

# VITIS WG REPORT (2024–2025)

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

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Date of compilation: 02 February 2026

## 1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

### 1.1. Achievements and success stories

- During the meetings of the Sylvestris Activity (both the on-line and the in-person meetings), it has repeatedly been stated the need to strengthen the *in situ* conservation while encouraging the *ex situ* conservation either in national or international collections.
- The Sylvestris Activity was aiming to update and enrich the distribution of *Vitis sylvestris* occurrence in Europe by providing the opportunity to WG/*Vitis* country members to continue their efforts on the localization and conservation of natural *V. sylvestris* population.  
Another aim of this Activity was to allow those country members that did not participate in the previous InWiGrape Activity to catch up while being guided by the more experienced colleagues.  
Both these aims have been achieved as new natural populations have been identified both in the countries that had participated in InWiGrape and also those that did not – the updated distribution map is available in the Sylvestris Final Activity Report.  
Moreover, in the group publication (Roedel et al, 2024), nearly 3,000 genotypes had been examined and analyzed, covering the whole of the European region.
- A third aim of Sylvestris Activity was to keep monitoring the *V. sylvestris*-related scientific papers that enrich the international bibliography. By doing so, a remarkable fact came up: more than two thirds (67,37%) of the international *V. sylvestris*-related bibliography has been published during the last 16 years revealing the growing interest studies on the *V. sylvestris* has attracted, on a plethora of scientific disciplines (Merkouropoulos et al. 2025, Agriculture 15, 1301; <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture15121301>).

### 1.2. Gaps or constraints identified

Although the Call to participate in the Sylvestris Activity was sent to all the partner country members (35), only 16 of them responded and finally participated in the Activity. The non-participation of the remaining 19 country member partners could be partly due to the application of inadequate information procedures applies. For example, during the final webinar (29 May 2025), a member of the audience mentioned that he got informed about the webinar by a third party rather than receiving a direct invitation from the organizers of the webinar.

Therefore, it is becoming evident that new ways/methods need to be incorporated aiming to inform those who would be interested to participate actively in the Activities. These “new ways/methods” to attract potential interested partners could/should be a topic of discussion in the near future meetings. For example, maybe the WG Chairs could/should contact either the National Coordinators directly asking them to update the list of participants, or alternatively, WG Chairs could/should contact potentially interested scientists informing them about the ECPGR Activities and asking them to join the WGs.

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

- **Ongoing Grant Scheme proposals (Phase X: submitted:1; approved:1)**
  - [SYLVESTRIS](#) (Increasing the efficiency of conservation of *Vitis sylvestris* genetic resources in Europe)
- **Total number of partners involved in Grant Scheme: 30 from 16 countries**
  - ECPGR-funded: 30 from 16 countries
  - Self-funded: 0
- **Meetings held**
  - Sylvestris, Kick-off meeting, online kick-off meeting, 17 March 2023
  - Sylvestris, Second meeting, Kavala, Greece, 10-11 October 2023
  - Sylvestris, Final meeting, online, 29 May 2024
  - ECPGR Webinar on *Vitis sylvestris* conservation, 29 May 2025 (available at: <https://www.ecpgr.org/working-groups/vitis/sylvestris>)
- **Reports and related data**
  - Final Activity report
  - Sylvestris bibliography
  - Sylvestris newly identified natural populations [Data available upon request to the Vitis Working Group Chair]
- **Funds mobilized (Ongoing from Phase X)**
  - ECPGR granted funds: € 25,520
  - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: €0

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

- **Cross-Working Group activities:** n/a
- **Others:** Since the European region has been adequately covered, the regions in the East (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan) could be a future potential target. Maybe to invite interested partners from these regions to join our WG activities.

## 4. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Final Activity Report (<https://www.ecpgr.org/resources/ecpgr-publications/publication/sylvestris-final-activity-report-2025>)
- Bibliography (updated twice in a year; last update: 15 January 2026)
- Röckel F, Margaryan K, Merkouropoulos G, Laucou V, De Lorenzis G, Tello J, Zdunić G, de Andrés M, Baeta F, Cunha J, Failla O, Grandó MS, Ibáñez J, Lacombe T, Marinov L, Muñoz G, Pellissetti G, Savvides S, Schneider A, Taskos D, Uzun I, Ivanišević D, Maletic E, Perko A, Rabanus-Wallace MT, Vrsic S, Töpfer R, Maul E (2024) A population genetic study of *Vitis vinifera* L. subsp. *sylvestris* Gmelin based on 3.000 individuals from 20 countries. IVES Conference Series, OIV 2024.

- Röckel F, De Lorenzis G, Tello J, Zdunić G, Rabanus-Wallace MT, Margaryan K, Merkouropoulos G, Laucou V, de Andrés M, Baeta F, Cunha J, Failla O, Grandó MS, Ibáñez J, Lacombe T, Maletić E, Marinov L, Muñoz G, Pellissetti G, Perko A, Savvides S, Schneider A, Taskos D, Vršič S, Uzun HI, Töpfer R, Maul E (xxx2026xxx) What 2,900 wild grapevines reveal about the genetic diversity of *Vitis vinifera* L. subsp. *sylvestris*. GBG 2026

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

The Sylvestris Activity was the continuation of the previous ECPGR WG *Vitis* InWildGrape activity. It was accepted by the colleagues pointing the continuous interest on *V. sylvestris* studies. During the discussion in the final open Webinar (29 May 2025), a member of the audience suggested that Azerbaijan could visit/host a potential future Sylvestris related meeting. Moreover, at least two of the attendees offered as potential future partners in collaborative projects. Taken together the above, it is evident that there is a growing interest on *V. sylvestris* for the years to come.