

## Annex I - ECPGR Chairs Discussion Summary

Proposals to strengthen ECPGR Secretariat and WG coordination				
Topic Nos	Topics	Who Enacts	Additional funding required	ExCo comments
1	<i>How to better promote interaction between crop WGs.</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold regular short online meetings within the WGs (minimum 1 x year)</li> <li>• Summarize highlights/workplans/priorities of WGs on an annual basis</li> <li>• Encourage NCs to revise the lists of active WG members (maybe 2x per year) and indicate their specialization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairs</li> <li>• Chairs &amp; Secretariat to upload</li> <li>• Secretariat</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed</li> <li>• Agreed</li> <li>• Agreed to seek periodical confirmation of lists</li> </ul>
2	<i>How to better promote interaction between crop and thematic WGs.</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage joint Grant Scheme proposals requiring participation from at least one crop and one thematic WG (or GMN)</li> <li>• Approach thematic WGs early to maximise joint opportunities for projects and initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat</li> <li>• Chairs</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed to clearly indicate in the Call the possibility of joint proposals to maximise collaboration between crop and/or thematic working groups – indicating that it is not necessary to request the maximum budget</li> <li>• Agreed</li> </ul>
3	<i>How to better promote interaction between WGs and Genebank Managers Network (peer review, SOPs, risk management, etc.)</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite representatives of other WGs (crop, thematic, GMN) to attend meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairs &amp; Secretariat</li> </ul>	Small/None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed, maximum two representatives from other WGs in physical meetings, with corresponding budget increase</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage co-authored technical guidelines/protocols between WGs and GMN</li> <li>• Emphasize GMN, EURISCO, AEGIS and the EVA at the ECPGR website and give short explanations for new users + retrieve feedback regularly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairs</li> <li>• Secretariat</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed</li> <li>• GMN does not qualify to have a special button; include on the home page the video on the WGs role and add another general video about the ECPGR structure (AEGIS, EURISCO, EVA)</li> </ul>
4	How to enhance the external communication and visibility of WG outputs			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECPGR should proactively engage in advocacy for PGR conservation and use, and should make concerted efforts to influence policy both at EU and national levels</li> <li>• A dedicated ECPGR communication strategy is required, including professional infographics, key indicators, videos, coordinated social media communication etc. presented at FAO, EU biodiversity and breeding events.</li> <li>• Promote the use of the ECPGR logo to enhance visibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat</li> <li>• Secretariat</li> <li>• Secretariat and National Coordinators</li> </ul>	Medium-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is currently not a Secretarial task; ExCo will consult at the SC level the possibility to explore ways to improve the lobbying function as a joint effort of Secretary, ExCo Chair and observers in the SC (NGOs, Euroseeds, others)</li> <li>• A Communication Strategy already exists, infographics, videos and social media communication are already implemented. The Strategy will be reviewed/updated; members should be encouraged to subscribe to LinkedIn and benefit of the ongoing social media communication. Agreed to explore possibility to organize side events at FAO Commission meetings and FAO-Plant Treaty Governing Body meetings, to present ECPGR and its pillar initiatives.</li> <li>• Agreed on the need to encourage about displaying the ECPGR banners in national institutes and remind members to use the ECPGR logo and maybe QR codes.</li> </ul>
5	Post-PRO GRACE deliverable implementation via ECPGR			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No recommendations</li> </ul>			
6	Expanding the funding options, ensuring chances			

	<i>are not missed</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a small “funding intelligence group” within the Secretariat to lobby funding agencies, to inform potential consortium partners of new calls and aid application submission, as well as promote co-funding models o aid application preparation</li> <li>• Encourage ECPGR members to submit proposals to the Grant Scheme funds, particularly invite junior researchers and multi-working group applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat + Chairs + Steering Committee</li> </ul>	Large	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed to keep the ECPGR web page on funding opportunities updated; It can be regularly asked to an AI agent to look for relevant calls for proposals. The NCs should also be encouraged to provide information to the Secretariat about national funding opportunities for display on this web page.</li> <li>• Agreed that the Chairs encourage engagement of junior researcher in WG activities and encourage NCs to revise lists of members, including juniors</li> </ul>
7	<i>WG activity reviews in relation to European PGR Strategy and ECPGR Phase Targets</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG activities for each Phase should be designed, published and shared at the outset, explicitly aligned with the objectives of the European PGR Strategy and ECPGR Phase Targets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairs</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a good practice that is already recommended in the Chairs ToRs</li> </ul>
8	<i>WG Chairs contribution to Steering Committee decisions</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote a deeper knowledge of what ECPGR is expecting from each Chair (and member) and stronger connection between Chairs and the ExCo, review and update the nominations of the WG members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will make the WGs video available and improve information flow to the Chairs by sending them the minutes of the ExCo meetings</li> </ul>
9	<i>WG and ECPGR links to other PGR and Biodiversity communities</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalize strategic links with scientific key actors working in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (e.g. FAO Commission on GR,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat, Chairs &amp; ExCo</li> </ul>	Small	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECPGR already has links with relevant actors. An additional link with EPPO can be explored, which</li> </ul>

