



## **General Assembly (Tallinn), 2017**

### **EU Reference centre for endangered breeds**

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# EU reference centre for endangered breeds

- **EU Animal Breeding Regulation (2016/1012)**
  - ➔ **Chapter VI (article 29) and Annex IV on European Reference centres**
  - Where there is a recognised need to promote the establishment or harmonisation of the methods used by breed societies, third parties designated by breed societies, competent authorities or other authorities of the Member States for the preservation of endangered breeds or the preservation of the genetic diversity existing within those breeds, the Commission may adopt **implementing acts**, in order to designate the European Union reference centres responsible for the scientific and technical contribution to the establishment or harmonisation of those methods.
  - The designation shall follow a **public selection process** and shall be limited in time or reviewed regularly.
  - **Requirements** to the European Reference centre for endangered breeds:
    - (a) have suitably **qualified staff**:
      - (i) who have adequate training in the preservation of endangered breeds;
      - (ii) who have been instructed to respect the confidential nature of certain subjects, results or communications; and
      - (iii) who have sufficient knowledge of research activities at national, Union and international level;
    - (b) possess or have access to the **infrastructure, equipment and products** necessary to carry out the tasks.



# EU reference centre for endangered breeds

- **Tasks** of the European Reference centre for endangered breeds:
  - (a) **work with** breed societies, third parties designated by breed societies, competent authorities and other authorities of the Member States to facilitate the preservation of endangered breeds or the preservation of the genetic diversity existing within those breeds;
  - (b) **inform** breed societies, third parties designated by those breed societies, competent authorities or other authorities on methods used for the preservation of endangered breeds and the preservation of genetic diversity within those breeds;
  - (c) at the request of the Commission:
    - (i) **develop or harmonise methods used for the in situ and ex situ conservation** of endangered breeds or the preservation of the genetic diversity within those breeds or provide assistance in such development or harmonisation;
    - (ii) **develop methods used for the characterisation of the status of endangered breeds** with regard to their genetic diversity or their danger of being lost to farming or provide assistance in such development;
    - (iii) **encourage exchanges between Member States of information on the preservation of the endangered breeds** or the preservation of the genetic diversity within those breeds;



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- **Tasks** of the European Reference centre for endangered breeds:
  - (c) at the request of the Commission:
    - (iv) **provide training** to support breed societies or third parties designated by those breed societies, competent authorities and other authorities in the preservation of endangered breeds and the preservation of genetic diversity within those breeds;
    - (v) **cooperate**, within the scope of their tasks, **with European and internationally recognised organisations**;
    - (vi) **provide**, within the scope of their tasks, **technical expertise to the Standing Committee on Zootechnics**.
  
- **Recital (54):** In addition, in order to provide support to breed societies managing endangered breeds, where there is a recognised need, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission, enabling it to designate European Union reference centres charged with the specific task of promoting the establishment or harmonisation of methods used by those breed societies. In order, where necessary, to modify the task of those reference centres, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 TFEU should also be delegated to the Commission. When designating those centres and describing their tasks, **the Commission should take duly into account the activities of the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) which has been established in the framework of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources in Europe of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The methods established by these centres should not be binding.**



# EU reference centre for endangered breeds

- **Extract from the call for the selection and designation of European Union reference centre responsible for the scientific and technical contribution to the harmonisation and improvement of the methods of performance testing and genetic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species**
- Only **applications submitted via the national competent authorities** (central level) (NCAs) will be considered by the Commission.
- The designation shall follow a **public selection process** and shall be limited in time or reviewed regularly.
- The European Union provides **financial assistance** to European Union reference centres. This assistance is in the form of a grant for the costs that they incur in **implementing the work programmes approved by the Commission**. According to Article 30(2) of that Regulation, the following costs are eligible for the grant:
  - (a) **costs of personnel**, regardless of their status, directly involved in activities of the laboratories which are carried out in their capacity of Union reference laboratory or centre;
  - (b) **costs of capital equipment**;
  - (c) **cost of consumables**;
  - (d) **costs of shipment of samples, missions, meetings, training activities**.

