

BULLETIN No. 51



EUCARPIA

European Association for Research on Plant Breeding
Europäische Gesellschaft für Züchtungsforschung
Association Européenne pour l'Amélioration des Plantes

December 2025

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European Association for Research on Plant Breeding
Europäische Gesellschaft für Züchtungsforschung
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EUCARPIA aims at promoting scientific and technical co-operation in the field of plant breeding to foster its further development. To achieve this purpose, the Association arranges and sponsors meetings of its members to discuss general or specific problems. Each year, EUCARPIA organizes open conferences and colloquia throughout Europe. Founded at Wageningen (The Netherlands) in 1956 as a non-profit organization, EUCARPIA has made considerable contributions to improving international contacts in plant breeding research. EUCARPIA has 11 sections and a number of working groups active in specific fields of interest.

EUCARPIA has individual members (qualified scientists in the field of plant breeding) and corporate members (research institutes, breeding stations, associations, societies etc.). A corporate membership is a collective membership for at most 10, 20, 30 or 40 persons.

To become a member of EUCARPIA, visit our website and register online.

Membership fees*:	Individual members	40.-- €
	Individuals younger than 30 years or 65+	20.-- €
	Corporate members (max. 10 delegates)	300.-- €
	Corporate members (max. 20 delegates)	450.-- €
	Corporate members (max. 30 delegates)	600.-- €
	Corporate members (max. 40 delegates)	750.-- €
	Honorary members	0.-- €

*Special reduced rates apply for members from some countries as listed on the website
<https://www.eucarpia.eu/members>

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES

Greetings of the President

Dear Eucarpia Members,

This year we had several chances to meet, as 2025 concluded with the organization of eight EUCARPIA Conferences. These proved to be stimulating opportunities to discuss various breeding topics and foster constructive dialogue among the various participants. Some meetings were particularly lively, highlighting the interest in specific areas. The composition of our association remained essentially unchanged, but some sections had a higher percentage of new members than others. To better meet the needs of our members, a process of reorganizing the EUCARPIA Sections is underway. To this end, a meeting of Section leaders was held last May, and the possibility of renaming some Sections or adding/removing others is being considered. To expand our ways of sharing ideas in plant breeding and connecting researchers, growers, and stakeholders, a LinkedIn social media page has been created. This new platform, in addition to promoting EUCARPIA's activities, publishing announcements and progress reports, would also foster communication with young people. According to the "EUCARPIA Meeting Calendar," the pepper and eggplant genetics and breeding meeting is scheduled for 2026, and a one-day online meeting will also be held to celebrate EUCARPIA's 70th anniversary. Everyone is invited to share memories and recognize our association over the coming year.

Good EUCARPIA year to all of you !!!!

Prof. Dr. Maria Raffaella Ercolano
President of EUCARPIA



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SECTION REPORTS

a. Biometrics in Plant Breeding

The 19th meeting of the Section Biometrics in Plant Breeding was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, from 17 to 19 September 2025. This meeting was organised by the The Roslin Institute of the University of Edinburgh. A total of 272 delegates attended the main conference (including local organising committee), spanning all continents of the globe (except Antarctica), all career stages representing academia, industry and the public sector. Thanks very much indeed to the local organizers, Daniel Tolhurst and Gregor Gorjanc and their local team, for organizing such an attractive meeting.

We had 9 sessions, 11 invited speakers and special guests, including pioneers in experimental design (Rosemary Bailey), mathematics (Rosemary's partner, Peter Cameron) and computational genetics / statistics (Robin Thompson), 36 contributed talks and 68 posters. We were truly moved & impressed by the number of high-quality contributions and the number of early career researchers. The outcome and impact of the conference is perhaps best summarized by a quote of one of our esteemed guests - "Safe to say, biometrics for plant breeding is not just alive & well - it's kicking".

The main topics, covered in oral presentations and posters, were as follows:

- Impact of biometrics in public and private breeding programs
- Design of experiments and multi-environment trials
- Genetic and genomic modelling of plant breeding data
- Innovative models with unconventional data streams
- Genotype performance, stability and resilience
- Modelling and leveraging genotype by environment interaction
- High-throughput phenotyping
- Artificial Intelligence and machine learning in practice
- Managing genetic diversity and maximising long-term genetic gains

Recordings of the talks are available on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBtJ_20LGW3hWqJMi3ZYyMV-WvOQGVrfl) and the book of abstracts can be found on the conference website (<https://highlanderlab.github.io/EUCARPIA2025BiometricsPlantBreeding/program/>).

