



European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP)

## **Minutes of the Working Group Information and Documentation**

**Meeting, 24 - 25 May 2018, Padova, Italy**

Chair : E. Sturaro

Participants: See attached list

Minutes : C. Ligda

Thursday, 24 May 2018

### **Welcome-opening**

E. Sturaro welcome the participants and opened the meeting, explained the objectives and outlined the program. The participants agreed to the agenda, including the modification to discuss on first day, provided the time will be available, the topic of transboundary breeds (R. Hoving-Bolink' presentation and proposal presented by H. Göderz). E. Sturaro presented the WG workplan that was approved last year in assembly, and the main activities that have been carried out since the annual assembly 2017.

### **Information about the project proposal GenRes Bridge**

E. Sturaro continued with the second topic on the agenda, the presentation of GENRESBRIDGE project proposal that was submitted in Horizon 2020, explained how the project has been designed and the main objectives. The key objective is to join forces between the three networks (ECPGR, EUFORGEN, ERFP), enhance interaction among them and at the same time improve the work that is carried out within each network. The key aspects of the project proposal refer to the sustainable management of GR (in situ / ex situ strategies and use), aspects of climate change and genetic erosion. The results are expected in July and if the project will be approved, it is expected to start on December 2018. The discussion on the WG focused on how the members of the WG will be involved in the project and how the project will be used for the benefit of the activities of the WG and ERFP in general. Although there will be only 16 partners directly involved in the project, this WG of the ERFP can help to extend the achievements to the rest of the European countries. The discussion was opened and main points expressed referred to the possible contribution of project outcomes to the quality and quantity of data in Efabis, and also on the added value of the interaction of the three networks, and on the impact of the project to improve the communication within and between the different sectors. It remains to see how the various ideas will be implemented in practice, summarizing that the role of the WG is to work on two levels improve data quality and communication between networks.

### **Update on DAD-IS /EFABIS development**

R Baumung presented on DAD-IS / EFABIS developments, informing on the new landing page of EFABIS. She presented mock-ups to explain the navigation from the DAD-IS landing page to the EFABIS landing page and presented the online version for the new EFABIS landing page. She explained advantages and



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limitations of the proposed solution. FAO developed the EFABIS website using a fao.org URL. This implies that the look and feel, the style used must follow FAO's standards and rules. The changes that ERFP can request are therefore limited to the content (i.e. changes in the graphs / outputs) of the website. While this is limiting the flexibility of ERFP to a certain extent, this solution has several advantages. First of all, development and maintenance of the website is on no costs for ERFP. Further the relationship between DAD-IS and EFABIS is correctly presented, showing that EFABIS is not a completely independent system, but a regional node of DAD-IS. Another advantage of this solution is that the website will be also translated in 6 official UN languages (ERFP is providing only the text in English) on no cost for ERFP, which can contribute to an increased number of visits. Also no costs for hosting will be needed and maintenance costs will be limited to work for updating the content.

R, Baumung explained that the EFABIS webpage (frontend) and backend must not be confused. It was explained that any request for modifications and new tools must be clearly explained allowing to estimate costs for development. In this context it was briefly discussed that an EFABIS node manager might still be needed, but the original TORs might have to be amended..

A discussion was devoted to the specific tools of EFABIS, and for this purpose a questionnaire has been circulated to the participants that can help to define the tools which should be developed with priority. It is agreed that the questionnaire will also be submitted to the WG ex situ conservation mainly to assess the tools for genebank data.

The WG evaluated the new landing page positively, and agrees to continue with the proposed solution.

### **Report on the ad hoc action "bees" meeting in Thessaloniki**

C. Ligda presented the report of the meeting of the ad hoc action that held in April in Thessaloniki. The main objective of the ad hoc action is to identify core data fields that can be implemented into DAD-IS / EFABIS to monitor status and trends of bees. The ad hoc group has agreed in a proposal on the key parameters and aspects to consider. In the discussion followed the presentation, it has been agreed to circulate the report to the WG members and NCs, accompanied with specific questions to identify the status in the various countries, concerning the monitoring and the availability of data. The deadline of the 11<sup>th</sup> of June has been agreed, in order to have the outcomes ready before the ITWG meeting in Rome, to be able to discuss with other regions. Report will be provided to Ad hoc action ITWG-AnGR before their meeting in June (13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>) in order to prepare the statement. FAO explained that if Europe alone will request the bees to be included in DAD-IS, the preparation will have to be funded by Europe. Alternatively, if the ITWG-AnGR will request the CGRFA to include it into DAD-IS, FAO will do it on its own costs (if available).

### **Using EFABIS data can to assess common breed characteristics, evolution etc**



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E. Charvolin Lemaire presented the idea of the ad hoc action on mountain breeds that was submitted last year to ERFP, but not approved. She gave details on how the idea originated as direct request from breeders associations and explained what has been developed so far. The discussion focused on how this idea could be further elaborated under the options provided by the new DAD-IS (potential for more harmonization, clarification and usefulness for both to upload the data by the NC and to search and analyse information i.e. filtering by country), including the idea of working on developing a proposal to convert text fields to check boxes etc. The suggestion is to propose a new ad hoc action, enlarging the idea with the involvement of other “marginal” area (i.e. Mediterranean ecosystems and semi-arid areas). The group agreed that it is an important topic and it can be included in the Workplan for the next period.

