



“Joint PRO-GRACE/EMPHASIS policy symposium and workshop brings together scientists, breeders and genetic resources specialists from all over Europe”

This two-day event (27 and 28 June 202) was directed to promote a plant genetic resources community and was hosted at the Harnesstom coordinator CSIC facilities in Brussels, as CSIC also an active partner in ProGRACE.

The European project Pro-Grace in collaboration with the EMPHASIS European Plant phenotyping Infrastructure organized a policy symposium and workshop about genetic resources and phenotyping. The aim of this policy symposium was to engage European and national level policymakers, as well as interested stakeholders, to raise awareness about the potential of a future research infrastructure dedicated to plant genetic resources and address biodiversity loss. Organized by Euroseeds this event fits into [Harnesstom](#) mission an innovation action project that aims to show how harnessing the value of tomato genetic resources can lead to better more resilience crops.

The event has been a success with close to 70 people attending the meeting in person while 400 registered on line with an average of 100-200 people connected throughout the duration of the meeting.

The two-day meeting addressed important questions such as bottleneck legislator burden and synergies with EMPHASIS. It also helped to identify the importance to bringing together the three main type of actors: gene banks, scientists and breeding communities (including breeding companies).

The second day was dedicated to a phenotyping workshop that presented the different initiatives for phenotyping plant genetic resources and was an excellent opportunity to discuss how plant phenotyping could support the management and utilization of plant genetic resources and to make the amount of data available for scientific and breeding activities and to ensure its interoperability with different information systems.

The idea of proposing a Research Infrastructure dedicated to Plant Genetic Resources as SSRC was reinforced and the net steps discussed.

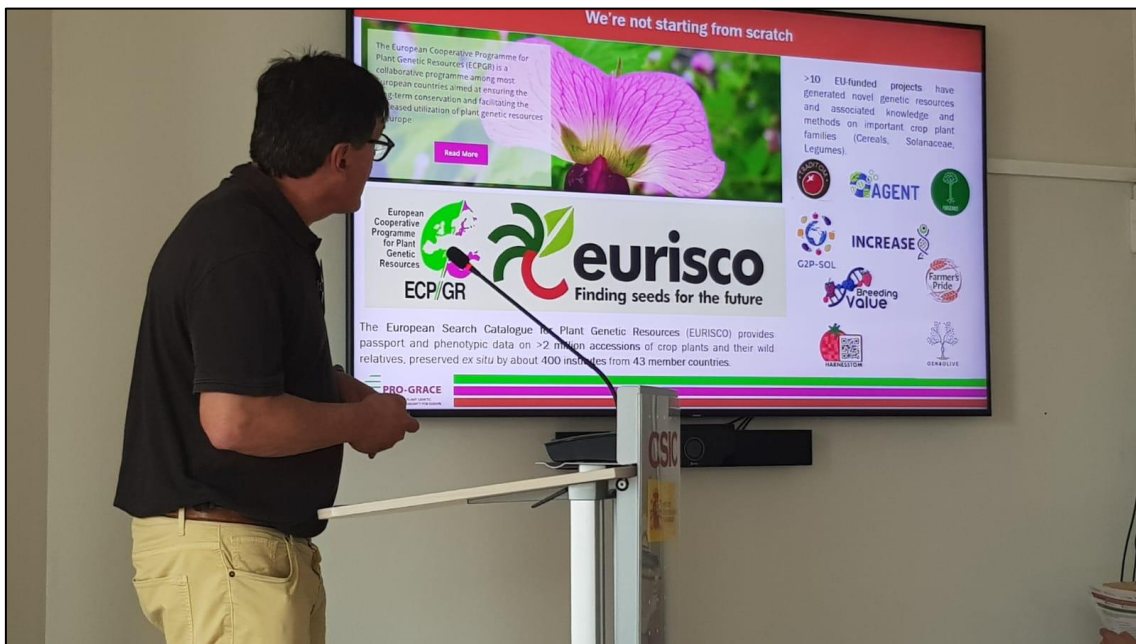




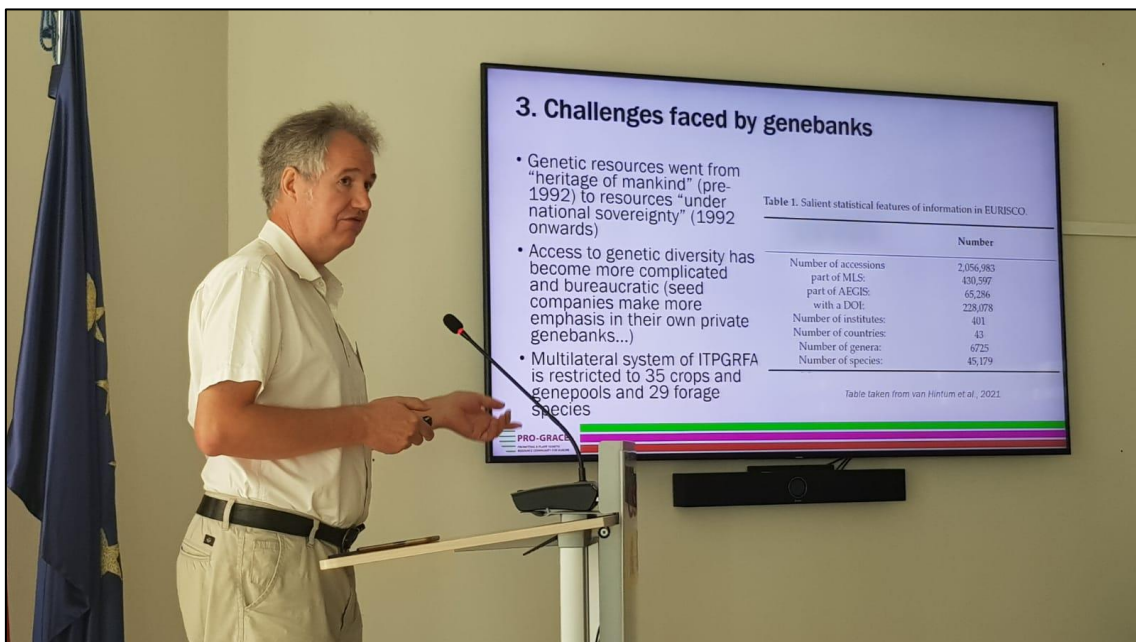
Group picture of attendants to the PROGRACE Workshop on Genetic Resources



Gisela Quaglia research officer from R+I Unit DG Agri Commission presenting the Horizon 2020 projects on Genetic Resources and Breeding during the ProGRACE workshop



ProGRACE coordinator and Harnesstom partner Giovanni Giuliano during his presentation of the workshop highlighting the HARNESSTOM project contribution to generate data on tomato genetic resources



ProGRACE and HARNESSTOM partner from UPB, Jaime Prohens presents its view on how to increase awareness and use of Plant Genetic Resources during the ProGRACE meeting in Brussels