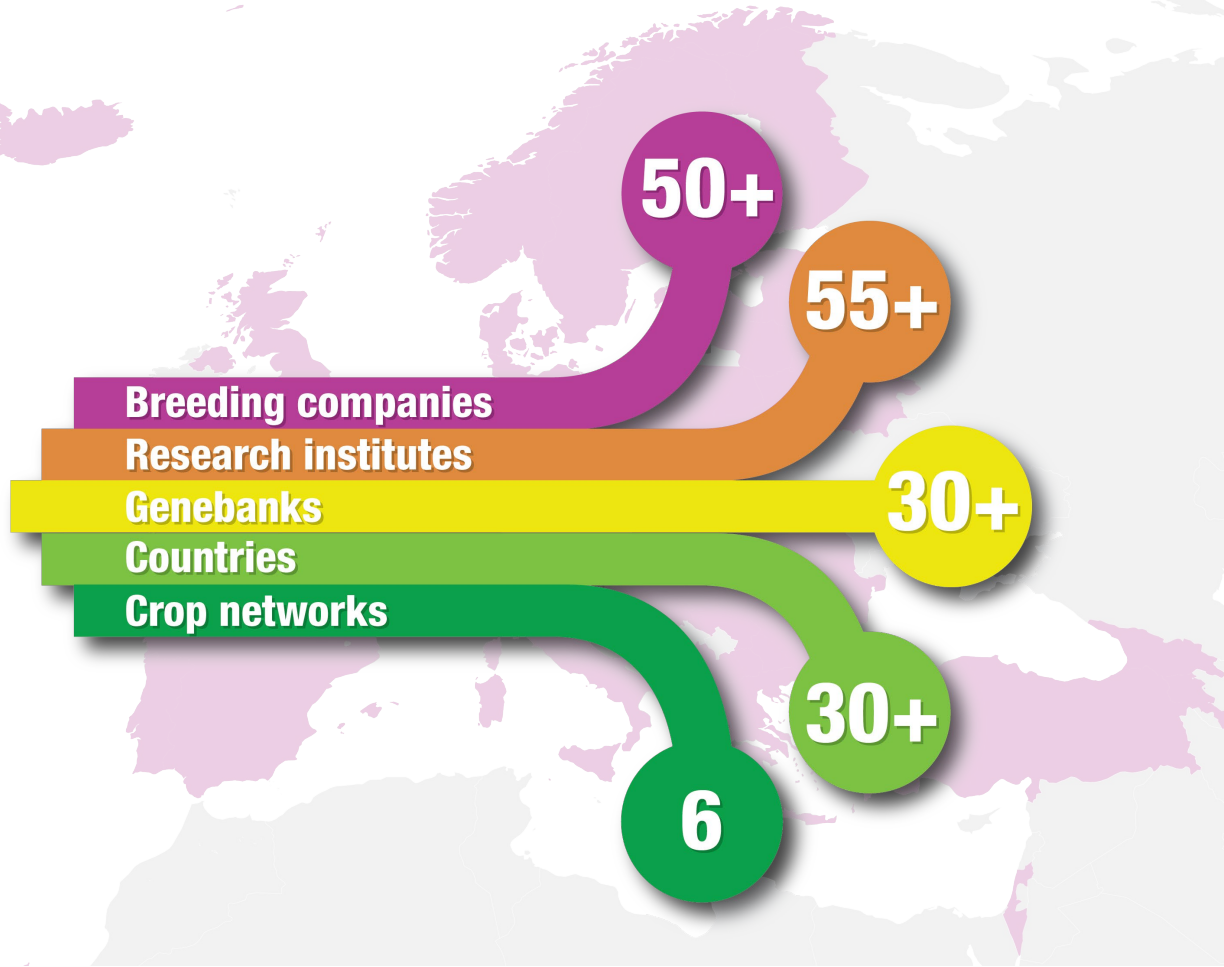


ECP/GR

EVA – The European Evaluation Network

EVA
European Evaluation Network

- Crop-specific public–private partnership networks (currently: carrot, lettuce, legumes, maize, pepper, wheat/barley)
- Generate standardized multilocation evaluation data
- Explore diversity in European genebanks
- Promote the use of genebank germplasm in research, breeding and cultivation



Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity

AGENT

www.ecpgr.org/eva

ECP/GR

Projects and publications

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity

German funded:

- Implementation of EVA (2019-2025, GenRes 2019-2)
- EVA Boost (2024-2027, GenRes 2024-2)

AGENT

EU-funded:

- AGENT (2020–2025, H2020)

ECP/GR

EUROPEPLAND

ECPGR funded (Grant scheme):

- ForEVA (Legumes WG, 2023–2024)
- EuroPepLand (Solanaceae WG, 2024-2026)
- Malanirs (Maize WG, 2024-2027)

EURISCO-EVA

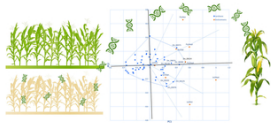
Kumar, S., Guzzon, F., Goritschnig, S. and Weise, S. (2024) **The EURISCO-EVA Information System, an innovative approach to the data management of multi-site crop evaluation data**, *Genetic Resources*, 5(10), pp. 117–125, doi: https://doi.org/10.46265/genresj.IHXU5248

Read the **blog**

EVA Maize

Balconi C, Galaretto A, Malvar RA, Nicolas SD, Redaelli R, Andjelkovic V, Revilla P, Bauland C, Gouesnard B, Butron A, et al. **Genetic and Phenotypic Evaluation of European Maize Landraces as a Tool for Conservation and Valorization of Agrobiodiversity**. *Biology*. 2024; 13(6):454. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3390/biology13060454

Read the **blog**

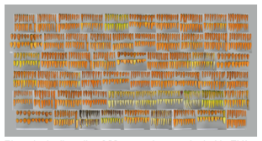


Santiago R, R.A. Malvar, P. Revilla, A. Butrón (2025) **Maize landraces as useful donors of genetic diversity for resilience to drought**, *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*, Volume 23, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jafr.2025.102297

Position paper

Goritschnig, S., Weise, S., Guzzon, F., Maggioni, L., van Hintum, T., Steffensen, L. L., Stein, N. and Giuliano, G. (2025) **Strengthening European research cooperation on plant genetic resources conservation and use**, *Genetic Resources*, (S2), pp. 119–134. doi: https://doi.org/10.46265/genresj.LUZJ7324.

EVA Carrot



Phenotypic diversity of 60 accessions evaluated in EVA Carrot in 2020-2021. Credit: E. Geoffriau

Goritschnig, S., Pagan, P., Mallor, C., Thabuis, A., Chevalier, J., Hägnefelt, A., Bertolin, N., Salgon, S., Groenewegen, M., Ingremeau, A., Santillan Martinez, M., Lehnert, H., Keilwagen, J., Burges, T., Budahn, H., Nothnagel, T., Lopes, V., Allender, C., Huet, S. and Geoffriau, E. (2023). **Exploring European carrot diversity through public-private partnerships in EVA Carrot.** *Acta Hortic.* 1384, 63-70. DOI:https://doi.org/10.17660/ActaHortic.2023.1384.8

Read the **blog**

EVA Lettuce

Photo: C. Aichholz and T. Zollinger

Tripodi P, Beretta M, Peltier D, Kalfas I, Vasilikiotis C, Laidet A, Briand G, Aichholz C, Zollinger T, Treuren Rv, Scaglione D and Goritschnig S (2023) **Development and application of Single Primer Enrichment Technology (SPET) SNP assay for population genomics analysis and candidate gene discovery in lettuce**. *Front. Plant Sci.* 14:1252777. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2023.1252777

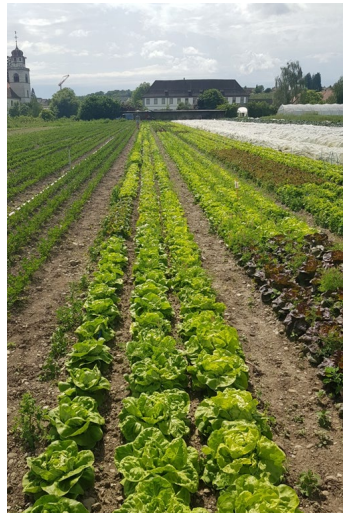
Read the **press release**

EVA
European Evaluation Network

ECP/GR

109 Evaluation trial sites across Europe

EVA wheat trial 2021, BASF (V. Spamer)