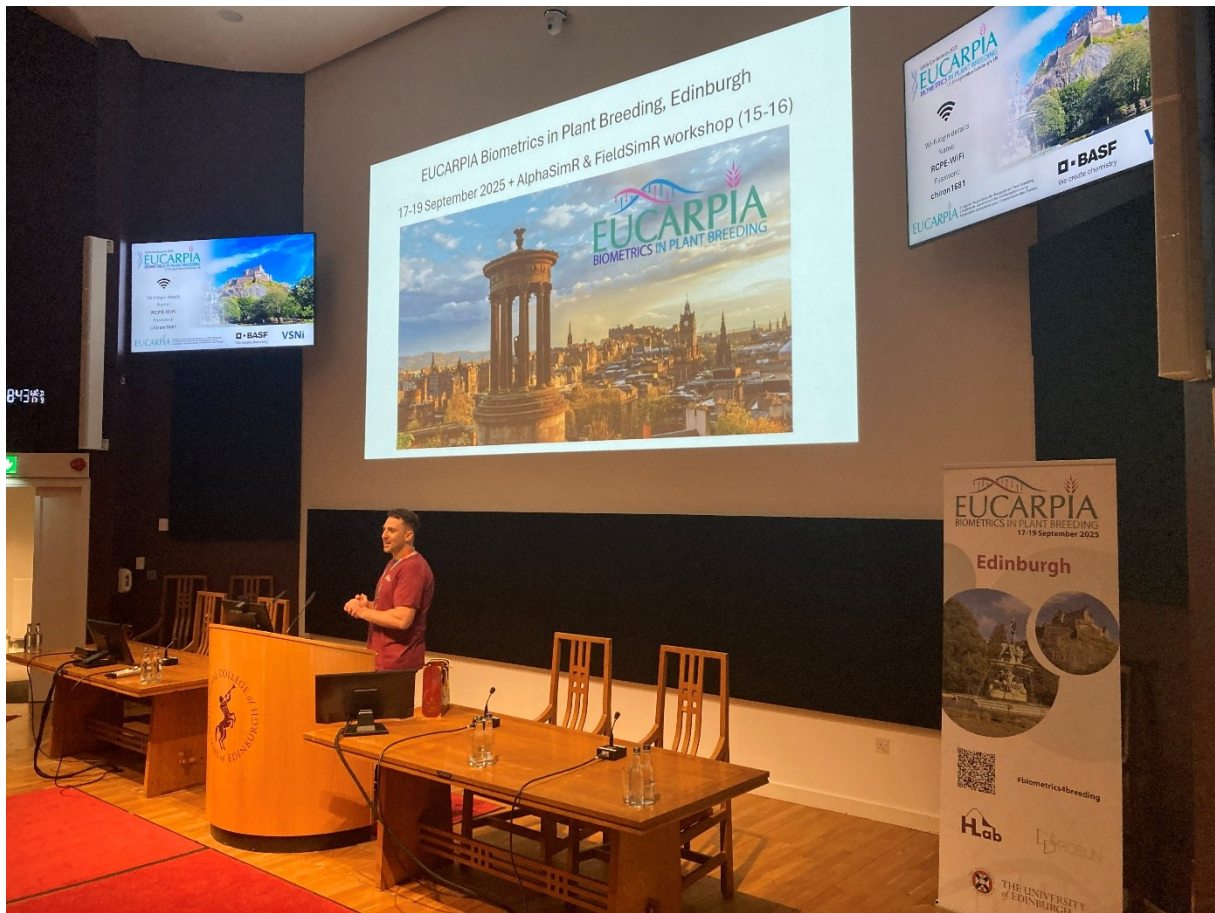
A satellite workshop on modelling selective breeding programs using the [AlphaSimR](https://cran.r-project.org/package=AlphaSimR) (<https://cran.r-project.org/package=AlphaSimR>) & [FieldSimR](https://cran.r-project.org/package=FieldSimR) (<https://cran.r-project.org/package=FieldSimR>) R packages, organized by the hosts, was held at The Roslin Institute on Easter Bush campus on 15-16 September 2025 and assembled 111 participants (including organisers).

The next meeting of the Section will take place on 2028 at the University of Göttingen, Germany, and will be organized locally by Stefan Scholten on behalf of the Center for Integrated Breeding Research (CiBreed).

A few pictures of this year's meeting are shown below.



Pre-conference workshop



Daniel Tolhurst at opening of conference



Wayne Powell commemorating Ian Mackay



Rosemary Bailey presenting her invited talk on experimental design



Poster session



Conference dinner at Mansfield Traquair Edinburgh

Hans-Peter Piepho, Section Chairperson, Hans-Peter.Piepho@uni-hohenheim.de

b. Cereals

The EUCARPIA International Symposium on Rye Breeding & Genetics <https://www.ryest2025.ee/> in the frame of the EUCARPIA Cereals Section was held in June 2025 in Tartu, Estonia.

The impressive scientific program comprised 28 lectures, including 10 keynote lectures, and 16 posters presented in five sessions. We had 63 participants from 10 different countries from Europe and elsewhere. Main topics at the symposium included rye genetic resources and diversity, rye breeding methods and molecular tools, rye disease resistance and stress tolerance, rye for food, feed, fuel and fun as well as past & future of rye research and breeding. Keynote talks were given by Prof. Mark Sorrells, Prof. Thomas Miedaner, Prof. Nils Stein, Dr. Andres Gordillo, Prof. Heinrich Grausgruber, Dr. Jochen Kumlehn, Prof. Henryk Bujak, Dr. Pernille Sarup, Prof. Stefan Stojakowski and dr. Viktor Korzun. The scientific sessions were followed by a field trip to the symposium's special field trial and an amusing visit to the historic Sangaste castle, the birthplace of 'Sangaste' rye.

Open interaction with scientists and breeders, and sharing knowledge, are crucial for future success in rye breeding and research. This collaboration positively impacts innovation in rye breeding and promotes sustainable agriculture.

In addition, together with all participants of the symposium we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the breeding of 'Sangaste', one of the world's oldest winter rye varieties bred in Estonia, the 180th anniversary of the birth of its breeder, Count von Berg, and the 60th anniversary of the EUCARPIA RYE conference.

We want to thank all the sponsors who supported the successful organization of the conference. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all authors, participants, and the members of the international scientific committee. We hope all delegates enjoyed their time in Tartu, Estonia, and left inspired by the shared knowledge and collaboration.



The 8th Conference on Cereal Biotechnology and Breeding together with a satellite meeting of EWAC The European Cereals Genetics Co-operative were held in Budapest, Hungary, from November 10 to 13, 2025. The 19th EWAC – The European Cereals Genetics Co-operative Conference took place as a satellite meeting just before CBB8. As several times before, both conferences were jointly organised with the Cereals Section of EUCARPIA - the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding. The program of both events covered a wide spectrum of subjects dealing with cereals genetics, breeding and biotechnology. During the four days, 35 oral presentations and more than 60 posters were delivered, covering the following topics:

- Genetic Resources for Crop Improvement
- Environmental Adaptation
- Biotic Stress Response and Plant-Microbe Interactions
- Phenotyping Technologies – IPPN CEPPG Session
- Yield and Quality Improvement
- Bioinformatics and Genome Editing

Two events, jointly organised with the Cereals Section of EUCARPIA took place in Budapest, Hungary, in November, 2025. The 8th Conference on Cereal Biotechnology and Breeding was held from November 11-13, 2026. 130 participants from 23 countries did attend. The conference comprised 9 plenary speakers, 39 oral presentations and 69 posters within six sessions:

- Genetic Resources for Crop Improvement
- Environmental Adaptation
- Biotic Stress Response and Plant-Microbe Interactions
- Phenotyping Technologies – IPPN CEPPG Session
- Yield and Quality Improvement
- Bioinformatics and Genome Editing

During the meeting, the Young Scientist Award was presented, which was awarded to Aziza Zerrouk (Spain), Katarzyna Szweczyk (Poland) and Pranvera Berisha (Austria).

As a satellite meeting, the 19th Conference of the European Cereals Genetics Co-operative took place on November 10, 2025. It was attended by 49 participants.



8th Conference on Cereal Biotechnology and Breeding, Budapest, Hungary, November 11-13, 2025.



