

On the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources in Europe: a stakeholder analysis

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“Enhanced Genepool Utilization –
Capturing wild relative and landrace diversity for crop improvement”

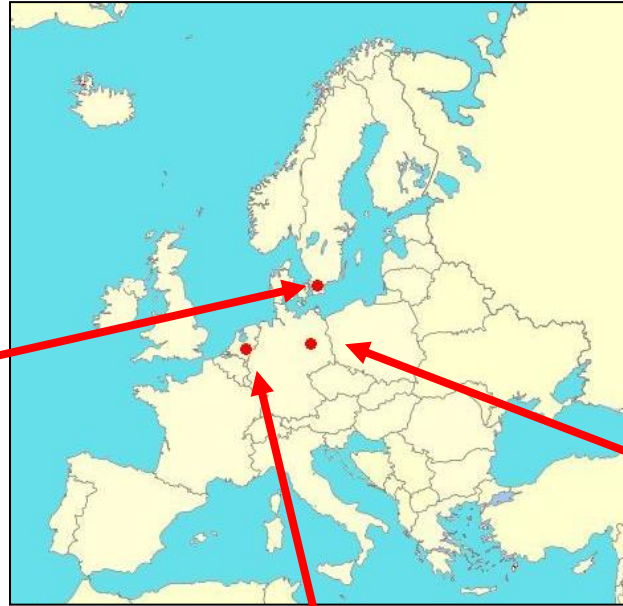
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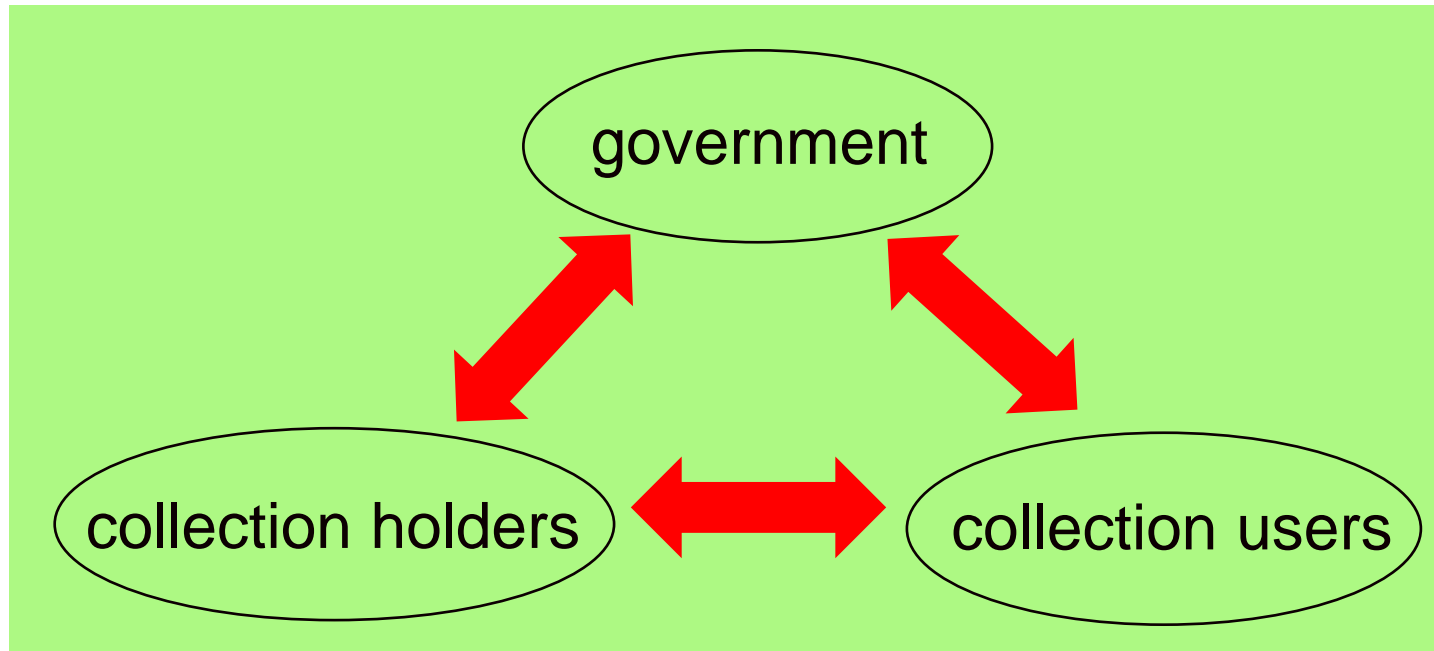
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WP5: Engaging the user community