EVA lettuce trial 2022 *Sativa* Rheinau (C. Aichholz)

EVA pepper trial 2021, Semillas Fito (M. Fernandez)

EVA carrot trial 2021 Institut Agro Angers (E. Geoffriau)

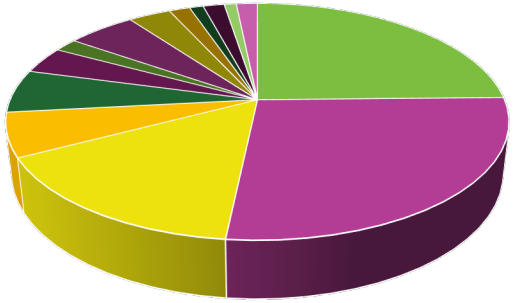
EVA maize trial 2021, CREA-CI (C. Balconi)

ECP/GR

Data output of EVA networks (2020–2025)

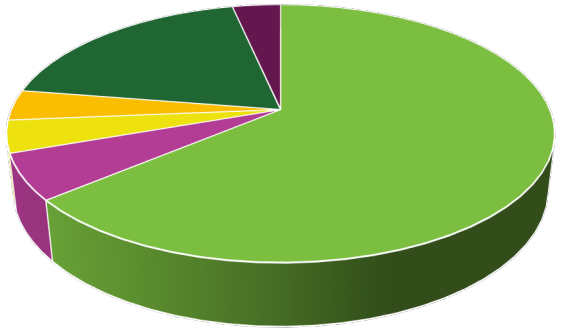
EVA
European Evaluation Network

6,163 crop accessions



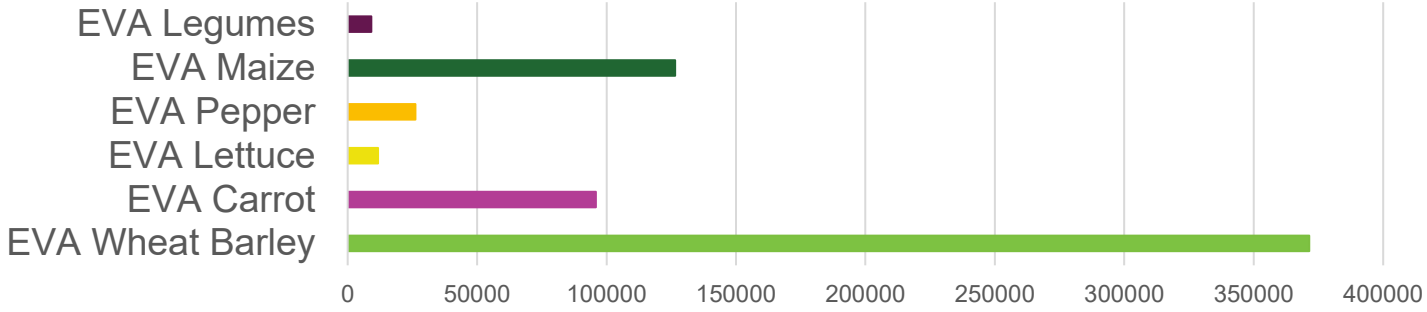
barley, wheat, maize, durum wheat, lettuce, pepper, carrot, bean, chickpea, lentil, cowpea, pea, faba bean, lupine

471 Trials



EVA Wheat Barley, EVA Carrot, EVA Lettuce, EVA Pepper, EVA Maize, EVA Legumes

631,375 datapoints



Data in EURISCO-EVA as of 25/02/2026

ECP/GR

EC Horizon projects:

AGENT
PRO-GRACE
COLiBRI

AGENT
Activated GEnebank NeTwork

Implications for ECPGR

- Collaboration with EVA Wheat and Barley project for further exploitation and evaluation of AGENT materials (> 5,000 wheat and barley accessions)
- Practical examples of application of genomic and bioinformatic tools in genebank management
- Genebank peer reviews established as powerful tools to improve genebank quality and collaboration
- Case studies for transition of genebanks from seed conservation to active bio-digital resource centres.