19th Conference of the European Cereals Genetics Co-operative, Budapest, Hungary, November 10, 2025.

Mesut Keser, Section Chairperson, M.Keser@cgiar.org

c. Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses

This section addresses the issues that are relevant to breeding and (mainly applied) research of fodder crops (forage grasses and legumes) and amenity grasses. The Section Board since 2025 consists of David Kopecký (chair, Czech Republic), Hilde Muyle (secretary, Belgium), Kristina Jaškune (Lithuania), David Lloyd (Wales), Bernadette Julier (France), Ingo Lenk (Denmark), Snežana Babić (Serbia), Gillian Young (Ireland), Luciano Pecetti (Italy) and Christof Böhm (Germany).

Activities:

The Section meeting was organized by Dr. David Lloyd (Germinal, Aberystwyth, Wales) and Prof. Gancho Slavov (Prifysgol/Aberystwyth University, Wales) in Aberystwyth on 2-5 September 2025. The title of the conference "Breeding and Genetic Improvement for a Net-Zero Future" reflected an aspect of forage and turf breeding and research that we should all consider in our activities with a view to the sustainability of agriculture in the future. The venue was at the Medrus Conference Suite in the historic town of Aberystwyth. The conference was attended by 82 participants (excluding local organizers).

There were five sessions: Diversifying Breeding Populations (back to the wild), Advanced Phenotyping and Genotyping Technologies, Qualitative and Quantitative Traits, Biotic and Abiotic Stresses and Polyploidy and Interspecific Hybridisation.

Welcome speeches were given by David Lloyd (Germinal, Head breeder) and Iain Donnison (IBERS, Aberystwyth University, Director). There were four invited speakers included Andrew Griffiths (AgResearch), Charlie Brummer (UC Davis), Ashild Ergon (NMBU) and German Spangenberg (La Trobe University). In total, 32 oral presentations and 21 flash talks were given.

Two participants were awarded during the conference: Mallikarjuna Rao Kovi (Beat Boller Award) and Girma Bedada Chala (Dirk Reheul Award).

As usual at our section conferences, there was an interesting social program for participants: we had a hike tour guided by Gancho Slavov, there was a mid-conference tour to Germinal field trials and to IBERS Phenotyping center, there was a visit of Natuional Welsh Library and there was a marvelous Conference Dinner with live music (local band) and dancing.

Web of the conference: <https://www.forages-eucarpia.org/fcag-section-meeting-2025/>

In the second or third week of September 2027, 37th FCAG section conference will be organized in Malmö, Sweden. 38th FCAG section conference will be organized in 2029 in Turkey and it will be joined conference of EUCARPIA FCAG section and MBFT (Molecular Breeding of Forage and Turf).



Hike trip was organized prior the conference.



Mallikarjuna Rao Kovi (left) and Girma Bedada Chala (right) visiting IBERS (Seed bank and Phenotyping center). These two researchers were awarded (Beat Boller Award and Dirk Reheul Award) during the conference.



David Kopecký, Section Chairperson kopecky@ueb.cas.cz

d. Fruit

There was no activity reported for Fruit Section in 2025.

Henryk Flachowsky, Section Chairperson, henryk.flachowsky@julius-kuehn.de

e. Genetic Resources

There was no activity of the Genetic Resources Section reported for 2025.

Lise Lykke Steffenson, Section Chairperson, lise.lykke.steffensen@slu.se

f. Maize & Sorghum

The 26th EUCARPIA Maize and Sorghum Section Conference - Breeding in the era of genome editing and artificial intelligence – was held in Bologna from June 30 to July 2, 2025.

No activity report for the Maize and Sorghum Section was submitted in 2025.

Elisabetta Frascaroli, Section Chairperson, elisabetta.frascaroli@unibo.it

g. Oil & Protein Crops

There was no activity of the Oil and Protein Crops Section reported for 2025.

Leonardo Velasco, Section Chairperson, lvelasco@ias.csic.es

h. Organic & Low-input Agriculture

This section addresses the issues that are relevant to breeding for organic and low-input agriculture. **The Section Board** since March 2021 consist of Pedro Mendes Moreira (Dr., chair of the Section, IPC-ESAC, PT), Linda Legzdina (Dr., AREI, LV), Gunter Backes (Prof. Dr., University of Kassel, DE), Vladimir Meglic (Dr., Agricultural Institute of Slovenia), Monika Messmer (Dr., FiBL, CH), Pierre Hohmann (Dr., University of Barcelona, ES, chair of the working group on plant-microbe interactions supported by Friederike Trognitz (AIT, AT)) and Monika Messmer (FiBL, CH). Since 2025, Adrian Burruezo (Prof., UPV) and Barbara Pipan (Dr., Agricultural Institute of Slovenia) are new members. Edith Lammerts van Bueren (Em.Prof. Wageningen University, NL) has retired.

Meetings in 2025

VI EUCARPIA - Section Organic and Low-Input Agriculture Scientific Conference on Breeding to meet environmental and societal challenges, Polytechnic University of Coimbra – ESAC, Coimbra, Portugal. Mon 26th to Wed 28th May 2025

The conference aims. The EUCARPIA - LiveSeeding Conference aimed to foster discussions on innovative breeding strategies that address pressing environmental issues and societal needs within the context of organic, low-input, and agroecological farming systems. 130 researchers, breeders, seed companies, students and other interested stakeholders in the field of plant breeding and related disciplines joined the conference to share novel research findings addressing environmental and societal challenges, to network and to discuss during the 3-day conference. 100 posters, 21 oral presentations and a total of 26 posters pitches were presented.

Organizing committee: Prof. Pedro Manuel Reis Mendes Moreira (Polytechnic University of Coimbra - ESAC) and Dr. Sc.agr. Monika Messmer (FiBL CH) and Mariano Iossa (FiBL Europe, Belgium), LiveSeeding Project Coordinator.

The book of abstracts can be found: <https://zenodo.org/records/15491015>

SPECIAL ISSUE in Sustainability - Under the activities of VI EUCARPIA Meeting a Special issue is open Building Sustainable and Diversified Food Systems Through Organic Practices and Consumer Participation. Dr. Véronique Chable, Dr. Pedro M. R. Mendes-Moreira and Dr. Micaela Colley are Guest

Editors. Special Issue webpage:
https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/L072O76XVQ
Deadline for manuscript submissions: 31 October 2026

The European Organic Seed Policy conference took place on 29 May in Coimbra (after the VI EUCARPIA section scientific conference).