### **Project ideas on Transboundary breeds**

R. Hoving-Boling presented a proposal for work on monitoring risk status of transboundary breeds with the ultimate goal to improve cooperation between counties. R. Hoving-Boling presented different breed cases and raised the question on how we decide that a group of breeds is transboundary or not. It was suggested that the WG could develop some guidance on this matter.

H. Göderz presented another approach to develop the work on transboundary breeds, which refers to a potential funding opportunity by the German Government for a project on this topic (with regard to conservation and utilization of animal genetic resources). Being a common interest for several groups (Ex situ conservation, In situ conservation and I&D), it may be discussed at the annual assembly. The discussion brought up several issues and ideas on how to proceed, and the most rational way is that a concept note could be developed coordinated by the chair of the WG as a starting point. The discussion closed at 19:00 to continue the next day (Friday, 24 at 8:30).

Friday, 25 May 2018

The meeting started with **the discussion on the workplan of the WG Info and Documentation for 2018-2019**. The Chair presented the plan approved for the previous period and in which level the main tasks were accomplished. The main tasks of 2017-2018 refer to: 1. Contributions to DAD-IS development and cooperation with FAO; 2 Contribute to ERFP communication strategy; 3. improve data quality

The WG agreed on the following:

- Concerning the communication strategy the Secretariat will be contacted, to examine the possible contribution of the WG.
- The WG workplan 2018-2019 consists of the regular activity through the year and additional activities developed under ad hoc action/project proposal.

For 2018-2019 the Workplan includes:

Continue activities on improving data quality through different approaches.



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1) Ad hoc action "Indicators for monitoring status and trend of honeybees and pollination ecosystem service" is in this direction. In the annual Assembly the results from the ad hoc action will be presented. The ad hoc action and the WG will provide recommendations for development and implementations of data fields on honeybees in DAD-IS.

2) Develop and propose a new ERFP ad hoc action on breeds adapted in specific environments (mountain, Mediterranean environment, ...) : this task could be used:

- To improve data quality (adaptiveness, productive systems, harmonized / standardized system to describe the breeds and their distribution...)
- To involve stakeholders to favour the use of EFABIS
- As demonstration case (many mountain breeds are transboundary; Horizon GenRESBRIDGE)

The task will be carried out by E. Charvolin Lemaire

3) Concerning the project proposal on Transboundary Breeds, the WG agreed that a concept note will be developed (coordinated by the Chair of the WG, involving the other WGs and TFs) and submitted through the Secretariat to the Assembly (before the Assembly Meeting in Zagreb), synergies between the two projects (ad hoc on breeds + project on transboundary breeds will be developed)

4) If GENRESBRIDGE Horizon Proposal will be approved the WG will collaborate in two ways: 1) to favour synergies with other domains, and 2) through the activities aiming at improving data quality within ERFP

5) In view of enhancing interaction with other regions, C Ligda suggested the idea of a Workshop (addressing specific aspects of AnGR management related with the improvement of documentation and information) that could be jointly organized with FAO, in collaboration with the countries of the Mediterranean region (including the North Africa and Middle East countries). C. Ligda will investigate this option and develop a concrete proposal before the annual assembly.

Meeting was closed at 11:00. Presentations and meeting report will be available on ERFP website.



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## Agenda

	<b>Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018</b>
14:00 - 14:30	Welcome - Opening Objectives of the meeting - Report on the WG activities (E. Sturaro)
14:30 - 15:00	Information about the project proposal GenRes Bridge (ERFP Secretariat)
15:00 – 15:30	Update on DAD-IS /EFABIS development (R. Baumung, FAO)
15.30-16.15	Update/report from each Country (all, few minutes per person)
16.15 – 16.30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	ad hoc action “Indicators for monitoring status and trend of honeybees and pollination ecosystem service”. Presentation of the Report of the meeting in Thessaloniki and general discussion (C. Ligda)
17:30 - 18:30	Mountain breeds in Europe, and how EFABIS data can be used to assess their common characteristics, evolution etc. What are the gaps in existing data, how to analyze (E. Charvolin) Discussion
19:30	Dinner
	<b>Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018</b>
8:30 – 9:00	Recall from the previous day, conclusion of discussion (if needed; E. Sturaro)
9:00-9:30	Transboundary breeds: example from Dutch Draught Horse. How to monitor inbreeding? Best practices. (R. Hoving-Bolink)
9:30 – 10:00	EFABIS update and communication strategies (Z. Ducheve)
10:00 - 11:00	Workplan for 2018 -2019 ( <i>to be approved in Dubrovnik</i> ): general discussion
11:00 – 11:30	Conclusion of the meeting (E. Sturaro)