

Minutes of the meeting ERFP – Working Group Documentation and Information, Thessaloniki, 5-6 March 2014

Location: Veterinary Research Institute (NAGREF Campus), Thessaloniki

Attending:

WG members:

Filomena Afonso, Zhivko Duchevev, Georgia Hadjipavlou, Rita Hoving, Chistina Ligda (Chair), Bill Lyons, Bozidarka Markovic, Yasemin Oner, Ligija Ozolina, Grazyna Polak, Eva Marie Stalhammar, Srdjan Stojanovic, Enrico Sturaro, Sebastian Winkel, Metka Zan-Lotric
Eildert Groeneveld (invited expert)

Update on the preparation process of the 2nd SoW report

The information provided by B. Scherf, and R. Baumung (FAO) regarding the country reporting status was presented. From the 45 countries in Europe, 25 countries have submitted the country report (3.03.14), 8 countries asked for a delay for the submission, one confirmed participation, and 11 had not responded. It has been stressed that the global analysis starts and the countries should indicate whether their country participates in the process and by when FAO can expect their country report, otherwise these reports might not be included in the global analysis.

The ERFP has been invited last week to prepare their report by 28 March 2014 which should highlight collaborative efforts and indicate regional priorities for capacity building in relation to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Furthermore, 190 international organizations have been invited to report on their activities contributing to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action by 23 March 2014. 95 of these organizations are located in Europe.

At the same item, the high priority to update the countries animal genetic resource inventories in the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (<http://www.fao.org/dad-is/>) has been stressed by 30 April 2014.

Update on the transboundary breeds list

The background on the process to update the transboundary breeds list has been presented. FAO asked National Coordinators to review the breeds' transboundary status and draw up a list of problematic cases that cannot be resolved at national level.

In parallel, in the frame of the ERFP ad hoc action "European Register of Cryomaterial from Transboundary Breeds on the Basis of National CryoWEB Genebank Databases", a web tool has been developed (Z. Duchevev) for the NCs to update the transboundary breeds list. ERFP worked on this issue in the previous meeting (Rome, July 2013), and finally after consultations with the NCs resulted in a list of changes from the European region, which was sent to FAO. FAO reported that these corrections provided by ERFP have been prepared for loading. A script for correcting broken links between national breed populations and transboundary breed list has been implemented. It has been designed to be executed on all source nodes of EFABISnet network.

Report on the ERFP EFABIS upload Workshop

F. Afonso presented the report of the Workshop held in Madrid on the 24th February, in the frame of the respective ad hoc action. The aim of this workshop was to describe a protocol for mass uploading of population statistics in EFABIS. The Workshop was coordinated by Z. Duchevev. Participants in the meeting were colleagues from Spain, Portugal, Belgium, and S. Winkel representing ERFP Secretariat. The experience from the workshop showed that such kind of practical workshops could be a useful tool to improve data quality and quantity of EFABIS. In this respect, the WG agreed to continue with the organisation of regional workshops and Z. Duchevev will submit the relevant proposal for an ad hoc action to the ERFP SC.

New breed classification system (locally adapted / exotic)

Presentation on the new interface and the status of implementation

At its 14th regular session the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) requested FAO to develop DAD-IS so as to facilitate the entry of data, including those related to the new locally adapted versus exotic breed classification, giving countries the option to indicate whether a given locally adapted breed is native to the respective country.

The design of the breed classification has been agreed between the node managers of DAD-IS and EFABIS. The ERFP implementation has been adjusted according to the CGRFA request and implemented on DAD-IS.

The ERFP TF on indicators and risk status prepared a document on the definitions of breed classification (native, locally adapted, exotic). The document is attached to the report. The difference between DAD-IS and EFABIS, is that in EFABIS, the breeds are classified as native / locally adapted, category that in DAD-IS is presented under locally adapted, and exotic which is the same in both levels. In order to be able to enter this information in DAD-IS and EFABIS, changes were made on the database structure, access rights, and interface. There is need for changes in outputs (see the relevant item) and on synchronization settings. The status of implementation of these changes in the national nodes was presented.

The WG discussed the option of pre-filing the new field for breed classification based on the rule: "all national breed populations being a part of any international breed population are assigned to 'exotic' category, while all others to 'locally adapted'", or leave it blank for NC to fill in the list box, choosing the category. The WG agreed that it will be more efficient to leave NCs to fill in the list box.

Overview of the country's data update process

Each WG member gave a short description of the status of data updating in the country and the country's feasibility to meet the specific deadline of the 30th of April for the data update. Moreover, the members reported on the status of their country report. The discussion was initiated by R. Hoving's presentation on the situation in the Netherlands. Several issues came out in the discussion, regarding the way that the information is collected within each country, or the role of the breeding companies in this process, focussing on how the whole process will be improved. This item was discussed in connection with the "countries not having access to EFABIS" (next item), with the objective to find solutions that will permit a fast feedback from countries that haven't updated recently (since 2006) their database, or haven't asked for a login account (therefore have not entered data). The WG will come again to this topic, after the feedback from the personal contacts that members of the WG will make.

