



September, 2017

## **Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ERFP Assembly of National Coordinators - 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia**

**Chair:** Sipke Joost Hiemstra

**Participants:** See attached list

All presentations delivered during the ERFP Assembly Meeting will be uploaded on the ERFP website.

### **Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

#### Welcome and opening

Sipke Joost Hiemstra, the Chair of the ERFP Steering Committee, welcomed the Assembly in Tallinn. He thanked the Estonian National Coordinator and Ministry of Rural affairs for hosting the ERFP Assembly meeting and sponsoring the meeting costs and technical visit. Likewise, he thanked the ERFP Secretariat for all the organizational work and preparing working materials for the meeting. He presented the Agenda and briefly outlined the work topics for the meeting.

#### Welcome by the host country

Haldja Viinalass, National Coordinator (NC) for the AnGR of Estonia, welcomed all the participants and presented interesting facts about the agriculture sector and local breeds in the hosting country.

### **Report from the ERFP Secretariat**

In the **Annual Progress Report 2017** the ERFP Secretariat gave an overview of the Secretariat and Steering Committee work and presented the main topics of their two meetings. A summary of the work and activities of the WGs, TFs, *Ad hoc* actions were presented, as well as collaboration with other networks, organisations and institutions.

**The presented Annual Progress Report 2017 was approved by the Assembly.**

The **Financial Report** was presented by the Secretariat. ERFP concluded the financial year 2016 with funds of 272.774,01 € remaining. Furthermore, the detailed financial situation for 2017 was described. As per 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the remaining funds are 304,863.44 €. The general expenses in 2017 amounted to 42,880.57 € so far and the income through the country contributions was 75,000.00 € (all amounts as per 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017). Until the end of 2017, the total expenses are expected at 121.570,32 €, with total remaining funds projected at 234.773,69 €. Until now, more countries paid country contributions than last year and there are still some countries which are paying regularly or expected to pay this year that haven't paid yet in 2017. The ERFP would appreciate more country contributions in the future. Sipke Joost Hiemstra invited countries to pay the country contributions according to their abilities.

**The presented Financial Report 2016 was approved by the Assembly.**

### **Reports from the ERFP Working Groups**

#### Documentation and information

Christina Ligda (former WG chair) briefly reported on the WG activities and Enrico Sturaro (new WG chair) presented the future work plan of the WG. The Working Group had a meeting in May 2017 in Belgrade, Serbia. The main topics of the meeting were improvement of the use and data quality in EFABIS and Cryo-WEB; completeness of data for the “breed adaptedness” as well as the role of the WG in connection with ERFP objectives and plans.

The main activity plan for 2018 was presented, where the main working activities will be collaboration with FAO on testing the DAD-IS prototype and defining needs for outputs / reports, collaboration in the development of ERFP communication strategy; improving data quality within EFABIS. The two Ad hoc action proposals, which were submitted to the SC, were presented. The first one is related to honeybees and pollination ecosystem services, and the second on mountain breeds based on the analysis of EFABIS data. The next annual meeting of the WG will be organized in Padova, Italy.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

#### Ex situ conservation

Jelena Ramljak gave the report of the Working Group *Ex situ* Conservation. The working group had a meeting in May 2017, in Belgrade, Serbia. The main topics of the WG meeting were status of signing of the EUGENA Memorandum of Understanding; development of a model MAA and MTA, relationship of the IMAGE project and EUGENA; Veterinary and sanitary issues for cryo-conservation and news from the ERFP member countries.

Further work will include compiling a list of experts on cryobiology and reproduction, protocols for collecting samples (i.e. for less commercial breeds) and examples with good practices for *ex situ* protection of transboundary breeds.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

## **Reports from the ERF Task Forces**

### Access and Benefit Sharing

Vera Matlova presented the report for the TF ABS on behalf of the Chair, Elzbieta Martyniuk. She briefly outlined Global developments and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol as well as activities within the FAO CGRFA. During the annual meeting in June 2017 the TF group discussed the development of the MAA and MTA for exchange of cryo-conserved AnGR material, finalized the ABS paper on “Possible consequences of the Nagoya Protocol for animal breeding.....” for publication, discussed and worked on the two submission documents for FAO related to ABS (description of distinctive features of AnGR, Digital Sequence Information on AnGR) , discussed potential input of the TF to the process established on ABS under the CGRFA and preparation for the TTLE ABS-3 and the CGRFA 16.