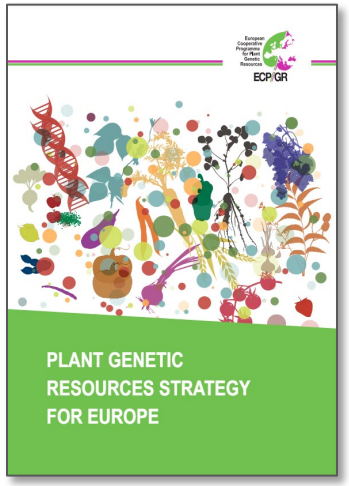
AGENT demonstrated how improved collaboration between conservation, characterization and use can enhance the efficiency and services of European genebanks – an objective long pursued by the GenRes community. However, lasting impact depends on continued and increased national funding for GenRes collections.

The AGENT project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 862613.

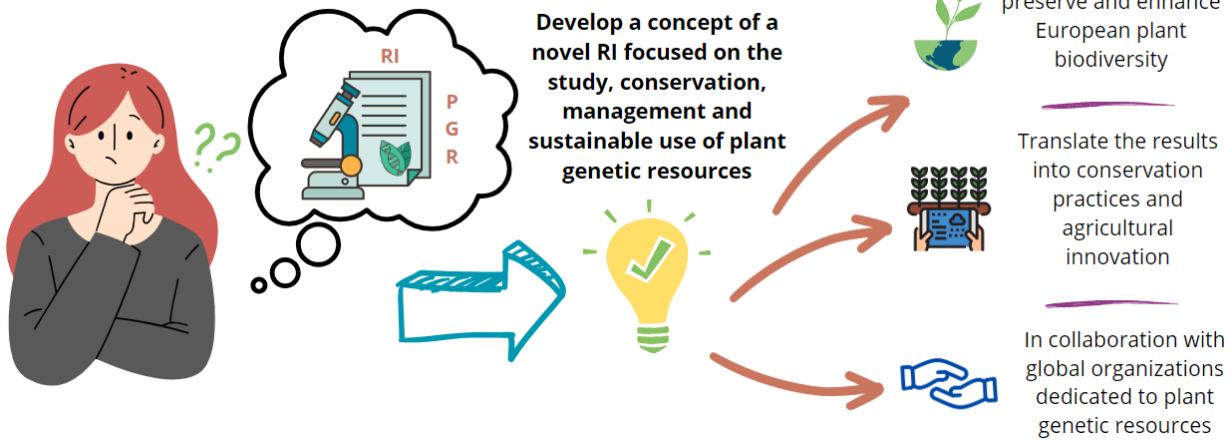
PRO-GRACE

Promoting a Plant Genetic Resource Community for Europe

- EC InfraDev project to develop the concept of a European Research infrastructure dedicated to PGR
- 34 months (01/2023–10/2025)
- 31 PRO-GRACE partners from Europe and worldwide, combining expertise in conservation, research, breeding, cultivation and policy of PGR



Pathway to implementation of PGR Strategy via Horizon project



The Pro-GRACE project has received funding from the Horizon Europe programme, Grant agreement No 101094738

PRO-GRACE: from concept to ESFRI

PRO-GRACE
PROMOTING A PLANT GENETIC RESOURCE COMMUNITY FOR EUROPE

- The concept should be the basis for an application to the ESFRI roadmap 2026 – deadline April 2025
- Letters of support from 54 institutions across 19 countries, including 3 from Research Ministries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Greece), but no financial support
- Submission failed due to:
  - GRACE-RI concept was incomplete with no viable business plan
  - Lobbying for political support was often late for consideration of national research roadmaps
  - Unclear role of ECPGR in a GRACE-RI
  - Unclear added value of a new RI over existing ECPGR network
  - Overlapping portfolio between ECPGR and a GRACE-RI created confusion during lobbying for financial support
  - No host country could be identified for central coordination office

