

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

The 3rd issue of the ERFP Newsletter summarizes the latest activities of the past year 2007 and introduces us in to the New Year 2008.

During the past year the ERFP continue implementing its annual work plan and initiated and participated in several events, among these was the Interlaken Conference, the concluding event of the long process towards the FAO Global Strategy for AnGR.

Comprehensive reports of the activities of ERFP for the third semester of 2007 and on the events of the 1st International Technical Conference for the management of FAnGR for food and agriculture in Interlaken you will find inside the Newsletter.

In accordance with the deci-

sions of our last workshop in Dublin, we have invited new countries to become members or associate members of the ERFP. When this procedure will be completed ERFP will cover all countries of the wide European and Caucasus region.

For 2008, according to our Strategic Plan, our goal is to continue our efforts in enhancing the role of NCs for the management of AnGR within their countries and also to strengthen the cooperation between our members. The ongoing Call for Action is focusing to further support this goal.

Furthermore, an important goal for 2008 is to continue our efforts to update the national related breed data in EFABIS, particularly in view of the CBD 2010 targets.

The ERFP website is regularly updated, hoping it remains a useful tool for you. To achieve this goal, a discussion has been started within the NCs and we expect from you news, ideas and comments. Furthermore, we always wait for your feedback regarding the content of the Newsletter.

This year we will meet in several occasions, with main event our Annual Workshop in August, in Vilnius, Lithuania, before the 59th Annual EAAP Meeting.

With this opportunity, I would like to wish you and your family for the New Year, happiness, health and prosperity.

Andreas Georgoudis
ERFP-Secretary

Inside this issue:

International Technical Conference and AnGR Exhibition in Interlaken	2
Training Course for the NCs	2
ERFP Call for Action	2
13th ERFP Annual Workshop	3
News on the ERFP projects	3
Future events / News	4

1st International Technical Conference for the Management of AnGR, 3– 7 September 2007

From 3 to 7 September 2007, the First International Technical Conference for AnGR organized by FAO, was held in Interlaken.

The International Technical Conference for AnGR organized by FAO in Interlaken was the concluding of the activities that developed by FAO in the frame of the Global strategy in the way to the preparation of the Global Plan for Action. This was also the starting point of the enhancement of our action, as now there is an internationally agreed framework, which contains the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, and a Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources. The Interlaken Declaration recognizes the importance of animal

genetic resources to food security, sustainable livelihoods and human well-being, and that prompt actions need to be taken to address the erosion of these vital resources.

Further information: <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2007.html>

During the closing ceremony



Credit: IISD Reporting services

Discussions on the GPA



Credit: IISD Reporting services

Important dates:

- ✓ Deadline for the 6th ERFP Call for Action 15 February
- ✓ 14th ERFP Annual Workshop 22–23 August, Vilnius, Lithuania
- ✓ 59th EAAP Annual Meeting, 24 - 27 August, Vilnius, Lithuania (Session on AnGR, on 24 August, chair: G. Gandini)
- ✓ Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1 March 2008

EXHIBITION "BIODIVERSITY, FOOD AND CULTURE - DISCOVERING THE DIVERSITY OF



Credit: Dimitrios Tsiokos

ERFP Stand in Interlaken

ERFP participated with a stand in the exhibition "Biodiversity, Food and Culture – Discovering the Diversity of Farm Animals" that held in Interlaken with the opportunity of the 1st International Conference on the Management of AnGR.

The objective was to present the work of ERFP to the general public that visited the exhibition.

Training Course, Strategies for the genetic management and sustainable breeding and use of AnGR, 23 – 24 August 2007, Dublin

Organized by the EAAP Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (EAAP-WG-AnGR) and the European Regional Focal Point on Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP).

National co-ordinators and additional participants contributed to and participated in the ERFP training workshop. The main objectives of the training workshop were 1) to contribute to a better understanding of the main principles, methods and their (potential) application in day-to-day genetic management and sustainable breeding and use of farm animal populations and 2) to stimulate discussion among NCs on these issues.