Objective: to take stock of organic farming in Portugal, look into opportunities and challenges, and create consensus on how to boost organic seed and plant breeding.

Who: The conference joined policy makers, seed companies and organic producers, and experts from Portuguese, and European organisations.

https://www.esac.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/LiveSeeding_OSPC_Coimbra_Programme_Final_EN.pdf

Future related events

International and interdisciplinary scientific symposium on the value of mixtures of varieties and species for agroecology - co-organized by MoBiDiv, IntercropVALUES and IPMORAMA Mixing crops, varieties, disciplines and know-hows for agroecology 7-9th October 2026, Paris-Saclay – France: interdisciplinary session and parallel symposia, breeding for mixing ability, mixtures and pathogen evolution, within-field diversity and the extended phenotype, mixture design through ideotyping, modeling plant-plant interactions, blends for transformative research, Registrations and call for abstracts: <https://mobidiv.hub.inrae.fr>

Workshop of the WG of Plant Microbe Interaction attached to miCROPe conference that will take place in summer 2027 in Tulln, Austria.

VII EUCARPIA - Section Organic and Low-Input Agriculture Scientific Conference on Breeding for Agroecology, diversified markets and future climate scenarios. Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2029.

In the 13-01-2026 the selection of the new chair and vice-chair was made. Dr. Barbara Pipan (Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (KIS, for its initials in Slovenian – Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije)) will be the next Chair and Adrian Burruezo (Prof., UPV) the Vice-Chair starting from 1st of February of 2026.

Pedro Mendes Moreira, Section Chairperson, pmm@esac.pt

i. Ornamentals

There were no activities of the Ornamentals Section in 2025. The XXVIII International EUCARPIA Symposium of the Ornamentals Section, From Biology to Bioeconomy, was announced as detailed below.

Location: Coimbra (Portugal)

Begin date: June 7, 2027

End date: June 10, 2027

Hashtag [#EucarpiaOrnam2027](#)

Convener: Prof. Dr. Jorge Canhoto

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Johan van Huylbroeck, Section Chairperson, johan.vanhuylenbroeck@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

j. Potatoes

Potato breeders and geneticists convened in the beautiful city of St. Andrews in Scotland as the 20th Joint Meeting of EAPR section 'Breeding & Varietal Assessment' and EUCARPIA section 'Potatoes' was held from 15-18 June 2025 at the University of St. Andrews. Along with EAPR & EUCARPIA the conference was jointly organised by the James Hutton Institute, the University of Dundee and the University of St. Andrews. It was well attended by 105 participants from 17 countries.

Held under the theme "Potato breeding in the era of pan genomes and advanced genetics", the 3-day conference featured 38 talks including eight keynote lectures as well as 19 posters. In the first session of the conference, we explored ways for Harnessing Diversity from Genetic Resources with three talks. In the keynote lecture, Amanpreet Kaur presented how enrichment sequencing of CPC and CIP accessions uncovered novel R genes. She also emphasized that these collections represent valuable sources of nutritionally dense germplasm for potato improvement programmes. Session Breeding for Disease and Insect Resistance featured 13 talks including two keynotes, covering such diverse biotic stresses as late blight, common scab, PVY, soft rot Pectobacteria, potato cyst and root knot nematodes, as well as insects like Colorado potato beetle, aphids and whiteflies. Dan Milbourne explored ways to close the gap between breeding disease-resistant potato varieties and building useful management practices for their use in integrated pest management, in the frame of the IPMorama project. He reminded the community that "it's not just about the R gene, it's about what you do with it!". In the second keynote of this session, Mercedes Torres Torres introduced the audience to the PHENO-TUB project which aims to develop an integrated computer-vision system for plant-to-field health detection and elaborated on the various steps required for transferring research from the (computer) lab to the field.

Session Breeding Methodology featured eleven talks including two keynote lectures. Kristian Thorup-Kristensen suggested to the potato breeding and research community that physiological traits, and particularly deep rooting architecture, may be worthwhile exploring when breeding for improved performance under future climate change scenarios. He also presented how their RadiMax platform is being used to study root development and identify genotypes with deeper and more efficient root systems. In contrast, Jeff Endelman focused on novel methods of mating design optimisation and introduced concepts from the animal breeding community to balance short-term genetic gain with maintaining genetic variance for long-term gain, which are practically implemented for polyploids in the R/COMA software tool. Session Diploid Breeding featured four talks and was spearheaded by the keynote lecture of Corentin Clot who introduced the concept of Fixation-Restitution Breeding, a novel inter-ploidy potato breeding concept that combines the best of two worlds: rapid stacking and fixation of useful alleles on the diploid level coupled with restitution of the tetraploid level and clonal production in the final variety product. Session Leveraging the Pangenome for Breeding also featured four talks and dived into the recent advances in potato pangenome analysis. The keynote lecture by Lin Cheng highlighted how genomics can assist in designing optimal potato genotypes by identifying and purging deleterious SNPs and structural variations. The final session Gene Editing and Mutation Breeding exhibited three talks. In his keynote, Matías González shared the latest news from the GeneBEcon project and related efforts, highlighting recent advances in transgene-free gene editing and the challenges of editing coding sequences in potato. A report featuring abstracts of conference talks can be viewed on the EUCARPIA website (https://www.eucarpia.eu/images/publications/Proceedings_EAPR-EUCARPIA_StAndrews-2025.pdf). The conference was completed by an excursion to the James Hutton Institute (JHI) where attendants visited the Commonwealth Potato Collection (CPC) and had a tour of JHI facilities including their novel high-throughput phenotyping system. A delicious conference dinner followed by a traditional Scottish group dancing activity called "Ceilidh" fostered social exchange and was much enjoyed by the participants. We thank Ingo Hein and his team for organising this enjoyable and scientifically rewarding conference. The 21st Joint Meeting of EAPR section 'Breeding & Varietal Assessment' and EUCARPIA section 'Potatoes' is planned to be organised by NEIKER in 2028 in Bilbao, Spain.



Participants gathering in front of Lower College Hall at the University of St. Andrews where the conference dinner and cultural event “Ceilidh” were held.



The welcome reception was accompanied by a traditional Scottish piper.



Visiting the Commonwealth Potato Collection during the excursion to JHI.

