

ERFP Country report 2010 – 2011

COUNTRY: Austria

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Strategic Priority Area 1:

Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring of Trends and Associated Risks

Updating of the population data in the national EFABIS-database is completed until 2009. For 2010 some reports of breeding organisations are still missing. These data will be entered as soon as they are available.

As shown in the yearly monitoring the populations of all Austrian endangered breeds are stable or increasing. With the exception of the Turopolje pig the rate of inbreeding per generation is well below 1%. To broaden the genetic basis in Austria the ÖNGENE financed a survey project to find and characterize populations suitable for the exchange of breeding material in Croatia and Serbia. A major obstacle for the import of breeding animals and/or semen is the veterinary status of these countries.

The Austrian Cattle Archive is the backup function of the Austrian cattle AI industry. The national cryoWEB module is fully updated and operational. With the reports from the system most of the semen samples for the genomic selection projects in cattle could be provided easily.

Strategic Priority Area 2:

Sustainable Use and Development

In the next ÖPUL program sustainable use and development of stabilized populations of endangered AnGR will be the core issue. Some breeds have already developed special products and launched marketing programs.

As a fact production needs a certain minimal population size of a breed. To participate in a marketing scheme of a regional food retailer a sufficient amount of the product has to be available at least seasonally. Only a few of the Austrian rare breeds have enough production potential for such programs (Tyrolean Grey, Original Pinzgau, Murboden cattle, Kärntner Brillenschaf, Krainer Steinschaf). If these programs become established, the breeds could be back in production and considered as "saved" in a few years. The ÖPUL program should be designed to encourage marketing ambitions without discriminating breeds with small and very small populations.

Strategic Priority Area 3:

Conservation

Content of the Austrian Gene Bank see Annex 2 (report created from cryoWEB).

In situ conservation program:

In 2010 4877 farm got subsidies for the breeding of acknowledged rare breeds of farm animals. 32510 breeding animals of 31 breeds took part in the conservation program and were subsidized. As only farms with more than 2 ha can join the program the actual number of breeding animals in the herdbook is somewhat higher (very small farms and hobby breeders).

The mid-term evaluation of the current ÖPUL-program showed that the participation of farmers in the measure "rare breeds" is satisfying. More than 32.000 animals of 31 rare breeds were in the program in 2010 and more than 4,5 Mio. € of subsidies were paid to farmers. The sustainable re-building of the populations of rare breeds would not be possible without the breeding programs included in the measure.

Strategic Priority Area 4:
Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

In course of the participation in the project EFABISnet a national workshop disseminating the use of the application cryoWEB to all involved stakeholders was held at 17.11.2010. The involved breeding organisations and AI centres can now read data and create reports in cryoWEB. It was the general consent of the stakeholders to limit the access rights to reading and the reports. Data entry remains centralised at the Austrian Gene Bank.

The situation concerning the inclusion of valuable AnGR in the national emergency plans in case of epidemic diseases is still not satisfying. Genebanks and AI centres can and will be declared as valuable breeding stock. The problem is the isolation possibilities if valuable breeding animals of rare breeds on infected farms to exempt them from slaughter. The issue will be discussed further in autumn 2011.

Annex 1: List of relevant national institutions for national Genebanks / Cryopreservation Experts

institution, address, e- mail, homepage, phone / fax	contact person / expert incl. e-mail	animal species	type of genetic material	remarks
Institute of Organic Farming and Biodiversity of Farm Animals Austrasse 10 A-4606 Thalheim Austria	Beate Berger 0043 72424701122 Beate.berger@raumberg- gumpenstein.at	Cattle Sheep Goat Pig Horse Fish	Semen, DNA from all species	

Annex 2: Gene bank content

Table 1 Genebank – longtime storage

Species Breed	Semen	Donors Blood/ Somatic cells	DNA
Cattle			
Aberdeen Angus	4	1	1
Belgian Blue	5	0	0
Blonde d'Aquitaine	3	0	0
Brown Swiss	245	5	5
Carinthian Blonde	3	66	67
Charolais	5	0	0
Ennstaler Bergscheck	18	48	48
Galloway	1	0	0
Holstein-Friesian	34	31	31
Jersey	1	0	0
Limousin	22	0	0
Montbéliard	2	0	0
Murboden	30	38	40
Original Brown	6	39	39
Piemontese	1	0	0
Pinzgau	160	43	43
Pustertaler Sprintzen	12	42	43
Red Holstein	9	26	26
Simmental	1249	30	30
Tyrolean Grey	122	0	0
Tux-Zillertal	16	34	34
Waldviertel Blonde	10	62	62

Table 1 Genebank –longtime storage (cont.)

Species Breed	Semen	Donors Blood/ Somatic cells	DNA
Sheep			
Alpines Steinschaf	13	3	0
Braunes Bergschaf	17	30	31
Kärntner Brillenschaf	40	0	0
Krainer Steinschaf	15	0	0
Lacaune	1	0	1
Montafoner Steinschaf	9	4	4
Shropshire	4	6	6
Suffolk	0	1	1
Tiroler Steinschaf	13	0	0
Waldschaf	39	38	25
Racka	8	0	0
Goat			
Blobe Ziege	2	61	3
Bunte Edelziege	5	0	0
Chamois Alpine	15	5	5
Pfauenziege	1	1	1
Pinzgauer Strahlen	5	5	5
Pinzgauer Ziege	30	1	1
South African Boer Goat	0	27	20
Steirische Schecken	17	0	0
Tauernschecken	12	26	26
Walliser Schwarzhals	1	0	0
Pig			
Large White	0	1	1
Mangalica	5	2	2
Turopolje	6	0	0

Horse			
Shagya	11	0	0
Austrian Draught	10	0	0
Hafling	21	0	0
Old Austrian Warmblood	7	0	0
Warmblood	16	0	0