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

Actions undertaken during the past year 2008:

Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends in Slovenia are comprehend with running the “Register of breeds with zootechnical assessment”. Register included the following information about each breed by species:

- basic data (population size, location, risk status, phenotypic characteristics, geographical distribution within the country);
- in situ and ex situ conservation (number of pure breed animals);
- whereas data about breed is included in international database;
- breeding program (breeding goal, herd book, production characteristics, biological characteristics, breeding value),
- assessing genetic value of the breed;
- zootechnical assessment and actions (short-term and long-term actions).

The data from the register were used to monitor trends in population numbers and therefore to took all necessary steps for determine conservation activities. Once per year risk status of the breed was assessed. For each breed report was completed regarding breeding environment and assesment, number of animals, short introduction about breed status, breeding and selection methods and their application. First steps are done for monitoring the breeds of ass.

Actions planned for the next year 2009

“Register of breeds with zootechnical assessment” will be fulfilled in the year 2009. Register will include all the date mentioned in the 2008. On the basis of the data the risk status of the breed will be assessed. Register with all the included data will provide all the essential data to achieve all necessary steps for the conservation programme and plans, and most important for the degree of breed endargement. For each breed report will be completed regarding breeding environment and assesment, number of animals, short introduction about breed status, breeding and selection methods and their application.

Work will continue regarding the monitoring of ass. Socioeconomic environment for the farms with ass and their beneficiary will be establish. Breed standard that comprises the description of appearance/exterior of a breed, body measurements, morphological and biological characteristics, and data on the principal economic traits for two breeds of sheep and two breeds of goat will be finished.

The Glossary of biodiversity of farm animal genetic resources is planned to form.

Genetic variability for the two breeds of cattle, two breeds of goat, four breeds of sheep, three breed of horses, and four breeds of pigs will be established.

Bibliography of historical sources will be done - named “Old slovenian breeds of domestic animals”.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year 2008:

Production system for the Cika cattle and sheep was assessed concerning value, knowledge and importance. Research was done with questionnaire taken directly from the farmers. The result shown the social, economic and cultural characteristic of keeping animals and traditional knowledge. Local production systems and trends were described. Traditional technologies and protection of technology for traditional cheese was described and protocol was tested for population dynamic of microbes variety. Cattle diversity was shown with the distribution of specific breed on the local territory or wider on all country. Market research was carried out for locally typical products and protected cheese made from autochthonous and traditional breeds of cattle and sheep. Inventory of all locally typical products was done regarding their characteristics (type of products, species and breed, region, climate, technology, market, knowledge, speciality, market value, market availability).

Actions planned for the next year 2009

The work done on research of production system for the Cika cattle and sheep breeds will continue and will assess value, knowledge and importance and traditional breeding systems. The research work will continue regarding the traditional technologies and protection of technology for traditional cheese. The research will start if Slovenian farms fully fill the standard for animal welfare.

Diversity of various species will be shown with the distribution of specific breed where possible on the local territory or wider on all country. Relationship between the autochthonous and traditional breeds and their products will be studied on the different regions of Slovenia. Inventory of all local typical products in the regions and Swot analysis will be done.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year 2008:

Gene bank (ex situ conservation) – is made from a depository of semen, oocytes, embryos, somatic cells or DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Collecting of blood sample, skin and hair of all animals is included in the programme. Main attention was placed on collecting samples for autochthonous breed of Cika cattle and dog – Karst shepherd. The two primary cell culture of goat milk gland was characterized and afterwards frozen. The semen collection for the Cika cattle started and semen of coack was tested regarding freezing.

Actions planned for the next year 2009:

In the depository the DNA, sample of various tissues will be stored. Collecting of semen, oocytes, embryos, somatic cells, blood samples, skin and hair of all local and traditional breeds will carry on.

Genetic reserves for the bulls has to be stored according to the national law. Total zootechnical assessment has to be done for all breeds of cattle and selection of bulls for which semen will be stored. For every breed of cattle number of preserved semen will be defined.

In situ conservation will carry on. New endangered breeds will be included. The breeders will get de minimis aid and sign the contract. Aid will be provided for the pure breed male animals and their mothers. For the purpose of looking at the genetic differences 30 animals of Cika cattle blood sample will be taken. About 1.000 samples of Carniolan bee will be characterized and genetic variability analysed in order to find out the purity of the bee.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year 2008

Various projects with autochthonous breeds were taking place in the previous year. First the Heritage sheep – the main goal is to conserve autochthonous breed of sheep in the EU in therefore conserve the variability of agriculture. EU project named EFABIS net was restore the new information system. Goal of the information system is exchange of information about breed of animals important for the agriculture biodiversity at the international level. ERFP project called Busha network finished and report about breed was done as a brochure. New project start and lead by Slovenia: “Proper way of supports for endangered livestock breeds (SUBSIBREED)”, where all together 17 countries join to this project. Collaboration in project in duration of two years called "Current Status of the sheep breeds in Pramenka type in the Southeast Europe Countries and Strategies for their Sustainable Conservation" started in cooperation with eleven countries. Information system was set up for the Karst shepherd. All year web site had to be add-on different data. In addition web site was updated with the new with the new design techniques for web design. Slovenia took an active part in cooperation with the following international organizations like: FAO, ERFP, EAAP, DAGENE, SAVE regarding exchange of information's, seminars, and technical conferences and other. Education and training in the field of conservation of farm animal genetic resources was performed at the agricultural secondary schools, institutions of higher education, colleges, undergraduate or postgraduate studies at the departments of the Biotechnical Faculty - either as a special course or directly as a part of other subjects within the zootechnical curriculum. In order to promote awareness and early warning of the public, yearly data on significance and the state of conservation farm animal genetic resources was published on the web site, in the ERFP Newsletter, various articles published in the different media, seminar on Biodiversity in Slovenian agriculture in 2007, European biodiversity day.

Actions planned for the next year 2009

Slovenia will take an active part in cooperation with the following international organizations: FAO, ERFP, EAAP, DAGENE, SAVE regarding exchange of information's, seminars, and technical conferences and other.

Various projects with autochthonous breeds are in progress or will start in 2009. First the Heritage sheep acquire the extension for six months therefore will finished in September. The main objective of the project is to conserve autochthonous breed of sheep in the EU in therefore conserve the variability of agriculture. EU project named EFABIS net will continue with the adding new data. New ERFP projects called "Study of origin and conservation strategy of the Pramenka sheep breeds as regional transboundary breed" ; “Management of traditionally transboundary breeds on example of a nearly forgotten breed, the Murinsulaner” and the last “Establishment of an ERFP Working Group to support AnGR Cryopreservation Initiatives”. Different data and information about the work on AnGR are add to the web site. Web site will be regularly updated. Education and training in the field of conservation of farm animal genetic resources is performed at the agricultural secondary schools, institutions of higher education, colleges, undergraduate or postgraduate studies at the departments of the Biotechnical Faculty - either as a special course or directly as a part of other subjects within the zootechnical curriculum. In order to promote awareness and early warning of the public, yearly data on significance and the state of conservation farm animal genetic resources will be published on the web site, in the ERFP Newsletter, various articles published in the different media, seminar on Biodiversity in Slovenian agriculture in 2008, European biodiversity day.

