

# MAIZE 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  
No organized activities were carried out within the WG.
- To provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGRFA diversity *ex situ* and *in situ* through the EURISCO catalogue  
Phenotypic data collected within the EVA Maize Network are stored in EURISCO-EVA database during the embargo period.
- To improve *in situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives  
No
- To promote on-farm conservation and management of European PGRFA diversity  
On-farm conservation of maize is not applicable in Europe.
- To promote use of PGRFA  
The promotion of maize genetic resources and their utilization was carried out through oral and poster presentations at international and national scientific conferences.

### 1.2. Gaps or constraints identified

They have not been identified so far.

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

- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted:1; approved:1)**
  - [MALANIRS](#) (MAize LAndraces traits phenomic prediction using Near InfraRed Spectra)
- **Total number of partners involved in Grant Scheme: 15 from 12 countries**
  - ECPGR-funded: 14 from 12 countries
  - Self-funded: 1 from 1 country
- **Meetings held**
  - MALANIRS meeting, jointly with the ECPGR Maize Working Group meeting and EVA Maize meeting, 2 October 2025, Zemun Polje, Serbia
  - MALANIRS Kick-off meeting, 27 February 2025, Bergamo, Italy

- **Total number of partners involved in WG Meeting: 32 from 11 countries**
  - ECPGR-funded (in-person): 9 from 5 countries
  - Online: 23 from 8 countries
- **Reports and related data**
  - [Summary report of the joint ECPGR Maize Working Group, Malanirs project and EVA Maize meeting, 2 October 2025, Zemun Polje, Serbia](#)
- **Funds mobilized**
  - ECPGR granted funds: €29,920
  - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: €30,500

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

- **Cross-Working Group activities:** none
- **Others:** Some WG members are actively involved in the project MineLandDiv <https://www.suscrop.eu/call-information/4th-call/minelanddiv>, and some are included in different activities (providing seeds, field testing etc.).

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

- [Crop-specific Conservation Standards for 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. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biology13060454>
- 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>
- Landoni M., Bertoncini A., Ghidoli M., Rossi G., Cassani E., Locatelli S., Balconi C., Pilu R. PGRFA management of outcrossing plants propagated by seed: from on farm to *ex situ* conservation and some case studies. *Agronomy* 2024, 14, 1030. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy14051030>
- Vaccino P., Antonetti M., Balconi C., Brandolini A., Cappellozza S., Angelo Raffaele Caputo A.R., Carboni A., Caruso M., Copetta A. et al. Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: The Role and Contribution of CREA (Italy) within the National Program RGV-FAO. *Agronomy*. 2024, 14, 1263. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy14061263>

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

Our collaboration will continue through the MALANIRS project, and we hope that new opportunities and possibilities for joint activities and projects will emerge in the future.