

**Minutes of the ERFP Assembly of National Coordinators****25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018, Zagreb, Croatia**

**Chair:** Sipke Joost Hiemstra, NC The Netherlands

**Participants:** List of participants

**Participants:** See attached list

All presentations delivered during the ERFP Assembly will be uploaded on the ERFP website.

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018****Welcome and opening**

Sipke Joost Hiemstra, the Chair of the ERFP Steering Committee, welcomed the Assembly in Zagreb. He thanked the Croatian National Coordinator for hosting the ERFP Assembly and the Secretariat for organization. He presented the Agenda and briefly outlined the work topics for the meeting. There were no further amendments and Agenda was accepted.

**Welcome by the host country**

Ante Ivankovic, National Coordinator (NC) for the AnGR of Croatia, welcomed all the participants and presented the host institution, the Faculty of Agriculture. He gave an overview of the animal genetic resources in Croatia.

**ERFP Annual Progress report**

The Secretariat presented the “Annual progress report for the 2017-2018”. Short overview of the Secretariat and Steering Committee work were presented. All NCs received the written report (Annex 1) prepared by the Secretariat prior to the GA meeting, where all the activities are described in details.

**The presented Annual Progress Report 2017-2018 was approved by the Assembly.**

Following the Annual Progress report, the **Financial Report** was presented by the Secretariat. ERFP concluded the financial year 2017 with funds of 288.663,63 € remaining. Furthermore, the detailed financial situation for 2018 was described. As per 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018, the remaining funds are 281,262.79 €. The general expenses in 2018 amounted to 54,000.84 € so far and the income through the country contributions is 46,600.00 € (all amounts as per 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018). Until the end of 2018, the total expenses are

expected/estimated at 81.601,50 €, with total remaining funds projected at 299.762,13 €. Until now, less countries paid country contributions than last year, but by the end of the year we still expect contributions from countries which are paying regularly. Following comments made by the Assembly, Steering Committee is requested to consider the desired amount of financial reserves, and to develop ideas to invest/spend part of the remaining funds.

**The presented final budget for 2017 was approved by the Assembly.**

### **Reports from the ERFP Working Groups**

#### Documentation and information

Enrico Sturaro (WG chair) briefly summarized the work of the group and future plans. All the details are described in the written report. The group will work on the following activities in 2019: preparation and proposal for development and implementation of data fields on honeybees in DAD-IS; preparation of the new *Ad hoc* action on breeds adapted in specific environments; transboundary breeds and developing best practices; collaboration in GenResBridge project. In order to improve data quality within EFABIS the WG proposed to organize a technical Workshop and part of the WG is available to work in collaboration with the Secretariat in communication matters/website.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

#### Ex situ conservation

Sipke Joost Hiemstra gave the report of the Working Group *Ex Situ* Conservation. Further work will include: development of EUGENA; finalizing model MTA/MAA; discussion on user policies and access rules of national gene banks; compiling the list of national expert's cryobiology/reproduction; sharing cryopreservation protocols by species; review of definitions relevant for EUGENA. He also presented new elected Chair of the WG *Ex Situ*, Fernando Tejerina. Details of the WG work plan are described in the written report.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

#### In situ conservation

Sebastian Winkel described the main activities of the WG group, presented nominated members and the work plan for 2018-2020. The group identified 5 tasks for their future work and responsibilities were divided among WG members. The following tasks were identified: best practices for *in situ* conservation and valorisation of AnGR; ERFP Guidelines for *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds; promote and support rural development measures for AnGR; exchange of recommendations of national advisory bodies on AnGR; support of the project GenRes Bridge as well as permanent experience exchange during the WG meetings. He also presented the current activity of preparation of the position paper on the CAP of the EU

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

## **Reports from the ERFP Task Forces**

### Access and Benefit Sharing

Elżbieta Martyniuk presented the report for the TF ABS. She briefly outlined areas of work and further activities of the group. TF ABS is currently involved in few activities which needs to be finalized: standard MAA and MTA; further contribution to the work on ABS and DSI of the Commission; building awareness on ABS issues among animal breeding community. She proposed joint meeting with WG Ex situ and proposed to allocate budget for the TF in the following year.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

