

Grapevine genetic resources network in the Caucasus and Northern Black Sea

**Fifth project meeting, Krasnodar, 15-17
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Improving lives through biodiversity research



Bioversity International - mission statement

“Bioversity undertakes, encourages and supports **research** and other activities on the **use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity**, especially genetic resources, to create more productive, resilient and sustainable harvests.”

Bioversity works with a global range of partners to mobilize science, to maximize impact, to develop capacity and to ensure that all stakeholders have a voice





Diversity for Well-Being

- Focus on people
- From plant genetic resources to agricultural biodiversity in the widest sense
- Commodity based production systems
- Policy and public awareness

How we work

No laboratories or field sites

Research with partners (national agricultural research organizations, NGOs, IGOs, Universities, local communities and others)


Also a catalyst, coordinator, facilitator, consensus broker, think tank

Interact with networks (Regional Networks, COGENT, MusaNet, CacaoNet and others)





Focus Areas

1. Managing agricultural biodiversity for better nutrition, improved livelihoods, and more sustainable production systems for the poor
 2. Conserving and promoting the use of biodiversity in selected commodity crops of special importance to the poor
 3. Enhancing the *ex situ* conservation and use of diversity
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Focus Areas

4. Conservation and sustainable use of forest and other wild species
5. International collaboration on conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity
6. Status, trends and valuation of agricultural biodiversity





Work in Europe

- Coordinate regional collaboration to promote the conservation and use of plant genetic resources – ECPGR, EUFORGEN
 - Influence European Union policies and programmes
 - Build capacity in low-income countries in south-eastern Europe
 - Foster collaboration with the Vavilov Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia, the largest genebank
 - Strengthen National Programmes
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Activities in Europe

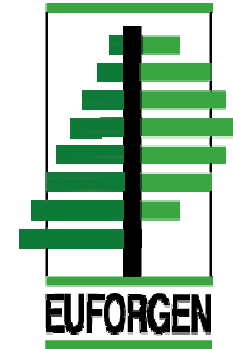
- European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)
 - Established in 1980
 - Phase VII (2004-2008)
 - National Coordinators, Steering Committee
 - Member countries (38) provide funding and technical inputs
 - 9 Networks and 18 Working Groups



- European Search Catalogue of crop germplasm (EURISCO)
 - European information system on crop genetic resources
 - More than 1 million accessions (passport data)
- Establishment of a European Genebank Integrated System (AEGIS)
 - Rationally conserve and make available *ex situ* genetic resources



Activities in Europe



- European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)
 - Established in 1994
 - Phase III (2005-2009)
 - National Coordinators, Steering Committee
 - Member countries (34) provide funding and technical inputs
 - 4 Networks and 1 Working Group
 - Linked to the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, MCPFE
 - EVOLTREE dissemination; EUFGIS

