



# Report of the fourteenth Steering Committee meeting

Definition and deliberation of EUFORGEN  
Phase VI  
Luxembourg, 9 April 2019





**Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering  
Committee  
Stadtbredimus, Luxembourg, 9 April 2019  
Definition and deliberation of EUFORGEN Phase VI**

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## 1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

*Welcome from Host Country* – F. Wolter welcomed the participants to Luxembourg and the 14<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting. In his introduction, he highlighted the growing emphasis on biodiversity conservation and on forest regeneration; now recognised as being of crucial importance for climate change adaptation of European forests. As such, he stressed the need to include long-term regeneration activities and the planting of selected provenances and species in forests. Relating to the host country, he mentioned that the Government of Luxembourg had decided to increase conservation areas in the country to 5%, an important aspect to protect local genetic resources. He extended his thanks to the work of the EUFORGEN Programme and all its members for the support for European forests and the wellbeing of society.

Afterwards, R. Mavsar addressed participants on behalf of EFI. M. Bozzano thanked Luxembourg and the GenTree project for the financial support for the meeting. He furthermore highlighted that, due to the meeting being hosted by EFI, EUFORGEN can benefit from the support of human resources from EFI Bonn's Resilience programme, that complements the Secretariat's expertise and capacities.

The National coordinators then introduced themselves and M. Bozzano introduced the agenda for the week. The agenda was approved without modification.

## 2. EUFORGEN Phase VI

### 2.1. Introduction to Phase VI

T. Eysteinnsson presented the draft *Strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VI*. He mentioned that at the 13<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting in Bonn, a Task Force had been established to plan the objectives and implementation of the next phase. The Task Force prepared options to define the *Operational Objectives* that EUFORGEN aims to accomplish during the next five years and the *Activities* to achieve these objectives.

In 2018, the Steering Committee developed EUFORGEN's Theory of Change that identified the overarching goal of contributing to sustainable forest management ensuring healthy European forests. As such, there were three overall *Objectives*:

1. Facilitate knowledge sharing and communicate with key stakeholders;
2. Coordinate the implementation of conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe;
3. Promote the appropriate use of forest genetic resources.

For each overall *Objective*, building on the draft developed by the Task Force, the Steering Committee defined the *Operational Objectives* for Phase VI. Consequently, for each *Operational Objective* the Steering Committee also defined the *Activities* for 2020-

2024, which are listed as Annex 4 (Implementation Plan for Phase VI) of the attached “EUFORGEN - Strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VI”.

## 2.2. EUFORGEN's *modus operandi*

During Phase VI, the following bodies will be added to the ones already existing during Phase V:

1. *Advisory Committee* which is going to be composed of four members of the Steering Committee, on a rotation basis, representing four European geographical regions. It will act as representative of the Programme, and support the EUFORGEN coordinator;
2. *Discussion Platforms*. All countries will nominate a representative for the *Discussion platform* which aims to offer an understanding of selected topics, the present knowledge at European level and together paint a complete picture of the issue – this will be one of the most important elements to achieve Objective 1 of Phase VI;
3. *National Experts* (nominated by National Coordinators), with the needed expertise to support the implementation of Phase VI bringing with them the national perspective, the personal knowledge contributing to the scientific, and the technical and geographical capacity of the programme.

## 2.3. Phase VI budget and finance

M. Bozzano introduced the budget and financial options for EUFORGEN phase VI. He provided a detailed explanation of how the funds will be managed, the amount and purpose of each expense, as well as the expected amount to be carried forward from the current Phase. The Steering Committee agreed to set-aside a reserve equivalent to 90 working days of operations. This reserve will be constituted using carry-forward funds from the previous Phase V.

The Steering Committee decided to maintain a similar budget to phase V and, through the introduction of new thresholds, to enable more equity in the country contributions. The Steering Committee analysed three different options for Annual Financial Contributions for Member Countries for Phase VI (based on different rate per countries categories).

The total estimated budget for Phase VI (2020–2024) is 2,088,400 EUR. Of that, 106,650 EUR are carried on from the previous Phase V; 296,250 EUR are based on secured external funding. The total of 1,685,500 EUR is funded directly by countries' contributions. The foreseen annual financial contribution from member countries (assuming the same membership as of Phase V) is 337,100 EUR.

Table 1: funding sources for EUFORGEN Phase VI

Funding source	
Countries contribution	1 685 500
Carry-on from previous Phase V	106 650
External funding (secured <i>i.e.</i> H2020 projects)	296 250
Total	2 088 400

After analysing the different options for Annual Financial Contribution for different categories, the Steering Committee identified the option presented in Table 2 as the most appropriate. The following countries voted in favour of this option: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom; while Austria and Germany voted against it since it was implying an increase in the national contribution. A simple majority principle was applied to deliberate on the new thresholds and budget and the option was approved.

Table 2: Annual Financial Contribution for category

Threshold	Category	Annual contribution Phase VI (proposed)
$x < 0.01$	A	2500
$0.01 < x < 0.1$	B	5000
$0.1 < x < 0.5$	C	7500
$0.5 < x < 1$	D	12500
$1 < x < 2$	E	15000
$2 < x < 3$	F	20000
$3 < x < 4$	G	25000
$4 < x < 5$	H	30000
$x > 5$	I	35000

In order to avoid major fluctuation in annual financial contributions between Phase V and Phase VI, the Steering Committee decided to apply +/- 15% caps to limit variations from countries' contributions from one phase to the following. The table presenting the annual contribution for Phase VI, is presented as Annex 1 in the attached *EUFORGEN Strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VI*