### EU matters

Sipke Joost Hiemstra introduced the discussion and proposal of the TF EU. The work on AnGR legislation has become too demanding for the small TF. In the future, AnGR related legislation could be part of the WG work (he gave example of the action performed from WG In situ – position paper CAP). In order to continue the important work of the TF EU, the SC suggested to prepare a list of policy experts who could assist the ERFP network dealing with certain specific policy/legislation issues. TF EU will remain inactive in the next period, unless we decide differently in next years. Discussion was brought up, which experts should be included on the list, as well as that expert should have good connection with NC.

**Assembly approved the proposal.**

## **Reports from the ERFP *Ad hoc* actions**

### Indicators for monitoring status and trend of honeybees

Enrico Sturaro briefly reported on the objectives and activities of the *Ad hoc* action group (described also in written report). The main outcome of their work is the presented written report of their work which also includes the recommendations of specific fields in EFABIS/DAD-IS and review with the following title “An overview of the biogeography of honey bee sub-species in Europe, breeding and conservation activities”

Sipke Joost Hiemstra also thanked Nina Saether for leading important work in Chairing the *Ad hoc* action group: “Preparation of the position papers for the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in June, 2018”. All NC who attended the meeting in Rome had opportunity to revise already prepared position papers prior to the meeting. All position papers were also sent to NC for final revision.

## **Elections in 2018**

ERFP Chair - according to the ERFP Terms of Reference, the term of office for the current Chair of the Steering Committee Sipke Joost Hiemstra ends in 2018. SC proposed to re-elect him for a second term.

**Assembly approved the proposal and elected Sipke Joost Hiemstra for one more term.**

ERFP Steering Committee member – According to the ERFP Terms of Reference, the term of office for Jeanne Bormann, representative of “Central region” ends in 2018. The new member has to be elected. Email was sent to all NC and received no additional proposal. SC proposed Montserrat Castellanos Moncho from Spain to represent the “Central Region” The candidate briefly introduced herself.

**Assembly elected Montserrat Castellanos Moncho as a new member of the SC.**

Election of the new ERFP Secretariat - The Secretariat described the election process, which was conducted in accordance with the ERFP ToRs Annex 3. Sipke Joost Hiemstra shortly presented the application. All documents received were forwarded to all NCs. The application was received from Institut de l’Elevage (IDELE), Département Génétique et Phénotypes, 149 rue de Bercy, 75595 PARIS CEDEX 12, France

**Assembly elected Institut de l’Elevage (IDELE) as a new ERFP Secretariat.**

## **ERFP future plans and budget 2019 approval**

### Future plans

Sipke Joost Hiemstra presented the activity plan for 2019:

- Continuation of WGs (meeting proposals),
- Continuation of the work of the TFs (meeting proposals and nomination of policy experts),
- Sufficient budget for *Ad Hoc* Action proposals:
  - Proposals and ideas for new Ad hoc Action ‘s – 1 received,*
- Additional budget for the ERFP Secretariat,
- Additional budget for Communication (networking, website, portals),
- Assembly meeting 2019,
- Possible amendments of ToR, MyPoW 2019 – 2022.

**The future plans were approved by the Assembly.**

### Budget proposal for 2019

The total budget proposal in the amount 132.000€ for the year 2019 was presented. The budget for 2019 is higher compared to 2018, due to the higher costs of the new Secretariat. For the Assembly meeting the allocated budget will remain the same. The WGs will also keep the same budget. All Chairs are requested to keep expenses of WG/TF/Ad hoc meetings as low as possible. The two currently active TF proposed slightly different organization of the work. We keep budget line for TF ABS, and the budget of TF EU will be moved under the Ad hoc actions. All the budget anticipated for the developing EUGENA, EFABIS and ERFP website was merged under the new common budget line Communication and tools. The Chair explained that the budget is higher and we are spending more, therefore the total income from country contributions should also grow.

