COUNTRY REPORT FOR 2007-2008 of **AUSTRIA**

Reported by **Beate Berger, NC Austria**
Institute for Organic Farming and Biodiversity of Farm Animals
Austrasse 10
A-4601 Thalheim, Austria
tel. 0043 (0) 7242 47011 22
fax 0043 (0) 7242 47011 15
mail to beate.berger@raumberg-gumpenstein.at

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1: CHARACTERIZATION, INVENTORY AND MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

Actions undertaken during the past year

In the Austrian EFABIS database all important pig and sheep breeds are now available completely with population data.

The yearly monitoring of rare and endangered breeds (Table 1) the trend shows increasing populations in all breeds save in the “Altösterreichisches Warmblut”. The increase of inbreeding per generation currently is well below 1% in most breeds.

The “new” breeds Pinzgauer Strahlenziege and Pfauenziege were genetically distinguished and found to show sufficient genetic distance from other Austrian goat breeds to be adressed as independent breeds.

The new compulsory recording scheme shows first results in cattle proving the good beefing abilities of rare breeds and their suitability as suckler cows in less favoured regions. For the Murboden cattle this together with the exceptional meat quality was the founding stone of a breeding program to develop a semi extensive beef breed for Austrian Alpine and Pre-Alpine pastures.

For the first time a survey of old Austrian chicken breeds was done resulting in alarmingly low numbers of “Altsteirer weiss”. The biggest Austrian NGO dealing with rare breeds was asked to present conservation plans for poultry breeds.

Actions planned for the next year

The Austrian EFABIS will be completed for goat, cattle and where appropriate horse breeds.

An old Alpine goat breed the “Blobe Ziege” will be characterized genetically and matched against the other Austrian goat breeds.

We await the results of the cattle characterization project for pied cattle breeds in Austria at the end of 2008 distinguishing for the first time all commercial and rare Austrian cattle breeds genetically and calculating genetic distances between them.

Table 1 Population Monitoring of rare breeds January 2008

Breed	Breeding animals 1997	Breeding animals 2008	Inbreeding (%) average	Inbreeding (%) ûf	N_e	genE
Cattle						
Original Braunvieh	40	842	1,64%	0,48%	104,2	7,77
Original Pinzgauer	3624	5268	not highly endangered			
Tiroler Grauvieh	3910	4770	not highly endangered			
Waldviertler Blondvieh	133	1163	3,06%	0,83%	60,2	2,9
Kärntner Blondvieh	301	1228	1,49%	0,30%	166,7	3,31
Tux-Zillertaler	180	1476	3,94%	0,87%	57,5	3,88
Pustertaler Sprintzen		348	2,00%	0,39%	128,2	3,64
Murbodner	299	3409	1,05%	0,14%	357,1	3,5
Ennstaler Bergschecken		153	3,42%	0,56%	89,3	3,39
Sheep						
Kärntner Brillenschaf	332	3117	3,99%	0,32%	156,3	5,24
Braunes Bergschaf	176	1752	2,04%	0,42%	119	3,83
Tiroler Steinschaf	1732	2528	not highly endangered			
Krainer Steinschaf	69	946	2,77%	0,44%	113,6	3,76
Waldschaf	160	1032	0,76%	0,28%	178,6	3,12
Alpines Steinschaf		390	1,52%	0,67%	74,6	1,54
Montafoner Steinschaf		166	0,47%	-0,01%		1,2
Zackelschaf	33	159	1,49%	0,88%	56,8	1,68
Goats						
Gemsfärbige Gebirgsziege	566	2449	not highly endangered			
Pinzgauer Ziege	70	704	0,91%	0,36%	138,9	2,35
Tauernschecken Ziege	135	945	8,55%	1,31%	38,2	5,77
Steirische Scheckenziege		219	0,58%	0,29%	172,4	1,36
Österreichische Pfauenziege		221	0,00%	0,00%		0,48
Pinzgauer Strahlenziege		50	1,13%	0,74%	67,6	2,01
Horses						
Österreichischer Noriker	2738	4900	not highly endangered			
Altösterreichisches Warmblut	18	13	no central database			
Lipizzaner	66	229	no central database			
Shagya Araber	87	193	no central database			
Alt-Österreichische Huzulen		57	no central database			
Pigs						
Mangalitza		363	1,5	0,4	116,3	1,9
Turopolje		279	14,1	3,7	13,5	3,1
Poultry						
Sulmtaler Huhn		ca. 5000	no central database			
Altsteirer weiss		ca. 500	no central database			
Altsteirer wildfärbig		ca. 6000	no central database			

ûf	Increase of inbreeding per generation
N_e	Effective population size calculated from ûf
genE	Weighted number of completely documented generations in the pedigrees (generation equivalent)