Future work will include continuous collaboration with the WG Ex situ conservation on development of the MAA and MTA, preparation for the international workshop of the FAO CGRFA on ABS (January 2018), contribution to the development of the ABS part of agenda for the ITWG-AnGR (June 2018), preparation for the TTLE ABS-4 (September 2018), collaboration with the TF EU matters on implementation of 511/2014 and 1012/2016 regulations and collection of the national ABS legislation.

In the discussion that followed it was proposed that all publications, submission documents for FAO and other documents prepared by the TF should be shared with all National Coordinators.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

### EU matters

Jeanne Bormann gave a presentation on the main work of the TF. One of the important activities was monitoring and screening of EU legislation with AnGR relevance. TF EU matters had a meeting in June 2017 in Bled Slovenia, where members were identifying AnGR relevant legislation and sorting the legislation by the priority. The outcome of the monitoring and screening of AnGR relevant legislation will be preparation of a policy paper on AnGR. TF will meet again in October 2017.

Further work will include: preparation of the policy paper related to the EU legislation with AnGR relevance, collaboration with TF/WG *In situ* conservation (esp. with regard to the policy paper content), and contribution to the ERF web page development, working further on the potential development of the EU reference centre for endangered breeds and strengthening the communication with EU bodies. Furthermore, as two members left the TF in 2017, the TF is searching for new members.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

### In situ conservation

Beate Berger presented the report on the work of the TF *In situ* conservation, which was set up in 2017. TF had a meeting in May 2017 in Belgrade, Serbia, where the topics related to in situ conservation of AnGR were discussed: landscape and nature conservation with endangered breeds, conservation by consumption – possibilities and obstacles, veterinary issues, the definition of *in situ*, issues of (transboundary) *in situ* conservation of AnGR; possible establishment of a permanent WG In situ conservation.

From discussed topics, an extensive list of initiatives and tasks were identified. The TF concluded that the formulated work programme is too extensive for a TF, therefore the Chair suggests closing the TF and establishing a permanent WG that will be able to work on this issues.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

**The Assembly also approved establishment of the new Working group on *In situ* conservation.**

Following this decision, the new WG Chair will be nominated. A letter will be sent to all NC to nominate experts for the group.

### **EAAP WG-AnGR progress report**

Jesús Fernández Martín presented the current topics of the EAAP WG-AnGR. The EAAP 2017 conference sessions on “Effective population size as a tool for the management of AnGR” and “The nature of inbreeding and genomic approaches to assess inbreeding rate and inbreeding depression” were presented. Other current topics included participation in a study on the evaluation of the success of already running conservation programmes, following closely the development of the new database that FAO is preparing, development of a WG on Ecosystem Services within the EAAP structure. Contact with ERF and FAO was emphasized.

### **FAO Report**

Roswitha Baumung presented the restructuring process within the FAO Animal genetics resources branch. The Animal Genetic Resources Branch has merged with another unit, to become the Animal Production and Genetic Resources Unit. The new head of the unit is Dr Badi Besbes (since September 2016) and the contact for DAD-IS remains to be Roswitha Baumung.

She gave a short report on the outcomes of AnGR related issues of the 16th regular session of the CGRFA and Commission requests to the countries to further implement the Global Action Plan, to regularly update their data in DAD-is, to include domesticated honeybees and potentially other pollinators in DAD-IS, to review methods for ESS provided by livestock breeds and to enter data needed for indicators relevant to the AnGR (sufficient genetic material stored; proportion of local breeds as being at risk/not at risk/unknown).

The progress of DAD-IS development was explained. The development team tried to involve a wide array of stakeholders including all NCs and the WG Doc&Info. They would appreciate more active involvement of NC and the WG Doc&Info in the testing process, therefore all participants were invited to participate in the next testing call.

The launch of the new DAD-IS is planned on the 21st and 22nd of November 2017 in Rome, and everyone is invited to attend the launch and training.