## Agenda Tuesday 9 April

Time	Session	Outcome (What the Steering Committee is expected to do)	Background documents
8.30	Registration		
9.00	<p><b>Welcome words</b> Chair Frank Wolter, <i>EUFORGEN, National Coordinator for Luxembourg</i>;</p> <p>European Forest Institute <i>Robert Mavsar</i> EUFORGEN Secretariat <i>Michele Bozzano</i></p> <p><b>Introduction</b> and approval of the agenda (<i>Michele Bozzano, Secretariat</i>). Introduction of participants and nomination of meeting rapporteurs</p>	<p>Meeting is officially opened.</p> <p>Agenda is agreed</p>	Draft Agenda of the meeting
9.15	<p><b>Session 1 - Introduction to Phase VI</b></p> <p>Presentation of the draft strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VI – Pröstur Eysteinnsson (Task Force developing Phase VI draft)</p> <p>Presentation of the Options (Excel file) for Phase VI <i>M. Bozzano</i></p>	All National Coordinators are updated on possible options for Phase VI	Draft strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VI
10.30	Break		
11.00	<p><b>Session 2 - Fine-tuning activities for EUFORGEN Phase VI</b></p> <p>World Café: discussion of the three Objectives for Phase VI in three rotating groups Facilitated by Ewa Hermanowicz, Barbara Vinceti and M. Bozzano</p>	The Phase VI activities are verified	EUFORGEN Phase VI Options (Excel file)



Time	Session	Outcome (What the Steering Committee is expected to do)	Background documents
12.30	Lunch		
14:00	<b>Session 2 - Fine-tuning activities for EUFORGEN Phase VI (cont.)</b>  Wrap-up in plenary	The Phase VI activities are agreed	
15.00	<b>Session 3 - EUFORGEN's modus operandi</b> M. Bozzano	Phase VI Modus Operandi is defined to implement the agreed activities	Draft Strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VI
16.00	Coffee Break		
16:30	<b>Session 4 - Phase VI budget and finance</b> M. Bozzano and R. Mavsar	EUFORGEN Phase VI Countries contribution is defined	EUFORGEN Phase VI Options
17.00	<b>Session 5 - Deliberation on Phase VI</b> M. Bozzano	EUFORGEN's Phase VI strategic objectives and implementation plan is agreed	Draft Strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VI
17.30	<b>Assessment of day 1</b> <i>M. Bozzano</i>	Strengths and improvables of the first day are identified - to bear in mind for day 2	
17.45	<b>Close</b>		



Time	Session	Outcome (What the Steering Committee is expected to do)	Background documents
18.30	Departure for social dinner - Biodiversum with wine tasting and walking diner <a href="https://environnement.public.lu/fr/natur-erliewen/centres-d_accueil/biodiversum.html">https://environnement.public.lu/fr/natur-erliewen/centres-d_accueil/biodiversum.html</a>		





## List of participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Thomas	Geburek	Austria	National Coordinator	Austrian Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape
Alain	Servais	Belgium	National Coordinator	SPW-Department Nature and Forest - Forest tree seed Center
Mladen	Ivankovic	Croatia	National Coordinator	Croatian Forest Research Institute, Dept of Tree Breeding and Forest Seed Husbandry
Josef	Frýdl	Czech Republic	National Coordinator	Forestry and Game Management Research Institute
Ditte	Olrik	Denmark	National Coordinator	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark
Tiit	Maaten	Estonia	National Coordinator	Estonian University of Life Sciences
Robert	Mavsar	Finland	EFI, Deputy Director General	European Forest Institute
Mari	Rusanen	Finland	National Coordinator	Natural Resources Institute Finland
François	Lefèvre	France	National Coordinator	Institut national de la recherche agronomique
Bernd	Degen	Germany	National Coordinator	Thuenen-Institute for Forest Genetics
Marcus	Lindner	Germany	EFI, Principal Scientist	European Forest Institute
Michele	Bozzano	Germany	EUFORGEN Secretariat	European Forest Institute
Ewa	Hermanowicz	Germany	EUFORGEN Secretariat	European Forest Institute
Christiane	Düring	Germany	EUFORGEN Secretariat	European Forest Institute
Silvia	Abruscato	Germany	EFI, Junior Researcher	European Forest Institute
Silvio	Oggioni	Germany	EUFORGEN Secretariat	European Forest Institute
Despina	Paitaridou	Greece	National Coordinator	General Secretariat of Environment
László	Nagy	Hungary	National Coordinator	NARIC Forest Research Institute
Throstur	Eysteinnsson	Iceland	National Coordinator	Icelandic Forest Service
Brian	Clifford	Ireland	National Coordinator	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



Giovanbattista	de Dato	Italy	National Coordinator	Council for Agricultural Research and Economics
Barbara	Vinceti	Italy	Observer	Bioversity International
Darius	Kavaliauskas	Lithuania	National Coordinator	Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy
Frank	Wolter	Luxembourg	National Coordinator	Administration de la nature et des forêts
Joukje	Buiteveld	Netherlands	National Coordinator	Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands
Tor	Myking	Norway	National Coordinator	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)
Czeslaw	Koziol	Poland	National Coordinator	Forest Gene Bank Kostrzyca
Andrej	Pilipovic	Serbia	National Coordinator	University of Novi Sad - Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment
Roman	Longauer	Slovakia	National Coordinator	National Forest Centre
Hojka	Kraigher	Slovenia	National Coordinator	Slovenian Forestry Institute
Felipe	Pérez Martín	Spain	National Coordinator	Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Sanna	Black-Samuelsson	Sweden	National Coordinator	Swedish Forest Agency
Andreas	Rudow	Switzerland	National Coordinator	ETH Zurich
Gaye	Eren Kandemir	Turkey	National Coordinator	Forest Tree Seeds and Tree Breeding Research Directorate
Rebecca	Isted	United Kingdom	National Coordinator	Forestry Commission England