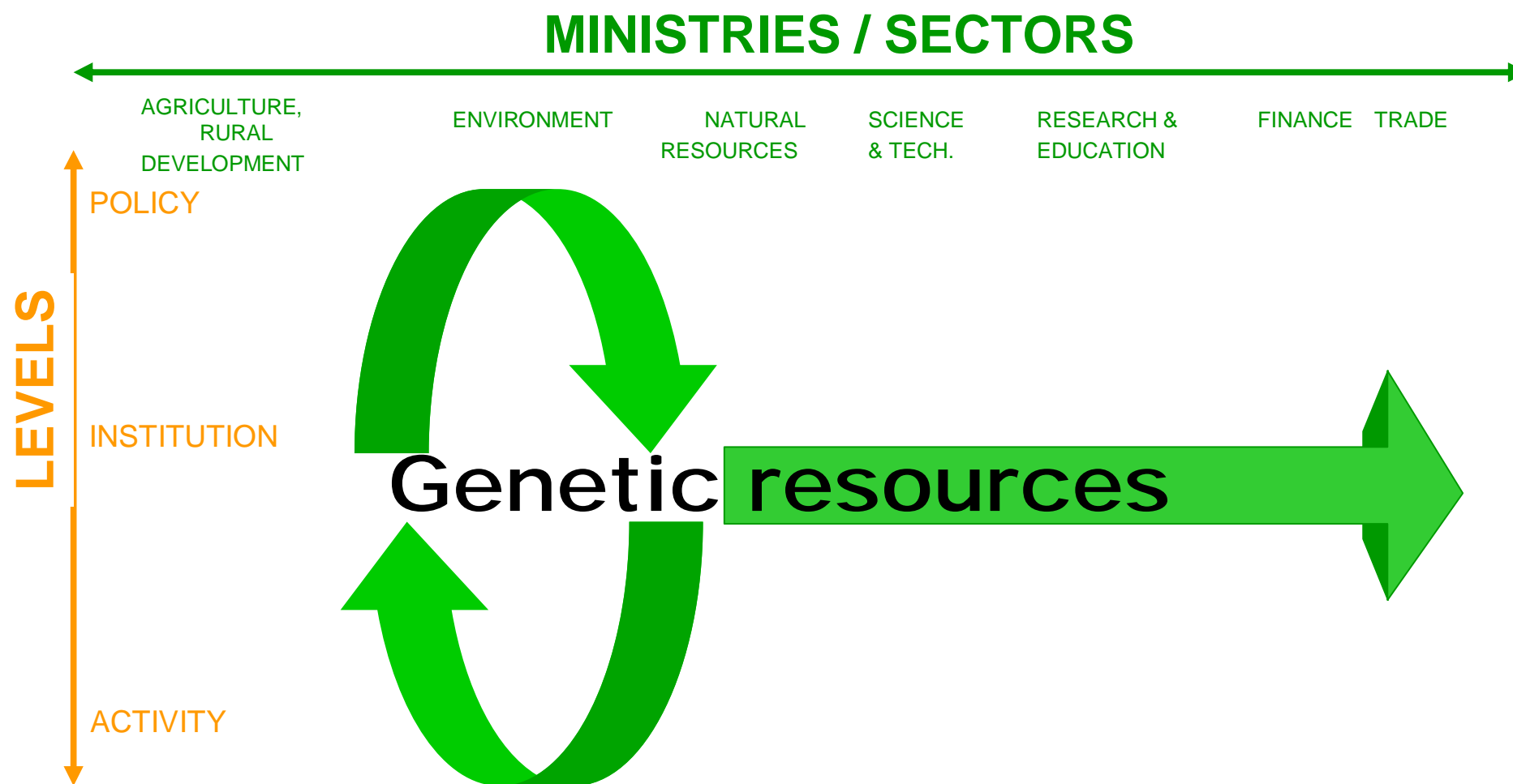


Activities in Europe

- Conservation, characterization and evaluation for nutrition and health of vegetatively propagated crop collections at the Vavilov Institute
 - Funded by Luxemburg (CGIAR contribution)
 - Centre de Recherche Public Gabriel Lippmann, Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry (VIR), Bioversity
- Developing training capacity and human resources for the management of forest biodiversity
 - Funded by Austria (CGIAR contribution)
 - Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), Bioversity



Strengthening National Programmes



Grapevine project

- Strengthen national capacities (institutions and human resources)
- Ensure long-term conservation of genetic resources
- Sustainable use through improved local viticulture
- Current three-year phase 2003-2006; one-year extension till end of 2007
- Financial support by Luxembourg joined by other countries and institutions; inputs in kind by the partners
- Dr David Maghradze appointed as project facilitator