Countries not having access to EFABIS

Z. Ducheve presented the following information, according to the data from EFABIS: 10 countries have never asked for an account to login EFABIS (and thus they have not entered data in the system). According to the table with year of last update of any population record, 19 countries haven't updated since 2006. The discussion that followed is presented in the previous paragraph. The list with the year of last update per country is attached.

Population data: rules / field description

Z. Ducheve presented the rule that has been included in EFABIS, which is checked when a new data is entered. There are numerous cases that violate this rule (Number of Breeding males + Number of Breeding females <= Population size lower value), which need to be checked and corrected by the NCs. The file is attached to this report.

A broad discussion was held concerning the description of the fields, to ensure that everybody has the same interpretation on the content of the fields. The document with the description of fields is attached.

Ad hoc action: EFABIS reports

E. Groeneveld presented the work that was started in Thessaloniki, in June 2012, on the additional reports that were developed, and resulted in the proposal for an ad hoc action (Bratislava, 2012).

Z. Ducheve continued with the presentation of the additional reports that were added in EFABIS, as European specificity (see also the report of the ad hoc action in Annual Assembly, in Nantes).

The action is ongoing, and the additional reports that are agreed to be included are:

- The last year with population data within country
- Distribution of the most recent population records per country across years
- Distribution of population records across breeds within country

This item was discussed in connection with the new classification system and the need of having outputs that will include per class statistics. The WG agreed on:

- Statistics for population updates per class
- Degree of completeness per class

This ad-hoc action, with the additional targeted reports, succeeded to illustrate the data gaps that exist within a country, to recognize the update activities trends and spot problems in data exchange. For this reason, the ad-hoc action will continue with the agreed additional reports that will be presented in the ERFP Annual Assembly in Copenhagen this August. S. Winkel will check the remaining amount on the budget of the ad-hoc action.

European Register of Cryomaterial in Europe - Cryoweb - Cryobank data in EFABIS

E. Groeneveld provided the information on the background on the topic (statistics of gene bank collections are available mainly at national level, while there is no overview at European level, and no information for the conservation of the transboundary breeds) which showed the need for an across countries inventory. The idea of the ad hoc action was to summarize the individual animal records from CryoWEB into aggregates per year, include data from countries using other software, but collecting same data and thus, create a European register of the available cryo-material in all countries.

The ERFP WG Documentation and Information was involved in the transboundary breeds names list development to improve the official FAO's list (see relevant item).

Z. Ducheve presented the technical information. In relation with EFABIS, it has been decided to re-develop the way cryo-data is collected in EFABIS, more specifically to change the collected data fields, keep the same mechanism for the NCs to upload data and produce aggregate summary statistics for all European countries.

The cryo-data has to be separated from the population data, which means separate database structure and separate data entry and update. Also, to have the option to add cryo records for years where no population data is recorded. The detailed presentation is in the website.

The WG discussed the countries availability to share their data in the European Registered. In general there was a common understanding that this development, will contribute to develop transboundary breeds programs, and most probably a Workshop on the process to upload cryo-data into EFABIS, could be useful, as there is a great variation within Europe, regarding the software that is used, the data that are collected etc.

PEDs developments: fields to be updated

This item was not discussed, as currently the high priority is to update the data for the 2nd SoW report. The fields that were linked with the PEDs, are all open to be uploaded.

Election of chair

S. Winkel (ERFP Secretariat) informed the WG that C. Ligda had expressed her availability to serve as a chairperson of the WG for a second period, according to the ToR, and asked whether there were also other nominations. There were no other nominations. C. Ligda was elected per unanimously acclamation.

Workplan of the WG

The report of the meeting will be circulated to all NCs, with the reminding on the update of the country data by 30th of April and the submission of Country reports.

A high priority of the WG is the improvement of data content and quality, and it was decided as a first step to proceed with personal contacts, in order to identify the obstacles in each case and propose ways to overcome these, if possible. The WG will report to the ERFP Annual Assembly in Copenhagen on the outcomes of this effort.

During the discussion came out that the organization of regional practical workshops, will help towards the improvement of data quantity and quality. An ad hoc for a practical Workshop in the Balkan region for population data uploaded will be submitted to the ERFP SC.

The additional reports (breed classification, population data) will be presented in Copenhagen (ERFP Annual Assembly).

The WG discussed problems with specific examples related with the development of breeds, and solutions in the most appropriate ways that will allow keeping track on breed history in EFABIS. A suggestion was made to develop a search tool that will allow to search also for other names (most common name), in the case that a breed after a period has been divided in two breeds, or the opposite.

The Report of our activities since August 2013 and the workplan for 2014-2015 will be presented in the ERFP annual assembly, Copenhagen 2014 for adoption.

The meeting closed at 12:30. The next WG meeting will be decided via e-mail.

The presentations of the meeting can be downloaded from the ERFP website.

Attached:

1. TF indicators and risk status report (paper_Native.pdf)
2. Year of the last update per country (countries_last_pop_update.pdf)
3. Report on cases violating the rules for population dat (pop_data_violation2.pdf)
4. Description of the population data fields in EFABIS (descr_pop_data.pdf)