### **ERFP Development of communication tools**

Gasan Osojnik presented the work of the *Ad hoc* action group and progress in the development of communication tools. The main results and outcomes of the work within the *Ad hoc* action group were drafting the ERFP Communication strategy. He showed the main outcomes of the work:

- renewed Corporate Identity Manual (logotype, colour scheme, fonts, brochure template, power point template, letter template). All should be used after this Assembly meeting,
- the procedure of the website modernization was explained,
- targeted external audience was identified and the Domain of the new website animalgeneticresources.com was presented, as well as the structure of the new website,
- website mockup – structure of the website was presented. No comments on the Mock-up, general opinion is good and nice website. Proposal for the slogan was presented – Joining forces for safeguarding livestock diversity. Any suggestions for improved slogans are welcomed,
- roadmap of the further work and development was presented and NC were reminded that their help and collaboration will be needed, especially in the testing period.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

### **EUGENA Web portal design:**

Zhivko Duchevev presented the progress on the EUGENA webportal development as a result of the corresponding *Ad hoc* action. He presented the purpose of the webportal and the website mock-up.

In the discussion it was proposed to bring the ERFP and EUGENA webpages closer together, use similar colour scheme etc. and to continue development of improving the data collection on material stored.

**The presented report and work plan was approved by the Assembly.**

### **Country news from NCs:**

In **Germany** the Ministry of agriculture is developing and preparing the livestock breeding strategy. The most important objectives are animal welfare and environmental issues. The national genebank will be expanded for the purpose of cooperation with other states.

**Slovakia** presented the process of recognizing the new sheep breed as a native breed – Slovak dairy sheep. The breeding programme was developed by the official sheep breeding organisation and then proposed to the Ministry of agriculture for the recognition.

**France** recognized two new breeds. They formed a technical group to recognise and elaborate the proposal for locally adapted breed. France also set up the AnGR coordination group as a consequence of the changes in the animal breeding system.

**Slovenia** the Ministry of agriculture is preparing a new livestock law. The Ministry is interested how AnGR programmes and legislation is organized in other countries.

**Norway** presented the Study on genetic and protein polymorphism and milk coagulation properties for native cattle breeds. The study shows large variation in protein profiles among individuals, indicating high biodiversity levels.

### **ECPGR**

Küllli Annamaa presented the ECPGR network and its work. The main activities are documentation, conservation and on farm conservation of plant genetic resources.

Following the conclusions and recommendations of the Preparatory Action on EU plant and animal genetic resources all three networks (plant, animal, forest) joined forces to collaborate with the EC. The common letter was sent to the Commission to draw attention to conclusions and recommendations of the Preparatory Action and offer operational structures for development of EU Agrobiodiversity Strategy.

The Second common letter was sent to the DG-AGRI where six major research topics for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA were suggested for the Horizon 2020, Working Programme.

As a result, the call SFS-27-2018 is expected to be launched in Oct/Nov 2017: Joining Forces for GenRes and biodiversity management, and the three GR Network's Secretariats (ECPGR, ERFP, EUFORGEN) have agreed to submit a joint proposal.

### **Discussion – collaboration of networks; Horizon 2020 (SFS-28-2018-2019-2020)**

Sipke Joost Hiemstra presented the approach towards a joint Horizon 2020 project proposal.

December 2016 – six major research topics for the GRFA were identified in the letter to the commission.

The expected Horizon 2020 call will include Coordination and Support Action for genetic resources. A first draft proposal was prepared by the three network Secretariats. The first draft defines potential cross-cutting activities, such as sharing conservational strategies and perspectives, creating an overarching agrobiodiversity web portal, monitoring of the status of GR in Europe, genotyping services, policy and law, resurrection of GR newsletter. Potential network specific packages for AnGR will have to be developed, possibly in the key ERFP areas of interest:

- *ex situ* conservation,
- *in situ* conservation,
- documentation and information,
- additional or specific content to be discussed and formulated.

General discussion was opened. One proposal is to include economic models for the valorisation of breed and to discuss balance between *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation across three networks. Another interesting topic would be to work on the used terminology in all three domains. Discussion was concluded that the basic nature of the proposal has to be innovative and in the same time bring in elements of coordination and support.