Vanessa Prigge, Section Chairperson, vanessa.prigge@saka-pflanzenzucht.de

k. Vegetables

The 21st EUCARPIA Meeting of the Tomato Working Group took place from 10 to 13 June 2025 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, at the Grand Hotel Plovdiv. The event brought together 145 delegates from 21 countries across four continents (Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Serbia, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom). Of the participants, 21% were early-career researchers and 45% represented the business sector.

The official opening ceremony was held on 10 June in Moskva Hall. Dr. Tringovska welcomed the attendees, introduced distinguished guests, and officially opened the conference. Speeches were delivered by Prof. Hristina Yancheva, Governor of the Plovdiv Region and by Prof. Elena Todorovska, Chief Scientific Secretary of the Agricultural Academy, both emphasized the importance of scientific collaboration in tomato breeding. Additional greetings were extended by Prof. Violeta Bozhanova, President of the Agricultural Academy, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Prof. Yuling Bai, Scientific Secretary of EUCARPIA, and Dr. Sotirios Fragkostefanakis, Chair of the RECROP COST Action, also addressed the audience. A video highlighting the legacy of Prof. Christo Dascalov was shown, and the opening concluded with a performance by the Detska Kitka Choir, followed by a cocktail reception.

Throughout the conference, scientific sessions focused on current challenges and innovations in tomato breeding, including tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses, agronomic and fruit quality traits, and emerging technologies. The largest session, *Breeding for Abiotic Stress Tolerance*, was supported by COST Action CA22157 (RECROP – Reproductive Enhancement of CROP Resilience to Extreme Climate). As an addition to the regular program, the session included a keynote lecture and five invited talks, all delivered by members of the RECROP community. Topics included genetic, physiological, and omics-based strategies for improving tomato resilience to heat, drought, salinity, and flooding. The session on *Breeding for Agronomic and Fruit Quality Traits* covered GWAS, metabolomics, and QTL fine-mapping for flavor, pigmentation, softening, and post-harvest characteristics. The *Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Tomato Crop Production* session explored the integration of multi-omics

data, AI models, and molecular profiling to enhance crop performance and combat bacterial infections. *Breeding for Biotic Stress Resistance* focused on resistance to major diseases, tobamoviruses, and nematodes, including the identification of resistance genes and trait trade-offs. The *Genetic Resources* session presented advances in tomato diversity research, including fruit shape evolution, stomatal development, resistance traits from wild species, and tools like HarnesstomDB. The final session, *New Objectives and Technologies for Plant Breeding*, featured cutting-edge developments in genome editing, biocontrol responsiveness, and genomic resources for next-generation breeding.

Conference highlights included six keynote lectures, five invited talks, 23 oral presentations, and 45 blitz poster presentations, accompanied by 45 electronic posters on display. All contributions were included in a peer-reviewed Book of Abstracts, featuring research from 322 authors across 24 countries.

During the interactive discussion titled “Innovating Together – Science Meets Industry”, it was revealed that the majority of participants in the live pool came from industry (65%), with most involved in tomato breeding or genetics (87%). Nearly half had over 10 years of experience, and disease resistance and abiotic stress tolerance were top trait priorities for future breeding. The biggest barriers to collaboration were intellectual property and data sharing (49%) and misaligned goals (34%). While both academia and industry desire closer partnerships (particularly via public-private pre-breeding platforms) many respondents expressed dissatisfaction with current collaboration effectiveness and noted communication and trust as major weaknesses.

As part of the technical tour, delegates visited GeosemSelect in the village of Stryama, where they observed seed extraction and tasted fresh tomato juice, a byproduct of the process. They then toured the Maritsa Vegetable Crops Research Institute (MVCRI), where they explored a demonstrative greenhouse showcasing 67 tomato varieties provided by sponsors and several ongoing experiments. Participants also joined a lively quiz, with awards presented to the winners. The tour concluded with a park-side open-air lunch, prepared by a renowned Bulgarian chef and featuring traditional dishes made from locally sourced farm products.

The event was made possible through the support of 12 sponsors and 5 supporting institutions. This support enabled the organizers to invite 11 speakers from seven countries, offer reduced fees for young scientists and students, organize a demonstrative field and technical visit, and ensure a high standard of the overall event.

The conference concluded on 13 June with awards for Best Oral Presentation and Best Poster by young scientists. A total of 10 oral and 7 poster presentations competed for the honors. It was also announced that the next EUCARPIA Tomato Working Group meeting will be hosted by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece, chaired by Dr. Panagiotis Kalaitzis.

More information about the event:

<https://cmebg.com/en/sabitalia/eucarpia-2025/>

Presented below are selected photos taken during the 21st EUCARPIA Meeting of the Tomato Working Group.



OPENING CEREMONY AND WELCOME COCTAIL



SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS



SPONSORS



AWARDING YOUNG SCIENTISTS



TECHNICAL TOUR



EUCARPIA
Tomato
2025

XXI EUCARPIA
MEETING OF THE
TOMATO
WORKING GROUP

10-13
June 2025
Grand Hotel Plovdiv
Plovdiv
Bulgaria

During the meeting, the organizer for the next EUCARPIA Tomato Working Group was selected and the winner is the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece, chaired by Dr. Panagiotis Kalaitzis.

In the EUCARPIA Section Vegetables, we have four Working Groups: (1) Tomato, (2) Capsicum and Eggplant, (3) Leafy Vegetables and (4) Cucurbits. Each working group organizes meetings once every three or four years. In the coming years, we have planned the following meetings:

- 2026 (20-23 September): The 19th EUCARPIA Meeting on Genetics and Breeding of Capsicum and Eggplant which will take place in Wageningen, The Netherlands. More information can be found via this link: <https://event.wur.nl/eucarpia2026/home>. The scientific committee encourages submission of abstracts related to the following themes:
 - o Plant Genetic Resource Management

- o Gene Editing
- o Abiotic Stress and Resilience
- o Fruit Quality & Metabolomics
- o New Phenotyping Tools & Data Analysis
- o Disease Resistance
- o Insect Resistance



- 2027: The 11th EUCARPIA meeting of Leafy ' Prof. Katherine Denby (University of York).
- 2027: It is intended to organize the 14th EUCARPIA Meeting on Cucurbit Genetics and Breeding in 2027. As soon as the decision is made, we will announce it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all organizers for their commitment and efforts. I really look forward to seeing our old and new EUCARPIA members in the next EUCARPIA meetings!