Lecturers were recruited from the EAAP and ERFP community. Some lecturers presented basic knowledge, principles and methods, other presented case studies or software. Presentation were followed by discussions

and elaboration of (potential) practical applications, issues and dilemma's. The presentations are available on the ERFP website: www.rfp-europe.org

Coordination

S.J. Hiemstra, National Co-ordinator AnGR, the Netherlands
sipkejoost.hiemstra@wur.nl
 G. Gandini, chairman of the EAAP-WG-AnGR,
Gustavo.gandini@unimi.it

ERFP Call for Action

Deadline for proposals submission: 15 February!

The 6th Call for Action has been launched. Priority will be given to proposals which specifically initiate or re-enforce ongoing collaborative activities in the field of AnGR among groupings of National Co-ordinators in Europe to enhance the impact of their work or which strengthen the co-ordination role of the Regional Secretariat for the benefit of the ERFP as a whole. *Priority will also be given to projects exploring the traditional knowledge of production systems, the transboundary breeds and the establishment of Working Groups.*

1st International Technical Conference for the Management of AnGR, Interlaken, 3– 7 September 2007

During the regional consultation



Credit: Drago Kompan

Credit: Drago Kompan

and the negotiations...

International Conference on native breeds and varieties as part of natural and cultural heritage

13– 15 November 2007, Sibenik, Croatia

The organisation of the Conference was initiated by the State Institute for Nature Protection of Croatia and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Directorate for Nature Protection. ERFP participated in the Conference organising a special session for the National Coordinators for AnGR of the South Eastern European Countries, where the possibilities for cooperation in the region and the role of ERFP was discussed.

Further information: aivankovic@agr.hr

13th ERFP Annual Workshop for European National Coordinators for FAnGR, 24-25 August 2007, Dublin

Annual Meeting, Saturday 25 August

The 13th Annual Meeting of the NCs was held at 25 August in Dublin, Ireland, with a wide participation, of a total of 47 participants. During the Meeting the Annual Report of the activities of ERFP since the last Workshop was presented. Several reports were presented, among others the FAO Report: Livestock's Long Shadow – Environmental issues and options. This report aims to assess the full impact of the livestock sector on environmental problems, along with potential technical and policy approaches to mitigation. Also an update was made on the SEBI 2010 procedure on the European biodiversity indicators. These

indicators need to be easily understood by Governments and the public when published, and there is a need that the NCs will be involved. Reports of the different activities that held during the previous year and updates on ongoing projects were presented. A wide discussion on the issues related with the strategy of ERFP was carried out and the plan of activities for the period of 2007-2008 was decided. The presentations and the detailed minutes of the Annual Workshop can be downloaded from the ERFP website: www.rfp-europe.org

Projects Coordination Meeting, Friday 24 August

The meeting was divided in two parts. The first part was referred to the ECONOGENE project, funded under the EU 6th FW, and the presentations gave an overview of the ECONOGENE project, the objectives, the achievements and the continuation with the Globaldiv action that is funded under the EU Regulation 870/2004. More specifically the strategies to integrate husbandry, genetics, geographic and socio-economic data for sustainable conservation and the socio-economics approach of the ECONOGENE project and an application of the Weitzman approach were presented. The second part included presentations

from the NCs on the ongoing ERFP projects. Through the presentations the NCs were informed on the activities that are carried out in the frame of the projects funded within the ERFP Call for Action. This was the first time that that the project coordination meeting was organised, and for next year in Vilnius all efforts will be made to organise the agenda in such a way that there will be sufficient time for discussion.

The presentations can be downloaded by clicking at:

www.rfp-europe.org

News on the ERFP projects

In 14 November, in Sibenik, during the International conference, a meeting of the Working Group of the ERFP project on the **Current Status of the Brachycerous Cattle Populations in the South Eastern European Countries and Strategies for their Sustainable Conservation** was organized. During the meeting there was an update by Drago Kompan on the information collected and a wide discussion was held on the form of the final publication, as the project output. The timetable was decided in order to have the publication ready for the ERFP Workshop in Vilnius.