ESFRI

GRACE-RI
A PLANT GENETIC RESOURCE COMMUNITY FOR EUROPE

ECP/GR

PRO-GRACE deliverables support PGR conservation and use

PRO-GRACE
PROMOTING A PLANT GENETIC RESOURCE COMMUNITY FOR EUROPE

- Various useful outputs were developed and should be implemented by the community:
  - **Information management** – data standards, data gap analyses, interconnection of EURISCO with other databases
  - **Quality management** – *ex situ/in situ* quality standards and blueprints for implementation and capacity building
  - **C&E** – protocols and case studies for use of advanced scientific services on PGR collections, recommended standard protocols for evaluation

https://www.grace-ri.eu/pro-grace/outputs/deliverables

ECP/GR

Building on PRO-GRACE

PRO-GRACE
PROMOTING A PLANT GENETIC RESOURCE COMMUNITY FOR EUROPE

June 2026: **ECPGR Steering Committee** will discuss how to build on PRO-GRACE:

- **Strengthen ECPGR initiatives:** translate PRO-GRACE outputs into improved EURISCO, AEGIS, EVA
- **Strengthen international cooperation and synergies:** links with Crop Trust, CGIAR, ITPGRFA, Euroseeds, relevant ESFRIs and other European organizations in joint projects for mutual benefit
- **Strengthen national PGR conservation and use:** links with research and breeding sector, enhance outreach and public visibility of PGR importance, secure increased and stable funding

