

**COUNTRY REPORT  
FOR 2009-2010**

**BELGIUM**

**Reported by**

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

*Actions undertaken during the past year*

Four indigenous sheep breeds (Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse, Mouton Laitier Belge, Ardennais Roux, Ardennais Tacheté) have been extensively studied within the framework of a research project. An original investigation method was developed therefore by the University of Louvain, that was applied for the in-depth study of these breeds, generating useful results in terms of inventory, breeding advice, sampling for cryobank...

*Actions planned for the next year*

Updating EFABIS with the generated data.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Actions undertaken during the past year*

BLUESEL is an INTERREG France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen project aiming at the conservation and the use of the genetic heritage of the dual-purpose Blue Breeds in Belgium and Northern France. In few words, the BLUESEL project aims at contributing to maintain diversity in this cross-border region through conservation and use of naturally adapted animals.

*Actions planned for the next year*

The BLUESEL project was launched in July 2008. It is conceived for four years and is supported by the European Union, the Regional Government of Wallonia, the Nord-Pas-de Calais Region and the General Council of Department of Nord. More information available on:  
<http://orbi.ulg.ac.be/handle/2268/19044>

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION**

#### *Actions undertaken during the past year*

Cryobank of Wallonia : after preliminary studies conducted for 4 years, a 5 year programme started from April 2010 to concretely set up the cryobank. The University of Louvain is the leader of the project (P. Baret, I. Donnay, J.F. Dumasy).

In 2009 in Flanders the in-situ conservation program for cattle of the red, white-red and dual purpose blue breed was temporarily expanded: offspring of female animals that are not recorded in the herdbook but which phenotypically meet the characteristics of the breed, are eligible for grants under the conservation program from a purity of 50 % (in stead of 62,5%).

#### *Actions planned for the next year*

Sheep will be the first specimen collected for cryoconservation. Then cattle will be considered, the aforementioned original method (see AREA 1) should be applied to the cattle Belgian-Blue population not registered in the official herdbook.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

#### *Actions undertaken during the past year*

A new Regional Government Decree for livestock breeding is under development, with a view to abrogate a Law of 1956. Chapter 7 of the draft is dedicated to the preservation of genetic diversity and the protection of endangered breeds: “*Maintien de la diversité génétique et sauvegarde des races menacées de disparition*”.

#### *Actions planned for the next year*

Information will be collected about policy development experiences in European countries and the chapter 7 of the new Regional Government Decree for livestock breeding will be drafted.