**The Assembly approved the presented future plans and budget proposal for 2019.**

### FAO report

Roswitha Baumung briefly presented the outcomes of the Tenth Regular Session of the ITWG-AnGR and reported about DAD-IS/EFABIS development, and related further work, as well as development of EFABIS web page. Certain delays occurred while developing EFABIS tools, which should be completed in early 2019. Next year they will also start with inclusion of the fields for monitoring domesticated honeybees.

### Progress report by EAAP WG-AnGR

Jesús Fernández Martín introduced the members of the EAAP WG-AnGR and the current topics proposed by the WG, ERFP and FAO for EAAP conference in Dubrovnik:

- Session 1: Added value of local breeds,
- Session 9: Genetic diversity and conservation,
- Session 52: The contribution of livestock farming to the provision of ecosystem services.

He invited all NC to attend the sessions.

### Presentations of the Invited speakers and ongoing projects

Invited speakers presented their organizations, and possible collaboration with ERFP was discussed, as well as two Horizon 2020 projects (IMAGE and GenResBridge):

- Andras Gaspard, DAGENE
- Juan Vicente Delgado Bermejo, RBI
- Michele Tixier-Boichard, IMAGE
- Michele Bozzano, GenResBridge

All the presentations of the Invited speakers are available on the ERFP web page.

### **SWOT analysis**

Sipke Joost Hiemstra introduced the background and objectives for carrying out the analysis. The current MYPOW period 2015-2018 has ended and the new MYPOW should be accepted in 2019. The SC proposed to work on the MyPOW after the Assembly meeting and after the SWOT analysis and strategic discussions with the Assembly. Drafting of a new MyPOW will be completed and sent to all NCs this year and comments from NCs are requested by the end of the year. The new MyPOW will therefore be ready for the next year GA meeting. At the moment, the old MyPOW is still valid.

Elzbieta Martyniuk introduced the methodology. The SWOT questionnaires were sent to all NCs and 25 of them responded. The outcome of the questionnaire was presented and key issues were discussed at the GA meeting in Zagreb.

- Rotational or permanent secretariat – Do NCs want to decide for a permanent Secretariat in the future. We should have in mind that this step involves additional efforts and resources. The main conclusion of the discussion was to further investigate pros and cons, personal needs, what secretariat should do, what we could improve and what we could lose. This analysis should be done and concluded within two years' time.
- National reports on AnGR – should we bring back the short reports which we were once preparing for the GA? Assembly agreed that such reports could be informative but this could/should be done (in the form of highlights) on the new ERFP website.
- Regional projects – do we need more regional/sub regional projects? Opportunity for that already exist within the *Ad hoc action* proposal and no additional changes are needed.
- Communication within the network – do we need to improve communication within the network? Discussion on visibility of the SC reports. Reports are open and available to all NCs. NCs would like to receive notifications when documents are available. In addition to internal communication within the NC network, external communication should be strengthened. Conclusion is that communication strategy should be further developed as well as the website, especially in the part where we have country pages. Countries should be encouraged to include their highlights and important events on the ERFP website. Newsletter should be developed providing info about important news and achievements of the ERFP.

A more detailed report of the discussion, including recommendations of the GA will be drafted by the *Ad hoc action* group, and handed over to the Steering Committee/Secretariat. The Steering Committee will start developing the new draft MYPOW, including on the basis of the SWOT discussions.

**EU focus CAP –Common Agricultural Policy**

Jeanne Bormann presented the CAP reform in a nutshell and its impact on genetic resources. WG *In situ* conservation proposed to prepare a Position paper related to the role of the genetic resources in agriculture. Sebastian Winkel, Chair of the WG suggested that this Position paper could be prepared together with the two other networks ECPGR, EUFORGEN, based on the previous experience of sending a common letter to the EU.

**Assembly agreed with sending a common general position paper about the role of genetic resources in the new CAP.**

**AOB**

Technical information about the dinner and the technical tour was given.

The meeting was closed at 19.05.