ECP/GR

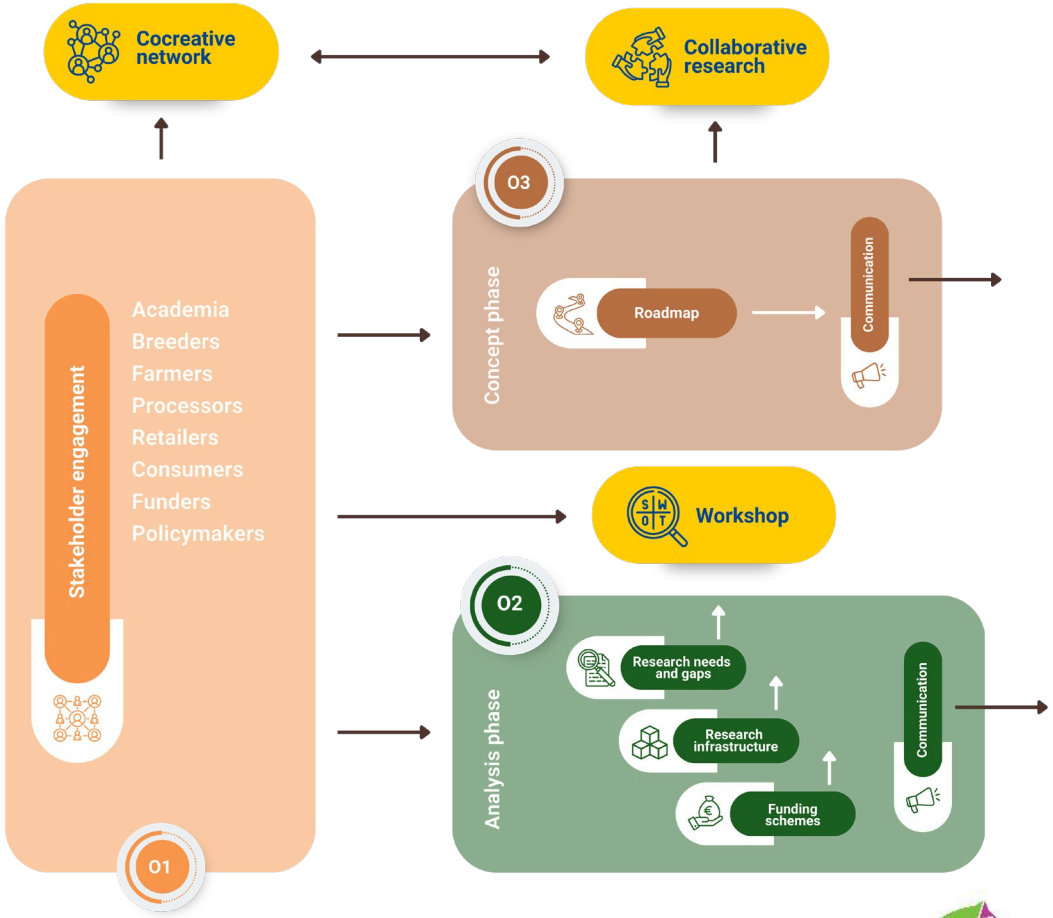
COLiBRI

Collaborative Crop Breeding Research and Innovation for a Green Europe

New project in HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-09: Strengthening the EU crop breeding research and innovation ecosystem for competitive, resilient, and sustainable agriculture

COLiBRI Objectives

- **Engage all stakeholders** building on existing networks
- **Identify priorities for research actions and targets**, analyzing research needs and gaps, existing infrastructures and funding schemes
- **Design a roadmap and collaboration framework** for plant breeding R&I



Project start: June 2026

COLiBRI consortium

17 partners from 13 countries

European networks

- European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources – ECP/GR
- epso
- Plants for the Future – European Technology Platform
- Euroseeds – Embracing Nature
- CORE organic

Public Research institutes

- INRAE
- AARHUS UNIVERSITY
- JKI – Julius Kühn-Institut
- TU Graz – Graz University of Technology
- WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH
- CIHEAM ZARAGOZA
- ICROFS – International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems
- IFBG
- NIB – NACIONALNI INŠTITUT ZA BIOLOGIJO / NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

Farmers networks

- ÖMKi
- FORUMUL appr – Mândru că sunt fermier!®

Seed Marketing

- PIN – POLSKA IZBA NASIENNA
- COBORU – Centralny Ośrodek Badania Odmian Roślin Uprawnych – Research Centre For Cultivar Testing

Stakeholders, LoS

- copa cogeca – european farmers – european agri-cooperatives
- GREEN ERA-HUB – on Agri-Food and Biotechnology
- SCAR – Standing Committee on Agricultural Research
- ESFRI
- elixir
- EMPHASIS
- EUCARPIA
- BOEREN BOND
- etc.

ECP/GR

ECPGR role in COLiBRI

- Joint lead of **WP4 – Stakeholder engagement**
- Communications and project website
- Organization of **Stakeholder Workshop 2 – June 2027, Rome**
- ECPGR community to engage in analytical surveys and stakeholder fora
- Leverage experience from Pro-GRACE in engaging with policymakers and PGR practitioners

COLIBRI could build the research part of a PGR Research infrastructure

Mid-Term Steering Committee meeting, Tbilisi, Georgia, 1-4 June 2026

- Reporting on the first part of Phase XI
- Discussing the next part of Phase XI (budget revision / review priority Table / inputs from Chairs / update new Secretary)
- Discuss continuation in Phase XII
  - ECPGR position vis-à-vis GRACE-RI
  - Options to strengthen PGR infrastructure

ECP/GR


THANK YOU

EVA implementation in Phase XI

EVA
European Evaluation Network

- Finalize activities of networks within EVA 1.0
- Network activities continue in kind under coordination of ECPGR Secretariat (EVA 2.0):

EVA Carrot – New accession sets defined and under evaluation by companies, Proposal for *Agroecology Partnership*

EVA Lettuce – GWAS analysis for Bremia resistance in *Lactuca serriola*

EVA Maize and Pepper – ECPGR Grant Scheme activities to define new accession sets