The EU funding may cover up to 100% of the eligible expenditures.



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## 4. ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA

### 4.A. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order for the applicant centre to be eligible:

- The applicant centre shall be **viable without the EU financial assistance**.

*Means of proof: NCAs shall provide a certificate stating that they will ensure that the required support in relation to human and financial resources necessary for the satisfactory operation of the European Union Reference Centre (EURC) will be provided by the NCAs, or an appropriate body. This certificate must be dated and signed by an authorised representative of the NCAs.*

- The applicant centres shall have been **entrusted to perform tasks** of public interest in the area of **competence** of the call, under the supervision of the competent authorities.

*Means of proof: Description and certification to be provided with the application.*



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## 5. SELECTION CRITERIA

### 5.A ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY

The EURC shall provide **evidence of its financial and economic standing** based on the following documents:

*Means of proof: balance sheets, profit and loss accounts or annual reports for the last three financial years balance. Where available, audit reports of the last 3 years should be provided as well.*



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## 5.B TECHNICAL CAPACITY

The selection criteria below are extracted from the requirements laid down in Article 29(4)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

(a)The centre has **suitably qualified staff** with adequate training in performance testing and genetic and genomic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species.

*Requirement: the Director of the European Union reference centre must have a post-graduate degree and 5 years professional experience (from which 2 years of experience in the area of competence of the European Union reference centre); the scientific staff shall have a post-graduate degree and 2 years of experience (from which 1 year in the area of competence of the European Union reference centre); the technical staff shall have a technical degree and 1 year experience. The Director of the centre has satisfactory knowledge of English. In addition to the Director, the European Union reference centre shall have at least 1 scientist, one technician staff and one administrative staff at its disposal.*

*Means of proof: CVs and copies of degrees of all staff involved in European Union reference centre's tasks.*





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(b) The centre has suitably qualified staff instructed to **respect the confidential nature** of certain subjects, results or communications.

*Requirement: the centre shall have mechanisms/ arrangements/ procedures in place to respect the confidential nature of certain subjects, results or communications*

*Means of proof: description of mechanisms/ arrangements/ procedures in place, or that could be initiated.*

(c) The centre has suitably qualified staff with **sufficient knowledge of research activities** at national, Union and international level.

*Requirement: the staff of the centre shall have sufficient knowledge of research activities at national, Union and international level*

*Means of proof: statement supported by list of publications; description of standards and practices implemented.*



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(d) The centre possesses the **equipment and products** needed to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

*Requirement: the centre shall possess the equipment and products necessary to fulfil the tasks in the area of competence of the European Union reference centres, according to the specifications for the European Union reference*

*Means of proof: statement accompanied by description of technical equipment and informatics.*

(e) The centre has an **appropriate infrastructure** needed to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

*Requirement: the centre shall have appropriate technical and administrative support*

*Means of proof: statement and description of infrastructure.*



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## 6. PREFERENCE CRITERIA

The applicant centre mentioned hereinafter shall provide adequate and detailed evidence of the following issues to support their submission:

**TEAM COMPOSITION and EXCELLENCE → Rate: 20%**

**STRUCTURE → Rate: 10%**

**TECHNICAL COMPETENCE → Rate: 20%**

**INTERNATIONAL → Rate: 20%**

**COORDINATION → Rate: 15%**

## 7. SELECTION

The application selected will be the one with the highest score.



# Scenarios for the establishment of a EU reference centre for endangered breeds

## Scenario 1

- ERFP as future EU reference centre for endangered breeds
  - Requirements:
    - Establishment of ERFP as a legal body (under its current structure not eligible)
    - Need for establishing a permanent secretariat, team of scientific staff
    - Impact on financial contributions by European country members?
    - ERFP network: EU Member States and European countries not belonging to the EU

## Scenario 2

- External body with extended experience, knowledge in the area of ex situ and in situ conservation of endangered breeds as future EU reference centre for endangered breeds
- Strong cooperation with ERFP (secretariat), implementation of ERFP relevant tasks, missions

