



---

## **Minutes of the Working Group In situ Conservation and Valorisation of AnGR**

**7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Bonn Germany**

**Chair:** Sebastian Winkel

**Participants:** see list

**Minutes kept:** Mojca Simcic

### **Opening and Greetings**

The meeting started with the greetings of the Vice-President of the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Christine Natt. She presented the manifold activities of the BLE with particular regard to the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR. The representative of the German NC for AnGR in the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Jan Hendrik Schneider, explained in his greetings the decision process for the new ERFP WG In situ Conservation. After the greetings Sebastian Winkel explained some organisational matters and introduced the agenda. The agenda was accepted by the WG members without amendments.

### **Constituting the ERFP WG In situ Conservation and Valorisation of AnGR**

The WG members introduced themselves. Then Mojca Simcic from the ERFP Secretariat led the constituting of the WG (presentation attached) including the election of the chair. After a short introduction of the nominee, Sebastian Winkel, the WG elected him unanimously as chair.

### **Work plan of the ERFP WG In situ Conservation and Valorisation of AnGR**

Beate Berger from the ERFP Steering Committee presented the results of the ERFP Task Force In situ Conservation and the tasks and responsibilities of the new WG (presentation attached). Mojca Simcic introduced the joint project proposal “Genres Bridge” of the three networks ECPGR (responsible for PGR), EUFORGEN (responsible for FGR) and ERFP. The aim of this project is to strengthen these networks and to develop an EU strategy for GRFA. The project shall be funded by the European Commission in the framework of its research supporting programme “Horizon 2020”. If this project will be funded, the ERFP WGs will be intensively involved in the project work.

Based on these both input presentations, the WG discussed intensively the work plan for the next four years. It is planned, that each task will be coordinated by a task leader. The WG identified five priority tasks to work on:

1. To collect best practices for *in situ* conservation (task leader: Coralie Danchin-Burge)
2. To develop ERFP guidelines for the *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds (task leader: N. N.; *Jack Windig has indicated per E-Mail on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, that he can take the lead.*)
3. To work on support measures for *in situ* conservation (task leader: Srdjan Stojanovic)
4. To support a pilot initiative for cross-border *in situ* conservation (task leader: N. N.)
5. To develop a position paper regarding the CAP (task leader: Beate Berger)

Regarding the individual tasks, the WG agreed the following points:

1. To collect best practices for *in situ* conservation (task leader: Coralie Danchin-Burge):
  - It must not necessarily be cross-border initiatives, because also the exchange of national best practice example provides a benefit on European level.
  - All possibilities of *in situ* conservation of AnGR (*i. a.* creation of value chains, use in environmental protection etc.) are addressed.
  - There will be a final conference of the EU project “Preparatory action – EU plant and animal genetic resources II” on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September in Nantes (France), where a compilation of best practice examples will be presented. There, maybe the WG can learn something about presenting best practice examples. To avoid duplication of efforts, the WG should collect best practice examples, which have not been reported in the EU project.
  - The identified and described best practice examples could be presented on the ERFP Website.
2. To develop ERFP guidelines for the *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds:
  - Very good FAO guidelines for *in situ* conservation of AnGR exists. But, they address not that much the cross-border collaboration.
  - The guidelines need to address various questions, *e. g.*:
    - How to establish breeding programmes in the various countries? (Some countries do not have defined breeding programmes.)
    - When is a population big enough to start a breeding programme?
    - How to establish international breeding programmes?
    - How to harmonize national breeding programmes for transboundary breeds?
    - How to motivate breeding organisations to collaborate?
    - How to deal with potential and occurring conflicts between breeders in different countries?
    - How to deal with the EU zoo-technical and veterinary legislation?
    - How to deal with ABS-measures?
    - How can genomic analysis, modern breeding technologies and alternative breeding methods facilitate cross border *in situ* conservation of AnGR?

- What is the role of Ark Farms and Rescue Centres?
  - The ERFP guidelines for *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds could be presented on the ERFP Website.
- 3. To work on support measures for *in situ* conservation:
  - The ERFP Ad hoc action “Subsibreed” provided a good overview about support measures for endangered breeds. However, it needs to be updated. This could be a starting point for this task.
  - The task starts with an analysis of the support measures in Europe. The second step is the development of recommendations.
- 4. To support a pilot initiative for cross-border *in situ* conservation:
  - Cross-border *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds seem to be very challenging (see raised questions in the guidelines-task). However, the WG should start to work on it by initiating and supporting very practical initiatives, to get in touch with the obstacles in practice.
  - The WG will start with one pilot initiative of a cross-border initiative for the *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds.
  - Cross-border activities of the WG could be the creation of breeder networks, translational services and organisations of meetings.
- 5. To develop a position paper regarding the CAP:
  - The negotiations for the new CAP have already started. From the point of view of the WG, it is important, that the *in situ* conservation is properly addressed in the new CAP. Therefore, the WG would like to draft a position paper in consultation with the ERFP TF EU Matters, which can be discussed during the next session of the ITWG on AnGR and which can be adopted by the European NCs during the next ERFP Assembly Meeting.
  - The task leader will provide a first draft to the WG.
  - The position paper should be short but strong. It should *i. a.* address the following issues:
    - Importance of local breeds for the rural development
    - Value creation by exploration of niche markets with rare breeds
    - Diversification of production systems and corresponding AnGR
    - Importance of young people as farmers and consumers
    - Nagoya Protocol

Regarding the planning and the implementation of these five tasks the WG agreed the following proceeding:

- Where no task leader is appointed yet, WG members are invited to check, whether they want to take over the lead.

- The task leaders draft short task descriptions (activities, deadlines) and send them to the chair.
- The tasks should be planned with consideration of the limited capacities of the WG members. If additional funds are needed, the task leaders could also plan ERFP Ad hoc actions.
- The chair will collect the task descriptions and will draft a work plan for the WG. The work plan will be send to the WG for discussion and adoption.
- The adopted work plan will be send to the NCs in preparation of the ERFP Assembly Meeting 2018. The ERFP Assembly will be asked to adopt the work plan.
- After adoption of the work plan by the ERFP Assembly the WG will execute the tasks, coordinated by the respective task leaders.
- Deviating from the described time line the drafting of the position paper for a better recognition of AnGR in the CAP starts immediately, so that the ERFP Assembly can adopt the position paper already in August 2018.

### **Experience exchange on in situ-conservation and valorisation of AnGR**

Experiences from Finland, France, Lithuania, Poland and Spain were presented (presentations attached). During the discussion Mervi Honkatukia explained, that the breeding registration for Finnish chicken breeds is executed on flock level. An interesting measure is the breeding of endangered Finnish cattle breeds in prison farms. Mervi Honkatukia announced also the upcoming dark bee conference in Finland. (*Further information about this conference can be found under <http://www.sicamm.org/>; <http://www.sicamm.org/NextConf.html>.) Regarding the dark bee there had been a discussion on the aggressiveness of the dark bees and their hybrids. The WG discussed also methods for pure breeding of the dark bee. An issue, which was also discussed in the WG, was the decline of breeding stocks of equine species due to the closing of state stud farms in France. Furthermore, the discussion emphasized the importance to motivate livestock keepers to herd book breeding. Regarding the labelling of autochthonous breeds, some efforts are running *e. g.* in Spain. Results on the success of labelling do not exist yet. It was discussed that for the most consumers the productions system is more relevant then the breed.*

### **Conclusion of the meeting**

After the experience exchange, the chair gave a short conclusion and closed the meeting at 12.30. Proposals for the location of the next WG meeting are highly appreciated.