Yuling Bai, Section Chairperson, bai.yuling@wur.nl

RECENT EUCARPIA PUBLICATIONS

Section	Publication
a. Biometrics in Plant Breeding	
b. Cereals	
c. Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses	Abstracts of the 36th Meeting of the EUCARPIA Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses Section, Breeding and Genetic Improvement for a Net-Zero Future, Aberystwyth, Wales, 1-5 September, 2025, Edited by Gancho Slavov and Ana Winters. https://www.eucarpia.eu/images/publications/Eucarpia_Aberystwyth25_Abstracts.pdf
d. Fruit	
e. Genetic Resources	
f. Maize & Sorghum	
g. Oil & Protein Crops	
h. Organic & Low-input Agriculture	Book of Abstracts of the 6 th EUCARPIA Conference of the Section Organic and Low-Input Agriculture on Breeding to meet environmental and societal challenges, May 26-28, 2025, 276p., licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://zenodo.org/records/15491015 - https://www.eucarpia.eu/images/publications/EUCARPIA-2025_Abstracts_e-Book_Final_17062025.pdf
i. Ornamentals	
j. Potatoes	2025 Proceedings of the 20th Joint Meeting of EAPR section 'Breeding & Varietal Assessment' and EUCARPIA section 'Potatoes'. https://www.eucarpia.eu/images/publications/Proceedings_EAPR-EUCARPIA_StAndrews-2025.pdf
k. Vegetables	2025 Book of Abstracts XXI EUCARPIA Meeting of the Tomato Working Group, June 10-13, 2025 - Plovdiv, BULGARIA. https://www.eucarpia.eu/images/publications/Book_of_Abstracts_Eucarpia_Tomato_2025_Correct_index.pdf

NEWS FROM THE EUCARPIA SECRETARIAT

In Memoriam

Samuel Badoux, a fodder crops and vegetable breeder at the Swiss Federal Research Station Changins, Nyon, Switzerland (nowadays part of Agroscope), died in his home in Prangins 95 years old on 22 October 2025. The most successful variety he created during 40 years of service was meadow fescue Préal, released back in 1993 and still one of the dominant varieties of that species in Europe. Samuel was a dedicated member of EUCARPIA for all his professional career. He served as chairman of the Fodder Crops Section from 1979 to 1985 and as treasurer and member of Executive Committee of EUCARPIA from 1986 to 1992.

Website/Job Offers

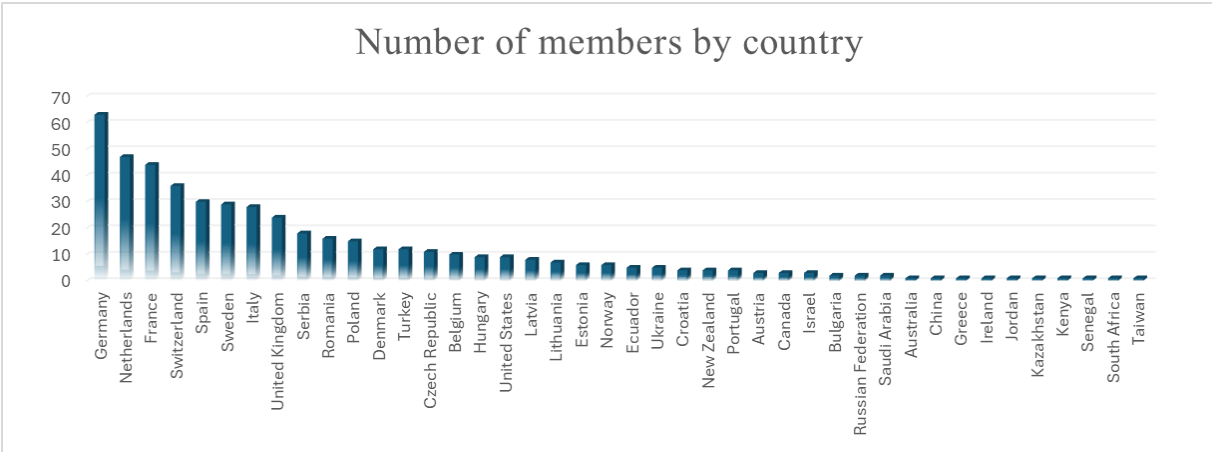
For publication of job offers on the website, please contact the secretariat (eucarpia.segr@unina.it).

New Digital Communication Initiative: EUCARPIA on LinkedIn

The official EUCARPIA LinkedIn page was launched in 2025 (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/eucarpia1>). This new communication channel will be used to increase the visibility of the Association’s activities and events. The page will serve to disseminate announcements, provide updates on the progress of EUCARPIA initiatives, and report on completed activities, helping to reach a broader audience, in particular younger generations, in line with their social media habits.

Membership Development

As of December 31, 2025, Eucarpia has 57 corporate members with 248 active delegates (out of 700 paid delegates) and 239 individual members, in total 487 active members. The members come from 42 different countries. The distribution of members by country is illustrated in the graph below.



The 2025 assignments of countries with currently active members resulted as follows:

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Australia	Croatia	Bulgaria
Austria	Estonia	China
Belgium	Hungary	Ecuador
Canada	Latvia	Jordan
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Kazakhstan
Denmark	Poland	Kenya
France	Romania	Senegal
Germany	Russian Federation	Serbia
Greece	Turkey	South Africa
Ireland		Taiwan
Israel		Ukraine
Italy		
Netherlands		
New Zealand		
Norway		
Portugal		
Saudi Arabia		
Spain		
Sweden		
Switzerland		
United Kingdom		
United States		

Organizing section meetings

The Executive Board revised the criteria for supporting conferences through subsidies at its meeting on 16 October 2025. Subsidy requests must be submitted at least six months in advance. Subsidies will be granted in amounts proportional to the number of participants. For conferences with 50–100 participants, EUCARPIA will provide a subsidy of €1,500; for 100–200 participants, a subsidy of €3,000 will be granted; and for events with more than 200 participants, the subsidy will amount to €5,000. The number of registered paying members must be communicated by the registration deadline. Within a 4-year term, each section or working group is entitled to receive those subsidies a maximum of twice. No subsidies are granted for EUCARPIA events scheduled closer than 6 months to the next General Congress. EUCARPIA subsidies are to be used for the benefit of EUCARPIA members. In this respect, there should be a significant difference between the registration fees for members of EUCARPIA and non-members participating. The minimal difference should be 50.- € per person.