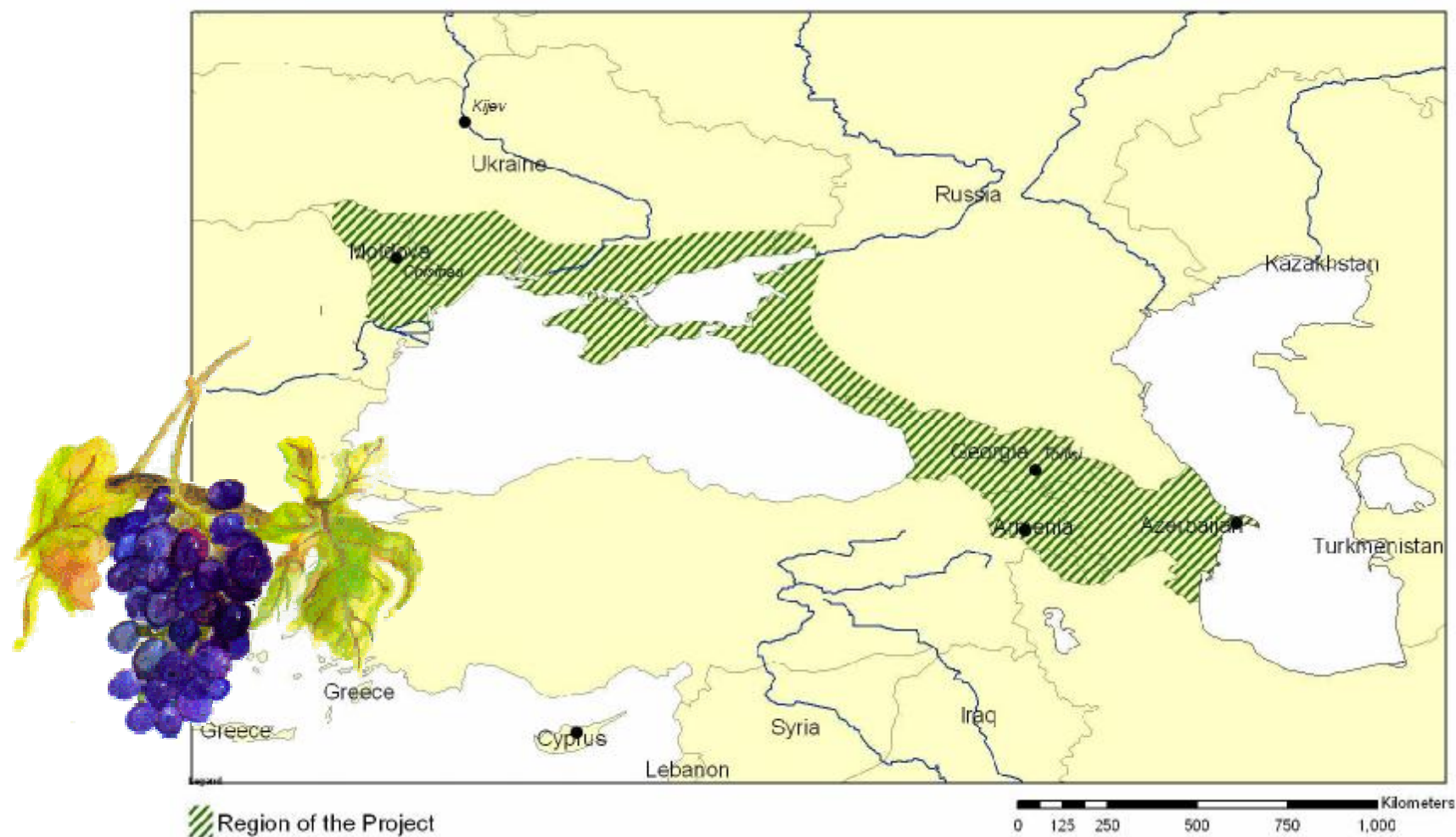




Grapevine diversity of global importance

- Primary centre for domestication of grapevine
- High levels of natural genetic variation
- Local, traditional varieties and wild relatives for genetic conservation as sources for future breeding
- Resistance to pests
- Challenges associated with socio-economic transition

Region of the Project



Main activities

- Field inventory, identification of varieties
- Multiplication of the genetic material under standard and safe conditions
- Re-planting genetic material in new collections in all 6 project countries
- Management, characterization and documentation of the collections
- Exchange of material among the countries
- Exploration of wild grapevine
- Characterization of genotypes using molecular markers



Information, documentation and training

- Comprehensive database with information on 2600 accessions
- Inputs to the European *Vitis* database and linkages with the European Search Catalogue EURISCO
- Research fellowships at CRPGL Luxembourg and University of Milano
- Raising public awareness – articles, conferences...
- Preparation of the monograph on the status of grapevine genetic resources in the Region



Objectives of the meeting

- Review the progress made in the current year
(Letters of Agreement signed with all six
institutes in the partner countries)
 - Finalize publication plan
 - Linkages with ongoing initiatives
(GrapeGen06)
 - Discuss emerging needs and priorities – and
capacities
 - Discuss funding opportunities for follow-up
work
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