

Minutes of the Working Group Documentation and Information

3rd-4th May 2017, Belgrade, Serbia

Chair: Christina Ligda

Participants: see list

Minutes kept: Gasan Osojnik

Wednesday, 3rd May 2017; 10:30 pm

The Chair C. Ligda welcomed participants, opened the meeting and outlined the agenda. The agenda was accepted without amendments.

The Chair presented the report on WG activities. The main activities referred to the WG contribution to DAD-IS developments, which resulted the list of European fields and comments submitted to the FAO, by the ERF Secretariat in December 2016, and to the ad hoc actions coordinated by members of the WG. The outcomes of the ad hoc actions were presented later on, under the specific topics of the agenda. The key points arised from the WG activities report are:

- (i) The need to continue efforts improving EFABIS data quality and enrich with the information that is currently lacking, especially in connection with the breeding environment, aiming to enhance the use of the system.
- (ii) The status of data completeness for “Adaptedness classification” remains low, and efforts should be bring forward to identify the reasons for this gaps and propose solutions. It has been pointed out during the discussion that several countries are still in the process of breed classification, and until they decide on the approach, these fields will remain empty.
- (iii) Reminder on the new and working url address for **EFABIS - efabis-regional.iasrj.eu**.

Main recommendations of the *Ad hoc* action “Socio-economic and environmental parameters”

E. Sturaro presented the main recommendations proposed by the *Ad hoc* action, included in the final report, where: (i) proposed approach is defined; (ii) the socio-economic environment parameters that may be used further to refine the breed's development potential or the risk status, (iii) and finally, the new EFABIS fields are proposed and defined (s.a. for the description of market recognition, breed profitability, continuity of activity, subsidies autonomy, breeding/conservation program, genebank, cooperation level, cultural value). The *Ad hoc* action group recommends that a separate section for the input of socio-economic data could be formed, and individual NCs can decide, whether they want to use this section and enter data. Several output and search options are possible.

Feedback and comments: It would be good to have the feedback from NCs and WG members who would be interested to use these fields, and who is willing to enter data. Additionally, data providers should specify if data are intended for internal purposes or can be available for public (instead to distinguish between public or non public). Consequently, it could be useful for the NCs to have the option to enter socio-economic and environmental data, but not show it externally.

R. Baumung raised issue of financial matters related to the additional costs of programming those fields. She raised a question if ERFP is willing to finance those additional fields. D. Bojkovski explained, that the proposal for additional socio-economic and environmental fields was submitted to FAO already in the end of 2016, together with the decision on the EFABIS regional node. At time of the submission, ERFP was not aware and informed from FAO on any additional costs for those fields. Consequently, matter of additional costs for ERFP in programming additional fields if any has to be clearly defined and decided by the ERFP Assembly.

ERFP Ad hoc action “Development of the ERFP communication tools”

G. Osojnik presented the planned activities and expected outcomes of the Ad hoc action: Development of the ERFP Communication Tools. EUGENA and ERFP logotype drafts were discussed. WG members liked the drafts and minor issues were shortly discussed. The key results from the website survey, visitor structure feedback and web analytics was presented and the drafted communication strategy was reviewed. The presentation focused on the Communication strategy and the ERFP website modernization in connection with the role of the WG, specifically on cumulative statistics and maps.

Z. Ducheve presented the schematic representation of the website that is under development and general discussion followed on how the content will be updated.

Feedback and comments: The FrontPage has to be simple and attractive. The focus for each country would be useful. It has to be defined, how country pages will be updated, and minimum information should be provided that can be maintained at all times.

There is an option how to provide active contents – regular notification reminders could be provided when contents have not been updated/ revised for some time.

The news will take a lot of engagement as they are required to be frequently provided. Using a section “in focus” or “featured topic” could be more sensible, as this section would contain more prominent content, which requires fewer updates.

The content, that is intended for external public should be easy to find and emphasized.

The content, that is intended for internal public can be set deeper in the webpage structure, and eventually, a quick access button to the “ERFP working section” can be added on the homepage”.

The “Snapshot of European AnGR” is a good idea, which will really set us apart from other pages.

Furthermore, the means of collaboration between WG and *Ad hoc* action were discussed in the following areas:

- Publication and image database.
- Existing and novel content.
- Glossary
- Cumulative statistics
- Country subpages fields

- The *Ad hoc* action: Development of the ERFP Communication in its Report suggests that ERFP sets up a small communication group with an allocated budget for the purpose of updating the existing content, editing and adding/uploading of new content, as well as managing active engagement on social networks and maintaining other ERFP communication tools. As the work of such a communication unit is expected to be closely connected to the work of data management and information provision, the WG Docu & Info suggests that this small communication unit is formed as an extension / subgroup of the WG Docu & Info.

WG will provide specific comments and suggestions related with WG contribution to the communication strategy, on the *Ad hoc* action report. The contact point for the *Ad hoc* action is ERFP Secretariat.

Transboundary breeds

Z. Ducheve presented the existing data on transboundary (regional and international) breeds existing in the EFABIS related with *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, which could be used to promote genetic management strategies between the countries. Currently, 2688 populations in Europe are linked to a transboundary name. The available tools in EFABIS were presented.