The secretariat can provide you:

- the application form requesting the subsidy for the organization of meetings
- the logo of EUCARPIA in multiple forms
- links to the website <https://www.eucarpia.eu/activities/eucarpia-meetings>
- messages to the members of EUCARPIA
- job offers on the website

The secretariat



Prof. Antonio Di Matteo, PhD
Secretary General
eucarpia.segr@unina.it
+39 081 2539208

MEMBERSHIP FEES

You can renew your membership when you login on www.eucarpia.eu at any time. You will also be asked to do so by automatically generated e-mail. The membership fee for individual members is 40 € for members of Western Europe and developed countries from elsewhere outside Europe. Under Item 5, the General Assembly of EUCARPIA of 30 August 2016 decided to put the assignment of countries to categories 1, 2 and 3 on the basis of objective criteria. It was decided to use the United Nations contribution quota as a basis for this assignment. This decision was implemented in 2017.

The assignments to categories were implemented in the member management part of the website. New members, when subscribing online and indicating their country of origin, are automatically assigned to the corresponding category and their annual membership fees are set accordingly by the system. Countries not listed above are also categorized according to the same criteria.

On top of this, members younger than 30 years or older than 65 years have 50% discount and pay 20 €, 15 € or 10 € depending on the category listing of their country.

The fee of corporate members is 300 €, 225 € or 150 €, depending on the category listing of their country. Corporate membership fee covers the fees of maximum 10 delegates. Corporate membership fee for up to 20 delegates is 450 €, 335 € or 225 €, respectively. Corporate membership fees for up to 30 delegates is 600 €, 445 €, and 300 €, respectively. Finally, for companies/institutes with up to 40 delegates the corporate membership is 750 €, 650 €, and 400 €, respectively.

The preferred option of payment for individual members is to login to the members zone of the homepage and click on Membership renewal. If you forgot your password, you can ask online for a new one. If you need assistance, you can contact eucarpia.segr@unina.it You will be able to choose between credit card (VISA or MasterCard) payment or an electronic bank transfer. If you do not have access to internet, you may transfer your payment to:

UBS AG
CH-8098 Zürich, Switzerland
IBAN: CH90 0022 8228 EU10 0387 6
BIC: UBSWCHZH80A

Please indicate your name and membership number in the transfer. Use the SEPA option or, if this is not available at your bank, choose “breakdown of costs”. We do not accept cheques. Online payment by credit card without logging in is available on request at the Secretariat.

Membership privileges

Individual membership

EUCARPIA membership advantages include:

- Free publication of breeding related international events on the website (contact the Secretariat)
- Reduction (≥50 €) in the registration fee for events (General congress, symposia, meetings, etc.) organized by EUCARPIA.
- Participation in the EUCARPIA sections of interest (or in all if you wish).
- Reception of the EUCARPIA Bulletin, with information on EUCARPIA activities, publications, dates and information of symposia, meetings and events related to plant breeding, etc.
- Reception of the mailings about the upcoming events and important data.
- Facilitation of international cooperation, exchange of methods and plant material, etc.

Corporate membership

In addition to the advantages entitled to individuals, corporate members (Institutes, Departments, Companies, Associations, Societies, etc.) advantages include:

- Possibility of enlisting up to 10, 20, 30 or 40 individual delegates associated to the corporate membership.
- A link to the web page of the Institution can be posted in the web page of EUCARPIA. This web page is visited mainly by breeders and receives many hits per day.

OVERVIEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

EUCARPIA currently has 57 corporate members. Each corporate member receives annually a coupon code for at least 10 or 20 personal memberships attached to the invoice for the membership. With this coupon code employees of the company can register or prolongate their personal membership to receive e-mails with updates of the meetings and discount when they participate. The coupon code is communicated with the contact person of the corporate member and they decide upon the further distribution of the codes.

Company Name		Company Name	
1	Agroscope (Switzerland)	31	Lantmännen EK FÖR (Sweden)
2	Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI) (Latvia)	32	Lantmännen Seed BV (Netherlands)
3	Barenbrug Research (Netherlands)	33	Leibniz-Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK Gatersleben) (Germany)
4	Bundessortenamt (Germany)	34	Lidea France (France)
5	Centre for Agricultural Research (ATK) (Hungary)	35	Limgroup B.V. (Netherlands)
6	Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge (METK) (Estonia)	36	Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (LAMMC) (Lithuania)
7	Cereal Research Non-Profit Ltd. Company (Hungary)	37	Maize Research Institute (Serbia)
8	CTIFL (France)	38	MAS Seeds (France)
9	Czech Agrifood Research Center (CARC) (Czech Republic)	39	Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (Germany)
10	De Groot En Slot B.V. (Netherlands)	40	Meridiam Seeds (Spain)
11	Delley Seeds and Plants Ltd. (Switzerland)	41	Nordgen (Sweden)
12	Deutsche Saatveredelung AG (Germany)	42	Nunhems Netherlands BV (Netherlands)
13	Dif Seeds A/S (Denmark)	43	Plant Breeders Union of Turkey (Turkey)
14	Florimond Desprez (France)	44	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) (Switzerland)
15	Fytagoras BV (Netherlands)	45	Ragt 2N (France)
16	Gautier Semences SAS (France)	46	Ramiro Arnedo, S.A. (Spain)
17	Gemeinschaft zur Förderung von Pflanzeninnovation e.V. (Germany)	47	Rijk Zwaan Breeding B.V. (Netherlands)
18	GENVIV S.A.S (Ecuador)	48	Saatzucht Steinach GmbH & Co. KG (Germany)
19	Gesellschaft für Pflanzenzüchtung (GPZ) (Germany)	49	Sakata Vegetables Europe (France)
20	GZPK - Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz (Switzerland)	50	Semillas Fito (Spain)
21	Hazera Seeds Ltd. (Israel)	51	Swiss Plant Breeding Center (SPBC) (Switzerland)
22	ILVO-Plant Breeding (Belgium)	52	Takii Europe B.V. (Netherlands)
23	Institute for Forage Crops Kreusevac (IKBKS) (Serbia)	53	Tasaco Tarim Sanayi Ve Ticaret A.S. (Turkey)
24	Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) (United Kingdom)	54	Universitatea de Științele Vieții "Regele Mihai I" din Timișoara (USVT) (Romania)
25	Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops (Serbia)	55	University of Life Science in Lublin (Poland)
26	Institute of Plant Genetic Resources "Konstantin Malkov" (Bulgaria)	56	University of Zagreb (Croatia)
27	Institute of Plant Genetics, Polish Academy of Sciences (IPG PAS) (Poland)	57	Wageningen University Plantenwetenschappen (Netherlands)
28	Italian Society of Agricultural Genetics (SIGA) (Italy)		
29	Japanese Society of Breeding (Japan)		
30	KWS Saat SE & Co. KgaA (Germany)		

SELF-INTRODUCTION OF NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

A corporate membership is a collective membership that can cover up to 10, 20 or more individuals. Corporate members have the privilege to introduce themselves in this bulletin and have their logo and link on our website at the page <https://www.eucarpia.eu/organisation/partnerships>. Not all corporate members want to be mentioned in this bulletin. The subscriptions have been ordered alphabetically and are not edited.

