

Report of the first (kick-off) meeting

ERFP Working Group on Ex-situ Conservation

Bonn, 14-15 April 2011

Participants

Country	Title	Name	Surname
Croatia	Dr.	Jelena	Ramliak
Finland	Ms	Terhi	Nikkonen
France	Ms	Delphine	Duclos
Germany	Dr.	Martina	Henning
Hungary	Dr.	István	Péntek
Netherlands	Mr.	Sipke Joost	Hiemstra
Norway	Ms	Nina	Sæther
Slovenia	Dr.	Drago	Kompan
Switzerland	Dr.	Fritz	Schmitz-Hsu
Turkey	Dr.	Umut	Tasdemir

Welcome, election of Chair, election of Rapporteur, adoption of the Agenda

All nominated participants of the Working Group on Ex situ Conservation (WG-ExSitu) were welcomed by Dr. Asko Maki-Tanila, Chairman of the ERFP. He explained that the main aim of this first meeting was to discuss the aims of the WG-ExSitu and to decide about the most important issues the WG-ExSitu should deal with. Asko Maki-Tanila proposed Sipke Hiemstra to lead this WG-ExSitu, given his experience in this field. The nomination was fully supported by members of the WG-ExSitu and Sipke Hiemstra accepted the nomination as the Chair of this WG-ExSitu. Furthermore, Delphine Duclos accepted to act as the rapporteur of the first (kick off) meeting. The Chairman of the WG-ExSitu proposed to organise the Agenda of the meeting in a way that first all participants were given the opportunity to share their experiences about national programmes (short presentations). Then, after a short introduction of the chairman about recent/past activities of ERFP in the area of Cryoconservation, the WG-ExSitu discussed the main topics or issues to deal with for the next two or three years. Finally, the WG-ExSitu prioritized all topics identified and discussed specific activities in more detail.

Short presentations of participants

Each participant did a short presentation of the organisation of cryoconservation in their country and of the organisation of their cryobank if it already exists (see the attached copies of the presentations).

Recent and past activities of ERFP

Sipke presented the recent and past activities of ERFP in the area of cryoconservation (see presentation attached) and particularly the conclusions and recommendations of the last Training Workshop on Cryopreservation in Lelystad (The Netherlands) in June 2010. Following past activities of ERFP in this area, there is certainly a need to further exchange experience and knowledge between European countries to establish or further develop national gene banks. Moreover, there is a need to continue discussions about a European strategy or vision on ex situ conservation of farm animal genetic resources.

Aim of the WG-ExSitu

The general aim is to regularly exchange experiences and knowledge between European countries in order to support the establishment, further development, efficiency and effectivity of national gene banks

for farm animal genetic resources. The WG-ExSitu will support national gene banking programmes and initiatives. Nevertheless there is also a need to jointly (further) develop a European strategy for gene banking, documentation and other related issues. Although the main emphasis of the WG-ExSitu will be on cryopreservation programmes, the WG-ExSitu does not exclude other ex situ strategies. The WG-ExSitu will meet at least once a year and maximum of two times per year.

Identification of issues/topics for the WG-ExSitu and their prioritization

The WG-ExSitu jointly identified a list of topics or issues. Then participants were asked to prioritize those topics. Results are presented in the table below.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Priority</i>
<i>Prioritization – genetic aspects</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of breeds/populations and individuals for conservation - Which type of genetic material for which purpose (e.g. long versus short term) - Application of state of the art scientific knowledge and tools - Applicability of tools and scientific knowledge in practice – best practices 	1
<i>Legal framework</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of (translated) national agreements - Collaboration between national gene bank and existing/other organisations - Short term versus long term perspectives - Ownership issues - Contracts between provider – gene bank – user 	1
<i>CryoWeb</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create CryoWeb user group (all countries that implemented CryoWeb) - Maintenance and further development of national CryoWeb databases - Linking national CryoWeb databases on European level 	1
<i>Sanitary issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation versus commercial use - EU sanitary framework – national legislation – specific derogations - Transboundary sanitary issues 	2
<i>Transboundary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subregional collaboration to conserve transboundary breeds - Exchange within a network of (subregional) experiences 	2
<i>Access to experts</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to have easy (web)access to specific experts in cryoconservation 	2
<i>Somatic cell/DNA bank</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define specific aim of national/subregional/European system - Opportunities for conservation or research - Collaboration models 	3
<i>Funding and lobby</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU and national policy frameworks to (financially) support ex situ conservation - Related to CAP, EU rural development framework, agri-environmental measures 	4
<i>Minimum standards</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All national gene banks could follow the same minimum standards 	4

Activity Plan of WG-ExSitu

For each of the items and particularly for those with the highest priority, WG-ExSitu participants suggested a number of activities for the upcoming years.

Topic	Proposed activities	When/Who
Prioritization – genetic aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop/Scientific session at EAAP-2012 (joint ERFP-FAO-EAAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - August 2012 - Proposal through WG-AnGR of EAAP - By S.J. Hiemstra
Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG-ExSitu participants translate national documents into English and make available on ERFP website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2011 + 2012 + 2013 - Contributions of all WG-ExSitu participants - ERFP Secretariat to create website
Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG-ExSitu Workshop on legal frameworks for national gene banks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2012 - Organisers, program and location to be decided - Invite variety of stakeholders - Link to ABS Task Force
CryoWeb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular CryoWeb user group meetings (linked to EFABIS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2012 + 2013 - Details to be decided - Link to WG-Documentation
Sanitary issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific activities of WG-ExSitu yet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific activities of WG-ExSitu yet
Transboundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create subregional networks for transboundary breeds and exchange information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2011 + 2012 + 2013 - Initiatives of WG-ExSitu participants - Exchange information on ERFP website (WG-ExSitu webpage to be created by ERFP-Secr)
Access to experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create list of relevant institutions/experts on ERFP website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ERFP-Secr request NC's to include contact details of relevant institutions in their national reports (2010/2011) - Contact details of relevant institution on ERFP website (WG-ExSitu webpage to be created by ERFP-Secr)
Somatic cell/DNA bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiate activities to develop European Ex situ Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on European strategy on the agenda of 2012 WG-ExSitu meeting. - Link to ABS Taskforce - Link to EU-FP-Research
Funding and lobby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific activities of WG-ExSitu yet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link to Task Force Agri Environmental Measures
Minimum standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific activities of WG-ExSitu yet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link to FAO Guidelines Cryoconservation

Conclusion

This kick-off meeting of the working group on *ex situ* conservation was interesting and permitted to lead to effective priorities and to have a clear working program. These conclusions will be presented at the General Assembly of ERFP (Stavanger meeting, August 2011).