### **ERFP future plans and budget 2018 approval**

#### **Future plans**

D. Bojkovski presented the activity plan for 2018:

- organization of the Assembly meeting in Dubrovnik 2018,
- submission of HORIZON 2020 proposal,
- possible amendments of MyPoW 2019 – 2022,
- strengthen the ERFP communication tools,
- build up the EUGENA portal,
- EFABIS and European Node Manager,
- establishment of new WG *In situ* conservation; strengthen the work,
- proposals and ideas for new *Ad hoc* Action's – 2 received, call for additional opened until Nov 2017,
- activities and meetings of the WGs and TFs (meeting proposals).

**The future plans were approved by the Assembly.**

#### **Election of SC member**

The end of term for current member of the SC Kristaq Kume will finish after this Assembly meeting. The Secretariat received proposal and CV for the new member from Serbia. Srđjan Stojanović presented its candidature.

**The nomination of Srđjan Stojanović has been approved.**

**Budget proposal for 2018**

The total budget proposal in the amount 123.000 € for the year 2018 was presented. For the Assembly meeting the allocated budget will remain the same. Few budget lines were reduced in comparison to previous years (SC; WG, TF, Ad hoc actions, website maintenance). Remaining funds from the Development of communication tools and EUGENA web portal will be moved from the previous year into 2018. According to the activity plan a new budget line was added for a new established WG *In situ* conservation.

The Chair explained that the budget is set at the amount based on all the members paying their country contributions. The general message is that the number of activities of ERFP is increasing, including the establishment of a new WG *in situ*. This will result in higher cost, and therefore the total of all country contributions should also grow in the coming years.

A discussion regarding the country contributions followed. The importance of all member countries paying their contributions was stressed. If necessary other approaches might need to be considered such as reevaluating the system for collecting the country contributions. The assembly agree on the importance to stimulate the participation of the different countries to the reimbursement policy, also with the economic contributions , without changing the systems. The SC will take the comments into consideration when reviewing the MyPOW in the following year.

**The Assembly approved the presented Budget proposal for 2018.**

**ERFP Secretariat – end of term**

End of term for the current Secretariat is approaching. According to the ERFP ToR the procedure for the application and selection of the new Secretariat has to start 1 year before. Timeline of the applications and elections was presented:

24 <sup>th</sup> August 2013	“Procedure for the election of the ERFP Secretariat”; Nantes
26 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	Call for applications for hosting the Secretariat
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	Letter to all NC - tender is opened; explanation of the procedure
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Reminder - via email to all National Coordinators
31 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Deadline for the applications
31 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	ERFP Secretariat - application documents to the SC
31 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Evaluation/overview of the applications by SC + Secretariat
30 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	ERFP Secretariat forwards application documents and overview of the applications to all National Coordinators via email

The responsibilities of the Secretariat are defined in the ERFP ToR.

**The full tender will be circulated within the ERFP community and published on the ERFP web page.**

**AOB**

No any other business was discussed.

Meeting was closed at 17:00.



## **Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

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

The presentation was given by Jeanne Bormann with regard to the EU Animal Breeding Regulation (2016/1012), Chapter VI (article 29) and Annex IV on European Reference centres. Requirements, tasks application procedure, eligibility, selection criteria, technical capacity, preference criteria, and proposed scenarios for inclusion of ERFP were presented.

The presentation was followed by the discussion where two questions needed to be answered - if there is a need for such a centre, and what is the role of ERFP in any such arrangement.

The main outcome of the discussion is that a few countries expressed the need for a reference centre at EU level. A Reference centre could develop official studies, advise the European Commission, develop recommendations and official guidelines, and give advice to relevant stakeholders in EU countries. The ERFP in its current structure cannot apply to be a reference centre, however a strong connection between a Reference centre and ERFP would be very helpful. The final proposal is that TF EU matters should work further to elaborate possible scenarios and role and connection of the ERFP within any future Reference centre.

### **Presenting the textbook: Genomic management of animal genetic diversity**

Selected chapters of the textbook were presented by Kor Oldenbroek, Peer Berg and Miika Tapio. For the presentations: see the ERFP website.

Meeting was closed at 10:55 followed by the technical tour and IMAGE Stakeholder meeting.

### **Technical Visit**

Technical visit was organized at the Estonian Open Air Museum where local horse breeds were presented as well - <http://evm.ee/eng/home>.