	<i>Crop Trust, CGIAR genebanks, EU Biodiversity Strategy actors, Plant Health authorities), targeting both cultivated and wild plants</i>			could be relevant for the Cryo WG and the genebank managers' network. Agreed to check the implementation status of the various MOUs Regarding the EU Biodiversity Strategy, it is related to the Ministries of Environment. It seems most appropriate that these links are established primarily at the national level.
10	<i>Increasing ECPGR funding, desirable and how?</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>ECPGR could provide stronger position in influencing the EU policy National coordinators through the Ministry of each country. It could propose a presence of ECPGR at EU level and propose topics to H2020 projects better related to ECPGR activities to ensure funding increase</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat &amp; ExCo</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These efforts were made throughout the years, with limited success. The Secretariat will seek to identify an appropriate representative from the EU Commission to be invited to the Steering Committee meeting.</li> </ul>
11	<i>Cost / benefit analysis of ECPGR activities</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Share knowledge to the community on the activities done by ECPGR (e.g. varieties maintained, characterized in the years, proposed projects, involvement in EU projects etc)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat &amp; Chairs</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several occasions are constantly created by the Secretariat to share knowledge (webinars, e-Bulletin, Annual reports, web site). Side events should also be organized based on opportunity and convenience. The Secretariat should also organize a webinar for the Chairs to go through the ECPGR web site and explain where to find information and how the communication strategy is implemented. It is also a task for the Chairs to share knowledge.</li> </ul>
12	<i>More directed WG Chairs actions, e.g. expectation of at least one WG virtual meeting per year to advance</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Be more proactive in the involvement of WG members, a) make annual virtual meetings and organize meetings in the frame of other</i></li> </ul>	Chairs	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed</li> </ul>

	<i>meetings/congresses, b) propose surveys, c) check members that are still active, d) have at least a member for each country/species that is active, e) distributing newsletter to members</i>			
13	<i>ECPGR Phase Target achievement improvement, to include ECPGR Annual WG Action Plans</i>			
Topics		Who Enacts	Additional funding required	ExCo comments
Enhanced role for junior WG members to ensure buy-in to WG objectives				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Propose a mentoring system with the WGs to ensure buy-in to WG objectives</i></li> </ul>		Sect./Chairs	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Already discussed under point 6</li> </ul>
Training requirement and provision for WG members, e.g. technical Summer Schools				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Enhanced role for junior WG members to ensure buy in to WG objectives</i></li> <li><i>Training requirements and provision for WG members, e.g. technical Summer Schools</i></li> <li><i>Review and provide training for WG members, involving summer schools, junior working groups, mentorship, grant scheme mobility and social media</i></li> </ul>			Large	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no funding for this task which is currently not part of the ECPGR agenda.</li> </ul>
Common risks and threats to European PGR conservation – and how to respond together				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Erratic and generally insufficient financial support to achieve PGR conservation and sustainable us; raise public awareness about the risks connected to food security (pathogens outbreaks and yield loss), also considering climate change and the geopolitical instability (example reported by Maxted for UK)</i></li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is not a core role of ECPGR to provide these documents, but studies are published by various agencies and can be circulated to encourage use of existing arguments whenever public awareness events are held or messages are prepared.</li> </ul>

Addressing and meeting PGR standards using agreed criteria, strict or passive application			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Prepare along the long document a concise and precise one with the priorities to follow and synthesized as bullet points</i></li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ExCo finds it difficult to understand to what document the Chairs are referring. In the case of the AQUAS standards, these can be exemplified in a webinar</li> </ul>