

# ALLIUM WG REPORT (2024–2025)

In preparation for the 18th Steering Committee Meeting, Tbilisi, Georgia, 2-4 June 2026

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## 1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

### 1.1. Achievements and success stories

- To efficiently conserve and provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through AEGIS and the European Collection

A total of 1,750 *Allium* accessions from seven countries are currently included in AEGIS. The majority of accessions (1,247) belong to six species:

Species	Num. of acc.	Country
<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	208	Bulgaria (2), Germany (106), Netherlands (19), Nordic Countries (37), United Kingdom (44)
<i>Allium cepa</i>	466	Estonia (1), Germany (276), Italy (1), Netherlands (77), Nordic Countries (24), United Kingdom (87)
<i>Allium fistulosum</i>	75	Germany (62), Nordic Countries (4), United Kingdom (9)
<i>Allium porrum</i>	37	Netherlands (37)
<i>Allium sativum</i>	385	Czech Republic (82), Germany (303)
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	76	Germany (26), Netherlands (10), Nordic Countries (40)
	1247	

- To provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGRFA diversity ex situ and in situ through the EURISCO catalogue

Members of the *Allium* WG contribute to the EURISCO catalogue, with data updated annually. In 2025, all *Allium* WG members submitted up-to-date information on their collections to the Chair. Together, members hold 10,139 accessions in their collections. The largest collections are garlic (2,941 accessions), onion (3,854), shallot (935), leek (754), chives (191), Welsh onion (294), and *Allium ramosum* L. (46).

- To improve *in situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives

*Allium* WG members are not currently known to use *in situ* conservation. We have started discussions within the AG on this topic. A proposal on *Allium ursinum* is being prepared under the Third Call for Proposals of the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme (Phase XI).

- To promote on-farm conservation and management of European PGRFA diversity

*Allium* WG members are not known to be using on-farm conservation

- To promote use of PGRFA

Cooperation with breeding companies, preparing an open day in GB, delivering lectures at secondary schools and universities.

## 1.2. Gaps or constraints identified

In the Czech Republic, the AEGIS collection includes 78 accessions maintained according to current *Allium*-specific field genebank standards (*Progress Report of the AEGIS Model Crop: Allium, July 2008*), which require 40 plants per accession in the field. Discussions have now started on the possibility of including accessions conserved in cryobanks in AEGIS, as maintaining field collections is time- and labour-intensive.

There are challenges with the current list of WG members. Some contact information is outdated, and responses from colleagues are often delayed. For example, repeated attempts to contact some members were unsuccessful, only to later learn that they had retired several years ago. Communicating updates to all members is therefore difficult, and locating correct email addresses often requires extensive “detective work.” While not all WG members are expected to be highly active, waiting six weeks for responses can slow progress. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to have a large group of active members within the WG.

Financial constraints are another limitation. Increasing project budgets could improve participation and engagement. During project preparation, I received feedback such as: “*I wouldn’t even pick up a pencil for that money; I want to be in the project, but I won’t do anything because I don’t have time.*” Additionally, labour costs vary significantly between countries – for example, an hour of work in one country may cost at least twice as much as in another – posing further challenges for equitable participation.

## 2. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES, WG MEETINGS AND EVA ACTIVITIES

- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted:1; approved:1)**
  - [GARLI-CCS](#) (Genotyping-by-sequencing of the European garlic collection to develop a sustainable ex situ conservation strategy), in collaboration with Cryopreservation and Documentation & Information WGs
- **Total number of partners involved in Grant Scheme: 21 from 16 countries**
  - ECPGR-funded: 16 from 16 countries
  - Self-funded: 5 from 3 countries
- **Meetings held**
  - Garli-CCS Final meeting, 20-22 May 2025, IPK Gatersleben, Germany, in conjunction with the ECPGR *Allium* Working Group meeting
  - Garli-CCS-Cryopreservation workshop, 17-20 September 2024, Prague, Czech Republic
  - Second Garli-CCS virtual meeting, 22 September 2023
  - First Garli-CCS virtual meeting, 10 March 2023

- **Total number of partners involved in WG Meeting: 23 from 19 countries**
  - ECPGR-funded: 13 from 12 countries; Self-funded: 6 from 6 countries; Online: 4 from 4 countries
- **Reports and related data**
  - [Garli-CCS final report](#)
  - [Report of a Working Group on \*Allium\*, Ninth Meeting](#)
- **Funds mobilized**
  - ECPGR granted funds: €19,999 (Total for the Garli-CCS grant: €59,997)
  - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: €26,207 (Total for the Garli-CCS grant: €78,620)

### **3. OTHER ACTIVITIES (CROSS-WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES)**

- **Cross-Working Group activities:**  
The *Allium* WG has good cooperation with the Cryopreservation WG. We successfully submitted a project under the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme – Garli-CCS. We found several topics for our next cooperation (cryopreservation of problematic seed and shallot).
- **Others:**  
The *Allium* WG would like to start cooperation with the Crop Wild Relatives WG

### **4. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

- None

### **5. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

We plan to submit projects focusing on current and significant topics. A key focus will be the promotion of locally produced specialty vegetables, which is particularly important in the Baltic region.