



Launch of the

# GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGIES FOR EUROPE

30 NOVEMBER 2021 | 8:30 - 13:00

Thon Hotel EU (Rue de la Loi 75)  
Brussels, Belgium

## INTRODUCTION

### THE LAUNCH OF THE LINKED GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGIES FOR EUROPE AIMS TO:

- Present the *overarching Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe*
- Present the three *domain-specific Plant, Animal and Forest Genetic Resources Strategies for Europe*
- Provide an opportunity to interact with panellists discussing the **uptake of the Strategies at European and national levels**

Several international policy frameworks call for a step change in the conservation of plant, forest and animal genetic resources, including the FAO Global Plans of Action for Plant, Forest and Animal Genetic Resources, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Forest Europe process.

Despite past efforts to enhance genetic resources conservation and use, such initiatives remain **under-represented at European policy level**. This has become of greater concern in the light of current changing conditions that affect both agriculture and forestry, and considering genetic resources' capacity to provide multiple ecosystem and other services now and in future. Key challenges requiring attention are i) **adapting to the impacts of climate change**; ii) **transitioning to more sustainable and resilient agriculture and forestry**, and iii) **sustainably meeting consumer demands for quality, diverse, and ethically-produced food, and non-food products**.

The overarching Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe and the three strategies for plant, animal and forest aim to provide a **policy framework for securing genetic resources for food, agriculture and forestry** in the region. Together, these Strategies present a vision for improved genetic resources management in Europe and include action plans that pave the way towards their implementation. Crucially, the Strategies will increase awareness about the importance of genetic resources for sustainable and resilient agriculture and forestry in the region and highlight the urgent need for adequate and long-term financing for their management.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 817580

This event is organised in collaboration with the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU

## BACKGROUND

The **Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe** is a product of the **GenRes Bridge Project**<sup>1</sup>, a Coordination and Support Action funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, involving 17 partner organizations representing a wide range of actors in plant, animal and forest genetic resources conservation and sustainable use in Europe and neighbouring countries. Central to the project has been a collaboration between the three European genetic resources networks, **ECPGR**<sup>2</sup> (the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources), **ERFP**<sup>3</sup> (the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources) and **EUFORGEN**<sup>4</sup> (the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme). The collaboration aimed to identify synergies and joint actions to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of genetic resources conservation and sustainable use activities in the region. The *Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe* is a key outcome of this collaboration and responds to the European Commission's call to "provide a framework in which the existing mosaic of European, national/regional structures can join forces to develop and implement ambitious approaches and strategies for the management of crop, forest and animal genetic resources."

In parallel with and linked to the development of the overarching strategy, the three European networks for plant, animal and forest genetic resources, ECPGR, ERFP and EUFORGEN have been developing the **Plant, Animal and Forest Genetic Resources Strategies for Europe** respectively.

The *Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe* is an overarching, integrated strategy with a focus on plant, animal and forest genetic resources. Complementary to this, 'domain-specific' strategies address more concrete aspects of genetic resources conservation and sustainable use that are particular to each domain.

The *Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe* and the domain-specific strategies should be seen as a suite of policy documents and approaches that together provide the framework for enabling the transition to effective genetic resources conservation and sustainable use within the region, and possibly beyond.

The Strategies will be a **new landmark for European agriculture and forestry**: they will be guiding documents for Europe and individual countries and other relevant stakeholders as well as a unique global example of best practice in conservation and management of genetic resources to help meet future demands in farming, forestry and food security for the European society and beyond.

## EVENT OVERVIEW

The process<sup>5</sup> of developing the *Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe* will culminate in a high-level event in Brussels when the *Strategy* will be officially launched. The event targets European policy makers, national representatives and representatives of the broader stakeholder community.

The high-level, half-day event will be held in the Thon Hotel EU (Rue de la Loi 75, Brussels) and will be attended by representatives of the European Commission, National policy makers, Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the Steering Committees of the three networking programmes (ECPGR, ERFP and EUFORGEN), and representatives of the broader stakeholder community and international organisations.