EVA Legumes – Implementation through EVA Boost project

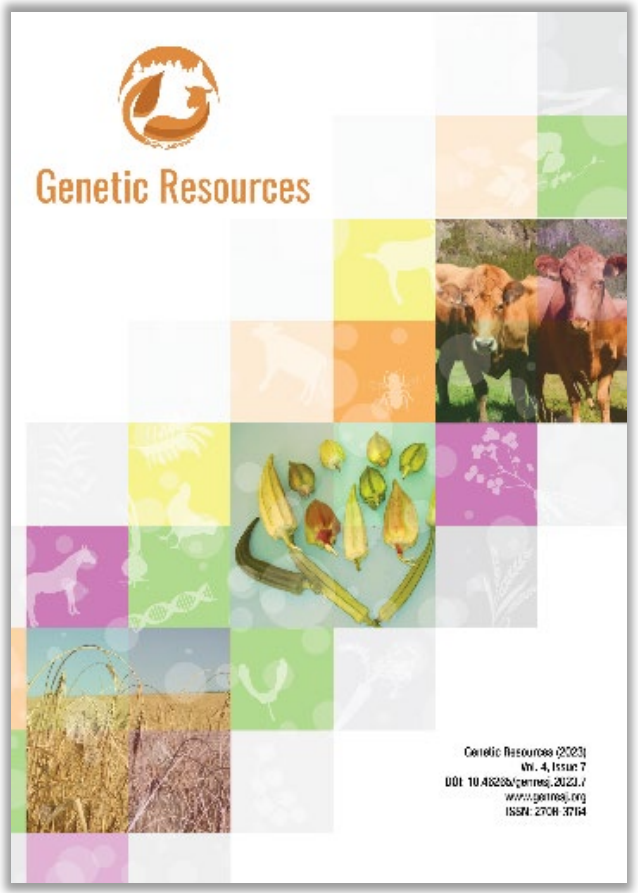
EVA Wheat and Barley – Evaluation of AGENT SSDs, proposal for *ECPGR Grant scheme*

EVA Perennials – Roadmap towards establishment via EVA Boost and *Horizon proposals*

ECP/GR

Genetic Resources

Open-access journal for stakeholders



- Diamond open-access journal – free to publish and read
- Dissemination of research, opinions and other articles on genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Developed within H2020 project GenResBridge
- Published by ECPGR and ERFP
- Editors welcome!

European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
ECP/GR

ERFP

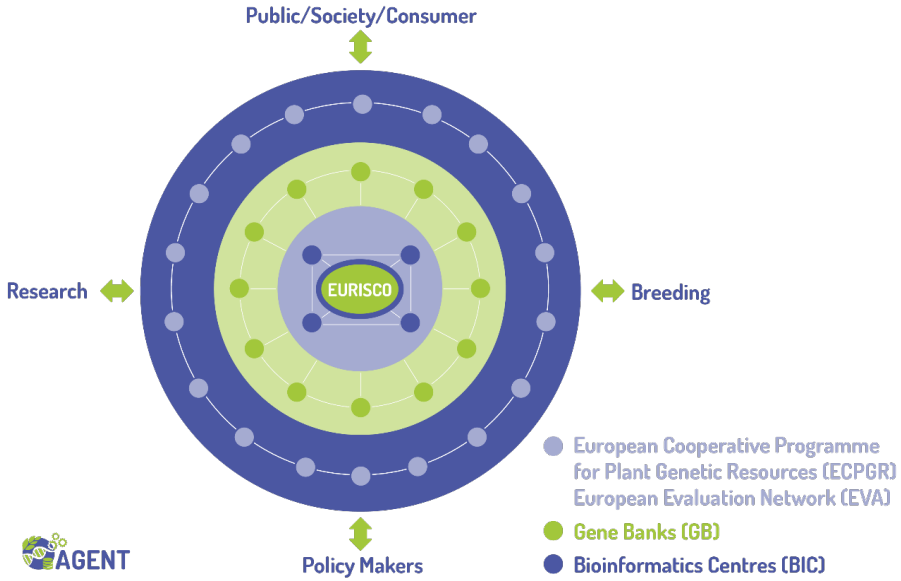
www.genresj.org

ECP/GR

AGENT
Activated GEnebank NeTwork

Objectives:

- Create actively cooperating Genebank networks and implement new ways of assessing global wheat and barley collections
- Genotype and phenotype partners' wheat and barley collections, curate historic data
- Develop data management and analysis pipelines and build bioinformatics capacity in genebanks
- Implement new ways of QC and QM, conduct genebank peer reviews