The aim

- Gain a better understanding of the constraints in plant genetic resource (PGR) conservation and use in Europe
 - Based on this information develop recommendations on how the PGR system in Europe can be improved. This is done in consultation with representatives of the stakeholders.
- Create opportunities to develop new partnerships among PGR stakeholders and to promote the flow of pre-breeding material and information gained in the project to stakeholders
- General and long term aim: Promote the use of plant genetic resources in Europe

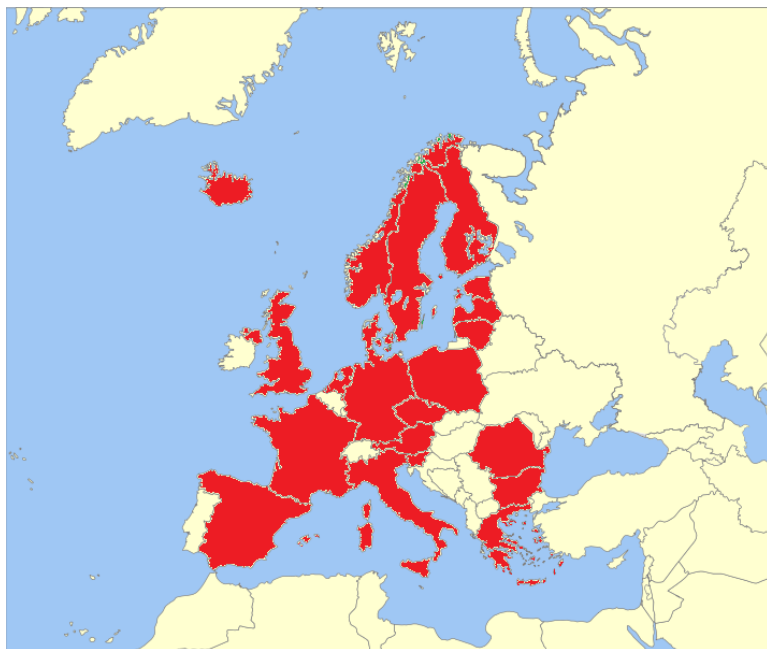
The PGR stakeholders



gene banks
public research
agro-NGOs

breeders
public research
agro-NGOs

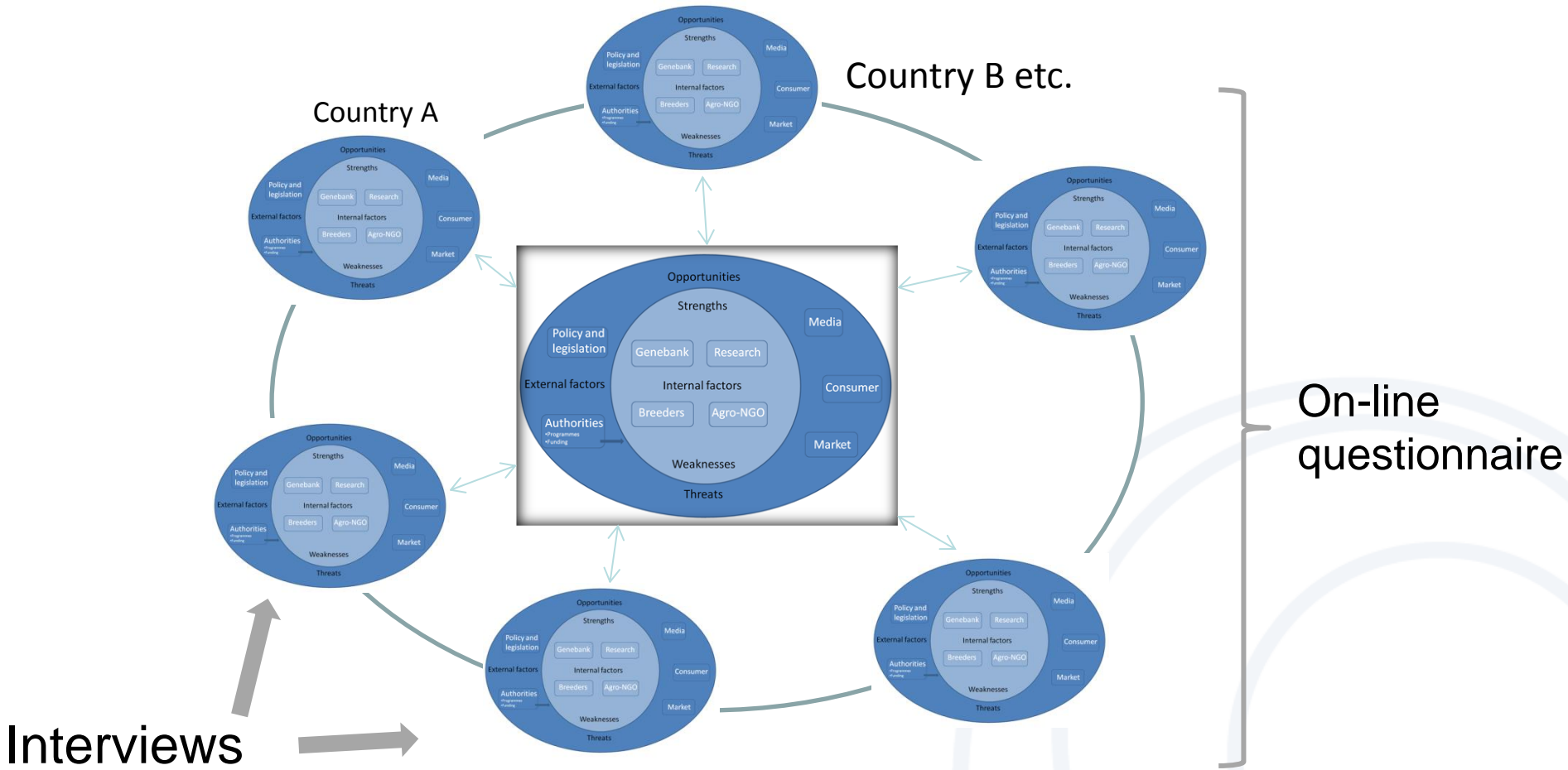
The approach



red: countries analysed

- Collect relevant data concerning the current PGR stakeholder situation in Europe on the basis of:
 1. interviews using pre-determined questions (133 interviews in 21 countries)
 2. on-line questionnaire (226 respondents)

The approach



The approach

- Analyse the data obtained using a SWOT approach
 - Target states – the goal – the ideal plant germplasm system in Europe
 - Identification of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
 - Strategies – how to reach the goal
- Draft report discussed and modified at a stakeholder workshop
- Final report



The workshop in Wageningen, November 2013: 83 people from gene banks, breeding companies, public research, NGOs and government



Threats

stakeholder group gene bank (as an example)

- Insufficient support of germplasm conservation activities at all governmental levels.
- The ECPGR program is currently renovated, however, without a substantial increase of the budget the survival of the program is threatened.
- The native plant species and habitat conservation sector and the agricultural PGR conservation sector do not cooperate in the field of *in situ* conservation in a structured way.



Weaknesses

stakeholder group gene bank

- Gene banks are seldom leading the development of national *in situ* management and on-farm management strategies.
- Most gene banks are not independent with respect to their program, funds or staff.
- *Ex situ* management of PGR in many gene banks is not based on defined, written quality management standards such as AQUAS.