Swiss Plant Breeding Center



The Swiss Plant Breeding Center (SPBC - <https://www.spbc-plantbreeding.ch/en/spbc>) is the newly founded, independent competence and innovation center for plant breeding in Switzerland. Its aim is to strengthen Swiss plant breeding and increase breeding efficiency. Its main tasks are to network the players in breeding and research and to transfer new research results into practical breeding programs. The SPBC provides breeders with technical support, know-how and expertise and plays an active role in the planning and implementation of innovation projects. It aligns its services to customer needs, is open to all crop types, cultivation systems and methods, covers broad areas of expertise through network partnerships and is active in the acquisition of customer and third-party funding.

In Switzerland, with its diverse agricultural regions and high demand for quality, environmentally sustainable food, locally adapted varieties from domestic breeding programs are of particular importance. However, the Swiss plant breeding sector is fragmented, with limited financial and personnel resources available to public and small-to-medium-sized private breeding organizations. This has created a significant "performance gap" where new methods and innovations from research often fail to be implemented in practical breeding programs. The SPBC, organised as an association, has been established to close this gap and strengthen the Swiss plant breeding sector. The association's members are, for the most part, Swiss plant breeders, but also includes supporting members from across the entire value chain. The SPBC is a federally supported initiative, receiving financial contributions from the Swiss government. More information can be found on our website: Swiss Plant Breeding Center - SPBC

EUCARPIA MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2026 AND LATER

More information and updates on these meetings can be found on the web page of EUCARPIA (www.eucarpia.eu)

EUCARPIA Meetings

2026

Vegetables

19th EUCARPIA Meeting on Genetics and Breeding of Capsicum and Eggplant
September 20 - 23, 2026
Wageningen, The Netherlands
organised by Dr. Suzan Gabriëls (Wageningen University & Research)

Interdisciplinary scientific conference

Mixing crops, varieties, disciplines and know-hows for agroecology
7 – 9 October, 2026
University Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
Organized by Jérôme Enjalbert

2027

Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses

37th FCAG Section Conference
September, 2027
Malmö (Sweden).

Fruits

XVII Eucarpia Symposium on Fruit Breeding and Genetics
June 14-18, 2027
Alnarp, Sweden
Organized by Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Prof. Larisa Gustavsson

Vegetables

- a) 11th EUCARPIA meeting of Leafy Vegetables
Location: York, UK
Organized by Prof. Katherine Denby (University of York).

- b) 14th EUCARPIA Meeting on Cucurbit Genetics and Breeding

Ornamentals

XVIII International Eucarpia Symposium Section Ornamentals - From Biology to Bioeconomy
June 7-10, 2027
Location: Coimbra (Portugal)
Hashtag#EucarpiaOrnam2027

2028

Biometrics in Plant Breeding

20th meeting of the Section Biometrics in Plant Breeding

University of Göttingen, Germany
organized by Stefan Scholten on behalf of the Center for Integrated Breeding Research (CiBreed).

Potatoes

21st Joint Meeting of EAPR section 'Breeding & Varietal Assessment' and EUCARPIA section 'Potatoes'
Location: Bilbao, Spain
Organized by NEIKER.

2029

Organic and Low-Input Agriculture

VII EUCARPIA Section Conference on Breeding for Agroecology, diversified markets and future climate scenarios
Location: Ljubljana, Slovenia

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Balance 2021-2025 (in Euro)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ASSETS					
Account EU100387.6 EURO current	270,703.90	273,546.33	267,767.39	272,122.35	264,765.89
Account EU100387.1 EURO Ornamentals	5,569.39	5,464.47	2,880.16	2,794.80	2,708.07
Account EU100387.2 EURO Fodder Crops	9,242.94	9,122.89	8,038.58	7,953.22	6,866.49
TOTAL	285,516.23	288,133.69	278,686.13	282,870.37	274,340.45
INCOME					
TOTAL	39,826.95	23,490.67	23,017.86	23,518.70	23,107.80
EXPENSES					
TOTAL	59,255.79	21,056.92	32,465.42	19,334.46	31,637.27
NET PROFIT/LOSS	-19,548.81	2,433.75	-9,447.56	4,184.24	-8,529.47

2. Profit/loss 2021-2025 (in Euro)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
INCOME					
Membership	25,645.72	23,490.67	23,017.86	23,518.70	23,107.80
Gen Congres 2016/2021	14,181.23				
TOTAL	39,826.95	23,490.67	23,017.86	23,518.70	23,107.80
EXPENSES					
Meetings and Workshops - Subsidy	6,000.00	14,000.00	24,540.00	15,000.00	19,000.00
General Congress 2021	30,500.00				
Travel costs		1,959.91	3,238.26	-	936.51
Website costs	8,935.19	1,606.50	1,654.10	1,606.50	1,606.50
Awards (Fodder Crops account)					1,000.00
Costs secretary	10,644.68	-	-	-	-
Other costs	64.50	-	-	-	27.75
Membership repayments	-	300.00	160.00	-	300.00
Bank fees	3,111.42	3,190.51	2,873.06	2,727.96	2,441.51
Worldline service fees	-	-	-	-	325.00
Tax Advice / Financial audit 2024	-	-	-	-	6,000.00
Positive / Negative interest bank	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	59,255.79	21,056.92	32,465.42	19,334.46	31,637.27
Net profit / loss	-19,548.81	2,433.75	-9,447.56	4,184.24	-8,529.47

EUCARPIA BULLETIN 2026

The EUCARPIA Bulletin No. 52 will be issued in the end of 2026. If you would like to publish information about congresses, meetings, publications, section news or any other information relevant to other members, please send in your contribution to the Secretariat by **December 1, 2026**.