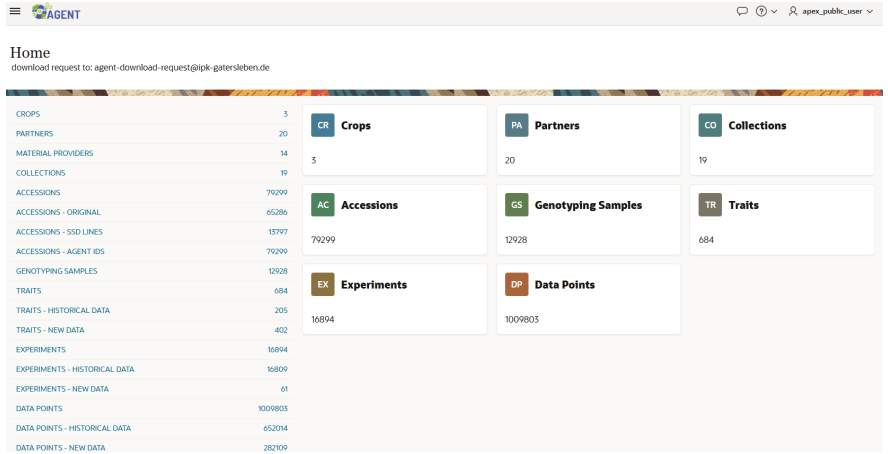


The AGENT project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 862613.

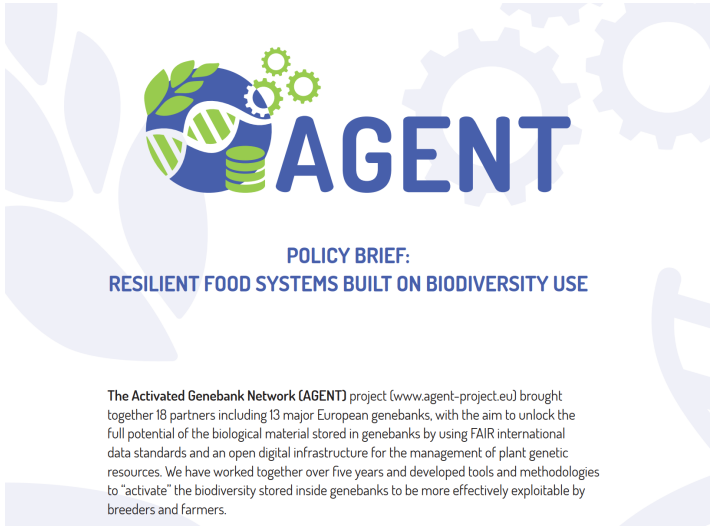
AGENT

Main outputs:

- Extensive datasets in AGENT Portal
- Policy brief and position papers
- Peer review visits involving 11 genebanks
- https://agent-project.eu/



https://agent.ipk-gatersleben.de/



https://agent-project.eu/outputs/downloads/AGENT_policy-brief_02.pdf

Genebank Peer Reviews: A powerful tool to improve genebank quality and promote collaboration

Theo van Hintum[a], Sharon Balding[b], Gergana Desheva[c], John Dickie[b], María José Díez[d], Luis Guasch[c], Pavol Hauptvogel[f], Vojtěch Holubec[g], Dagmar Janovská[g], Ulrike Lohwasser[h], Isaura Martín[c], Ludmila Papoušková[g], Beate Schierscher-Viret[i], Lise Lykke Steffensen[j], Katya Uzundzhalieva[c], Patrizia Vaccino[k] and José Vicente Valcárcel[d]

https://www.doi.org/10.46265/genresj.OADZ7911

Strengthening European research cooperation on plant genetic resources conservation and use

Sandra Goritschnig *,[a], Stephan Weise[b], Filippo Guzzon[a], Lorenzo Maggioni[a], Theo Van Hintum[c], Lise Lykke Steffensen[d], Nils Stein[b,c] and Giovanni Giuliano[f]

https://www.doi.org/10.46265/genresj.LUZJ7324

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