S. Stojanovič presented as an example of transboundary breeds, the outcomes of the BushaLive project (funded by the FAO Funding Strategy for the implementation of GPA). The main results of the project refer to the data collected on the populations, phenotypical characterisation, performance data, farming systems, production systems/main products, marketing of the products, as well as the genetic characterisation using genome wide marker data. The project determined different types of Busha Cattle in the Balkans, defined sustainable use of Busha Cattle and shared experience about cross border conservation model. The data collected will be updated also in EFABIS.

Mountain breeds in Europe: how EFABIS data can be used

E. Charvolin-Lemaire presented the work she has carried out using EFABIS as information system to find the data for the assessment of common characteristics of “rustic” European mountain breeds. The work has been initiated after a relevant request from CORAM - Le Collectif des Races locales de Massif. E. Charvolin-Lemaire presented the procedure that was followed, on reviewing EFABIS, identifying keywords, extracting data and collating charts to provide the final reports. The idea is challenging, also in terms of further exploitation of EFABIS. The idea will be further developed and a proposal for *Ad hoc* action will be presented to the SC.

Election of new WG chair

According to the ERFP ToR, second term for Christina Ligda, Chair of the WG Docu & Info will end. For the next chair of the WG Documentation and Information, Enrico Sturaro was nominated. His nomination and CV were circulated amongst the WG members prior to this meeting, and several countries have already supported his nomination.

E. Sturaro, Associated Professor of University of Padova, works in sustainability of livestock systems and he has experience of working with research institutions across Europe. Regarding the future plans of the WG Docu & Info he sees the purpose to develop EFABIS further in a useful way, as well as to bring in other information technology to support animal genetic resources.

The Working group members unanimously elected E. Sturaro as the WG Chair. C. Ligda and E. Sturaro will work together in providing the report to the ERFPA Annual Assembly. .

Several rounds of expressing appreciation for leading the group were addressed to Christina Ligda.

Update on DAD-IS developments

R. Baumung presented and updated the process of the DAD-IS information system modernisation. The DAD-IS IT division is now starting work on data entry part of the application, and first progress should be seen online in a course of few weeks. The Austria and Afghanistan test pages were presented – the new system alerts the NCs that some of the data are out-of-date (if the most recent information are older than 10 years). Furthermore, several national results on SDG (sustainable development goals) indicators (e.g. for SDG indicator 2.5.1 on national breed populations with sufficient material stored in genebanks and 2.5.2 on local breeds at risk of extinction) are now directly shown at the data entry page. All this data visualisations and reminders are there to motivate the NCs to regularly update the data. The details for data input are included in the corresponding help text.

Breeds are described with the following subpages: general information, basic characteristics, population size, performance data, conservation programme, (breeding) organisation. When new breeds are added, the system asks if the breed is transboundary (this can also be changed later on). There is also a possibility to send feedback to the DAD-IS moderator through the system (what is missing).

A first prototype of the system will be available for testing at the end of May, and will be circulated among NCs. IT has agreed that members of the WG will also be involved in testing the system, exchange of experience between the group and provide feedback to FAO.

CGRFA - Honeybee and pollinator fields

R. Baumung presented the results of the FAO survey on honeybee and pollinators. The survey was performed in March 2017 and 58 different countries replied. The responding countries have information on the existing honeybee species and subspecies, and availability of national data on the honey bees. The survey included also questions on the trends of bee populations, perceived most important services provided by honey bees, honeybee trade (import/export) and main threats for honey bee populations. Other pollinators were addressed as well (these are about 20.000 species), therefore questions were formed around what kind of pollinators are used for pollination services, valuable services of pollinators and monitoring of population status of general pollinators, greatest threats and reported extinct pollinators. R. Baumung informed, that AGAG is going to further investigate what criteria to include in DAD-IS and would appreciate the input of WG Docu & Info. Since the documentation of 20.000 pollinator species seems not to be feasible it was proposed to limit the documentation of pollinators in DAD-IS on the genus *Apis*.

Comments: G Polak was invited to present the information on honey bees and the current field list already includes in the Polish Node. She indicated that this scheme could be use by the other country as a good starting point for further development of a proposed list of descriptors for DAD-IS. In this process, it is important to include external experts in the field of bee keeping in each country, to bring together their experience.

Work plan 2017–2018

C. Ligda, based on the discussions held in the WG meeting, presented the WG work plan for 2017-2018, which includes the following tasks:

i. Contribute to the DAD-IS development

WG response to FAO on prototype (until October, according to FAO's planning)

Define needs for outputs / reports

ii. Contribute to the ERFEP communication strategy (*Ad hoc* action)

Provide a document to the ERFEP *Ad hoc* action based on the discussion in the meeting (before end of May) (responsible G. Osojnik, S. Winkel)

iii) Continue the efforts to improve data quality in the EFABIS (on going objective of the WG)

Improve completeness of classification fields for adaptedness

Improve completeness of data relevant with SDGs indicators (2.5.1)

Increase data input on description of the breeds and their production systems

Data on environmental and cultural value: how to analyse the data

Develop additional fields on socio-economic and environmental data

iv) Mountain breeds (and possible also for transboundary breeds develop a proposal for *Ad hoc* action; until June, E. Charvolinleonore)

v) Future work: Identify and assess ecosystem services (connected also with honeybees (possible to develop an *Ad hoc* action- responsible: E. Sturaro)

vi) Contribute to identification and development possible data fields for DAD-is related to monitoring data on honeybees and pollinators (G. Polak, Z. Duchev)

The WG members agreed to the work plan.

The chair closed the meeting at 18:30.