Strengths

stakeholder group gene bank

- In general, the crop group composition of *ex situ* holdings agrees with the interests and needs of the user community (public research, plant breeders, farmers and agro-NGOs).
- All of the interviewed gene banks have established computerised gene bank information systems.
- All countries provide some funds for conservation activities through national agrobiodiversity and other environmental protection strategies.



Opportunities

stakeholder group gene bank

- EU programs can support national *ex situ*, *in situ* and on-farm conservation activities.
- PGR conservation activities are backed up by national agrobiodiversity and other nature protection strategies in most countries and in some countries conservation measures are further detailed in national PGR expert programs.
- EURISCO could potentially act as the information backbone of an EU-PGS and the goal should be one integrated European information system.



Strategies to improve the analysed system.

Strategy	Abbreviation	Explanation
Strength and opportunity strategy	SO	Use strengths to take advantage of opportunities
Strength and threat strategy	ST	Use strengths to reduce the likelihood and impact of threats
Weakness and opportunity strategy	WO	Make use of opportunities to overcome weaknesses
Weakness and threat strategy	WT	Minimise weaknesses and threats



The weaknesses and threats can be overcome by taking advantage of the strengths and opportunities in the system

12 main recommendations on how to improve the system

Juridical status of gene banks
Financial needs of gene banks
Information infrastructure
Access to collections
Research needs
Pre-breeding
PPP-projects

ABS
Strengthening NGO
Legal basis of PGR conservation
EU organizational and technical infrastructure
EU Plant Germplasm System

Thank you for listening!

The report will be found at:

<http://www.nordgen.org/index.php/en/content/view/full/2481>

For further information see:

www.pgrsecure.org

www.nordgen.org

PGR Secure is a collaborative project funded under the EU Seventh Framework Programme, THEME KBBE.2010.1.1-03, 'Characterization of biodiversity resources for wild crop relatives to improve crops by breeding'

