

## Minutes of the Working Group Ex Situ Conservation

4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Belgrade, Serbia

**Chair:** Jelena Ramljak

**Participants:** see list

### **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017; 14:30 pm**

The Chair J. Ramljak welcomed the participants and outlined the agenda.

#### **EUGENA State of signing MoU, obstacles, next steps**

There is a short overview of EUGENA status and list of countries that signed the MoU till the end of March 2017:

- 6 countries signed MoU (*Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Albania, Austria, Spain*),
- 5 countries – signing in progress (*The Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Montenegro, France*).

The members have outlined the reasons and obstacles of not signing the MoU in their country (yet) which are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Short overview of status and obstacles in Signing MoU

Country	Status / obstacles of Signing MoU
Lithuania, Croatia, Slovakia, Portugal, Bulgaria, The Netherlands	Changes in government
Turkey	First the need to develop infrastructure within the state (in progress) and then MoU will be signed
Serbia	MoU will be signed most likely in June 2017
Ukraine	Ministry is familiar with EUGENA and MoU
Latvia	Has just legalised Gene bank, signed MoU can be expected maybe next year
Germany	Need to organise meeting with National Gene bank steering committee (there will be more than one signature)
Sweden	No further progress yet

Feedback from WG members on first drafts MAA and MTA was provided clarifying the meaning and some statements in these documents.

Comment:

#### **Possible elements of a MTA – Conservation/breeding document**

- Article 3, point 2 – one month should be more optional (suggestion – put that in bracket).
- Article 4, point 1 – provider doesn't have any costs (only recipient)

### Material Acquisition Agreement document

- If the breeder is owner of the material, then owner must give permission and then the association gives the permissions. Result: two documents are signed.

General conclusion – in most cases MAA and MTA documents will be adapted to the law of each country. If there were some additional questions and comments about documents, members are asked to inform the Secretariat and Sipke

In general, it can be concluded that the signing of MoU is in progress. Information about countries and gene banks that signed the MoU should be available on the EUGENA portal. The ERFP member country inform the ERFP Secretariat on genebank(s) participating in EUGENA.

### **IMAGE - next steps & Access to Gene bank data/info**

Introduction part: general definition of Genebank within EUGENA and its objectives, and the relationship between EUGENA and IMAGE.

Access to Gene bank data is currently limited. IMAGE survey revealed that most genetic collections provide link to a website, but there is often no detailed information about collections

Connection between EUGENA and IMAGE was explained. General information about IMAGE as well as information considering working packages (WP) was provided. Overall there are 8 WPs which involve all species or chosen one (according to the addressed question). As very important are pointed out interactions between information on breeds (in EFABIS/DAD-IS) genebank documentation in EFABIS and the information collected through the IMAGE project. It should be complementary in all respects. IMAGE outcomes (survey results) will be made available through IMAGE website/portal, and only data from gene banks that decide to join EUGENA will be transferred to EUGENA (not all IMAGE 'genetic collections' and 'gene banks' are part of EUGENA). Furthermore IMAGE is aiming to promote transfer of data about germplasm or genomic collections and to get access to this data through EBI Biosamples,

### **Sanitary and Veterinary Issues in Cryo-Conservation - New developments?**

Presentation by Beate Berger (Austria): OIE and EU-Legislation do not mention the special situation of AnGR. In case of new or updated EU veterinary legislation the aim should be to include the possibility for specific derogations supporting the conservation of AnGR.

### **News from ERFPP countries**

In Croatia as autochthonous breed one goat breed is recognised – Istrian Goat. The population size is very small (N=50), and collection of genetic material will start as soon as possible.

In Austria, Turopolje pig (transboundary breed) – problems with access to semen for storage.

New scientific paper is published regarding bovine legacy in yak by Medugorac et al (2017) *Whole-genome analysis of introgressive hybridization and characterization of the bovine legacy of Mongolian yaks*. <https://www.nature.com/ng/journal/v49/n3/full/ng.3775.html>

### **Proposal for activities in 2018**

Table with experts on cryobiology and reproduction will be made and sent to members who will enter available data. The list will be placed on the ERFPP website.

Sample collection protocols, especially of less commercial breeds (rabbit) will be collected from the member country and placed on the website. This will be accessible to everyone and the information flow will be much faster.

Transboundary breeds in Ex Situ protection – good practice examples and suggestions for solution and dealing with endangered TB will be provided and summarised. In next meeting will be presented some of them.

As the WG D&I has a similar topics, contact and discussion with Enrico and Eleonore will be done and see how/whether our topics are complementary.