On 23rd November, the meeting of the WG of the ERFP Project **Development of a common methodology to evaluate and monitor the population-genetic status of farm**

animal breeds in Europe and derive a common interpretation of the status of endangerment of breeds was held in Skopje. There was discussion on the current process towards the development of biodiversity indicators, the needs of predefinition of some terms in order to support NCs in their definition and development of the appropriate national AnGR indicators, including genetic and other (traditional, social, economic and political) aspects. The next steps of the work include the clarification of definitions, the determination of different aspects and obtain data from the NCs in order to test different indicators with the available data and produce an overview to the next meeting of SBSTTTA in Rome, 18- 22 February 2008.

The website of the International Technical Conference on AnGR for Food and Agriculture has been upgraded and completed. A photo gallery is available at:

http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/ITC_photoconf.html

Information on the side events of the Conference are also available:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/ITC>

In the frame of the ERFP project **Improvement of the existing ERFP - communication and co ordination infrastructure**, a discussion has started within the NCs, on the improvement of ERFP website, following the presentation of Frank Begemann in Dublin. His presentation included ideas on the development of the ERFP website and the preliminary results of the first questionnaire sent to by Babette Balzer to all NCs. A second short questionnaire followed Dublin meeting aiming to summarize the needs

for improvement.

In Dublin Dominique Planchenault presented the objectives of the project **Various Aspects and Possible Evolution of in situ conservation in Europe**, which is to form a WG for in situ conservation in the frame of ERFP that will exchange experience, ideas, will study successful (and not) case studies aiming if this is possible to prepare a proposal for the 7th FW.

The first issue of the Newsletter of the EU GlobalDiv Project funded by the European Commission under the Agri Gen Res Programme on March 2007, is available at the following address: <http://www.globaldiv.eu/Newsletter.htm>

ERFP Steering Committee:

Mike Roper, UK, Chair
Helen McCann, IR
Vera Matlova, CZ
Drago Kompan, SLO
Arunas Svitojus, LT
Andreas Georgoudis, GR, Secretariat

The Newsletter is published, under the supervision of the Steering Committee, from the ERFP Secretariat, with the contribution of:

Christina Ligda, chligda.arsc@nagref.gr
Evi Danou, ve46u039@minagric.gr
Ekaterini Konsultu, konsultu@agro.auth.gr
Eleftheria Dimitriadou, eldimi@agro.auth.gr

The ERFP website is updated regularly.

www.rfp-europe.org

Future Events

10th World Conference on Animal Production

The conference is hosted by the South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS) and will be held in **Cape Town, South Africa from 23 to 28 November 2008**

30 May 2008: Deadline to submit abstracts

For further information: <http://www.wcap2008.co.za/>

International Conference on Livestock and Global Climate Change

17-20 May 2008, Hammamet, Tunisia

The Conference is organized jointly by BSAS, ICARDA, IRESA, OEP, EAAP, INRA, ILRI

The meeting will consider the background to global climate change, including the contribution from livestock. Further information:

http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Livestock_&_Global_Climate_Change/

RBI 7th Global Conference on the Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources

Hanoi, Vietnam, 14-18 September, 2008

**THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBALISATION
ON THE ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

New Book

Sustainable Management of Animal Genetic Resources



The book presents guidelines for the sustainable use and conservation of farm animal genetic resources. With this book, the Nordic Gene Bank Farm Animals wishes to encourage the realisation of the sustainable management of farm animal genetic resources – a political and professional challenge at the national and international level.

Info: asko.maki-tanila@mtt.fi;
erling.fimland@umb.no

After Interlaken, What is the next step after the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for food and agriculture?

This seminar was organized by the Nordic Gene Bank in 10-11 December 2007, in Malmo, Sweden. The main subject discussed was "What is the next step after the Interlaken Technical Conference on animal Genetic Resources for food and agriculture"? We now have for the first time in history a *Global Plan of Action* and how should this influence the practical breeding work and what sort of future legal frames are needed?

In the next issue of our Newsletter, we will include a report with the outcomes of the Seminar. For more information, visit: <http://www.nordgen.org/ngh/english/index.htm>

Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki
Faculty of Agriculture
Dept. of Animal Production
Animal Genetics and Breeding
Prof. Andreas Georgoudis

Phone: +30 2310 99 86 83 / 87
Fax: +30 2310 99 87 19
E-mail: andgeorg@agro.auth.gr