The event will start with the **presentation of the Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe** and the **three domain-specific strategies**. It will be followed by a **panel** of representatives of **the three European genetic resources Networks** and of the **European Commission**. The panel will reply to questions from the participants.

The event will be streamed live online and will end with a networking lunch (complying with COVID-19 requirements).

**register at:**  
→ [genresbridge.eu/30-nov-2021](https://genresbridge.eu/30-nov-2021)

<sup>1</sup> [genresbridge.eu](https://genresbridge.eu) - This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 817580

<sup>2</sup> [ecpgr.cgiar.org](https://ecpgr.cgiar.org)

<sup>3</sup> [animalgeneticresources.net](https://animalgeneticresources.net)

<sup>4</sup> [euforgen.org](https://euforgen.org)

<sup>5</sup> [genresbridge.eu/resources/european-strategy](https://genresbridge.eu/resources/european-strategy)

## Launching of the Genetic Resources Strategies for Europe

30 November 2021 / Thon Hotel EU (Rue de la Loi 75, Brussels)\*

🕒 8:30 – 9:00

### Registration

🕒 9:00 – 9:30

### Opening addresses

#### Master of Ceremonies

*Christian Huyghe* (French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), France)

#### Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

*Robert Režonja* (Director-General, Forestry and Hunting Directorate, Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food)

*Jože Podgoršek* (Minister, Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food)

#### European Parliament

*Marlene Mortler* (Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development)

🕒 9:30 – 10:00

### SESSION 1: Introduction

#### Global commitments in Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

*Irene Hoffmann* (Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO))

#### European Commission's activities on genetic resources with a focus on Research and Innovation

*Annette Schneegans*  
(European Commission, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development)

#### GenRes Bridge project & the three European genetic resources networks

*Michele Bozzano* (GenRes Bridge Project – European Forest Institute (EFI))

🕒 10:00 – 11:00

### SESSION 2: GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGIES FOR EUROPE

#### Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe

*Shelagh Kell* (University of Birmingham, UK), *on behalf of GenRes Bridge Project*

#### PLANT Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe

*Theo van Hintum* (Centre for Genetic Resources of Wageningen University of Research, the Netherlands) *on behalf of ECPGR*

#### ANIMAL Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe

*Danijela Bojkovski* (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) *on behalf of ERF*

#### FOREST Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe:

*Anna-Maria Farsakoglou* (European Forest Institute) *on behalf of EUFORGEN*

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🕒 11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

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🕒 11:30 – 12:45 **SESSION 3: Uptake of the Strategies at European and national levels**

**Introduction**

*Robert Mavsar (European Forest Institute)*

**Panel discussion**

**Representatives of the European Commission**

**DG AGRI:** *Annette Schneegans*

**DG ENV:** *Anne Teller*

**DG CLIMA:** *Peter Löffler*

**Representatives of the three European genetic resources networks**

**PLANT:** Frank Begemann  
(Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany)  
*on behalf of ECPGR*

**ANIMAL:** *Sipke-Joost Hiemstra*  
(Centre for Genetic Resources of Wageningen University of  
Research, the Netherlands) *on behalf of ERF*

**FOREST:** *Frank Wolter*  
(Nature and Forest Agency, Luxembourg) *on behalf of EUFORGEN*

**Questions and answers with the audience and online participants**

**Summary of the Panel discussion and concluding remarks**

*Nigel Maxed (University of Birmingham, UK), on behalf of GenRes Bridge Project*

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🕒 12:45 – 13:00 **Closure of the event**

**GenRes Bridge Project**

*Michele Bozzano (GenRes Bridge Project coordinator, EFI)*

**Forthcoming French Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

*Bruno Ferreira (Director General for food, French Ministry of Agriculture and Food)*

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🕒 13:00 – 15:00 **NETWORKING LUNCH**

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