

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

Inside the 6th issue of the ERFP Newsletter, which I have the pleasure to circulate, you will find information on our activities of the first semester of 2009.

We met during the FAO Technical Workshop of the NCs and the ITWG in Rome in the end of January. With this opportunity and following Vilnius decisions the SC met and started the discussion on the development of the ERFP business plan. The NCs will have the opportunity to contribute to this plan, and when the final program will be approved, this will be the new terms of reference of ERFP.

As every year, we initiated the 7th ERFP Call for Action and after the evaluation of the submitted proposals you can find the results in this issue. One of

our main activities was the organization of the ERFP Workshop in Iceland on "Conservation of livestock genetic resources by utilisation". This Workshop has been a success both on the terms of the high participation and also of the technical program and the interesting discussions held.

The communication of the progress of the ongoing ERFP funded projects is an important issue and you will find inside this issue short reports of two ERFP projects. Other issues cover the activities of GENRES projects during this period from the beginning of 2009.

The 15th ERFP Annual meeting that will be held in Barcelona on 22 and 23 August 2009 is coming close. You have received the agenda,

which includes interesting topics related with AnGR. As this Workshop is the main decision body of ERFP, your presence and active contribution as every year is important.

You will see also information on the workshop on the 24th of August that ERFP organizes in collaboration with EAAP WG_AnGR, EAAP Animal Genetics Commission and the EU-EURECA project within the 60th EAAP Annual Meeting (24-27 August 2009, Barcelona).

Before you leave for your summer vacations, please don't forget to send your Country Report.

Looking forward to see you all in Barcelona in August.

Andreas Georgoudis
ERFP – Exec. Secretary

15th ERFP Annual Workshop, Barcelona, 22-23 August 2009

The 15th ERFP Annual Workshop will be held in Barcelona from 22 to 23 August 2009.

This year the following events are planned in the frame of the ERFP Annual Workshop.

On Saturday 22 August from 10:00 to 17:00 in **Casa Ramona** in the **Caixa Forum**, the projects coordination meeting is organized. This session aims to increase the efficiency of the projects. During the meeting the NCs in charge of an ERFP project will present a report on the ongoing results and exchange information with the NCs. Furthermore propos-

als that are under preparation will be discussed and also the thematic topics for the new Call for Action.

On Sunday 23 August 2009 from 9:00 to 18:00, the Annual Workshop of the NCs will be held in **Fira Barcelona**.

The agenda of the meeting can be downloaded from the ERFP website (www.rfp-europe.org).

More information (and directions to the venue) and also information on the accommodation you will find in www.eaap2009.org.

Cryo international workshop 09-13 February 2009, Mariensee, Germany

The CryoWeb workshop for the partners in EFABISNet project was held in the second week of February (09-13.02.2009) in the Institute of Farm Animal Genetics, Mariensee, Germany.

During this workshop the participants had the opportunity to be trained in the setting-up and maintenance of National Genebank Information System in the FABISNet network.

The training materials from the workshop can be downloaded as pdf following the [link](#) in the efabis website.

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Special points of interest:

- 15th ERFP Annual Workshop 22-23 August 2009, Barcelona
- 60th EAAP Annual Meeting 24-27 August 2009, Barcelona
- 12th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 19-23 October 2009, Rome
- 9th WCGALP, 1-6 August 2010, Leipzig, Germany

NEWS: ELBARN project

Four Area Workshops were organised in the year 2009 for the EL-BARN project:

1. 5-7th March in Belgium (Gent) for the Area North West Europe

(Invited by SLE; Countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom)

2. 26-28th March in Czech Republic (Roznov) for the Central and North East Europe

(Invited by GEH; Countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania,

Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland

3. 24-26th April in Italy (Legnaro) for the Mediterranean Area

(Invited by R.A.R.E., Countries: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain)

4. 7-10th May in Bulgaria (Blagoevgrad) for South East Europe

(Invited by Euronatur; Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, fFormer Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Kosovo-UNMIK). Further information on www.elbarn.net

Practical strategies and tools for the genetic management of farm animal populations

60th EAAP Annual Meeting Barcelona, 24 August 2009

The EAAP Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (EAAP-WG-AnGR) and ERFP organize on Monday 24th afternoon (14.00-18.00), August 2009, in Barcelona the S.13 EAAP Session on "Practical strategies and tools for the genetic management of farm animal populations".

The S.13 Session is the third Training Workshop for NCs jointly organized by the EAAP-WG-AnGR and ERFP, this year in collaboration with the EAAP Animal Genetics Commission and the EU-EURECA

project. The first and the second training workshops were successfully held respectively in 2007 in Dublin and in 2008 in Vilnius, in connection with the Annual Meetings of ERFP.

The Barcelona session is organised into six main lectures on available strategies and tools for the genetic management of farm animals, three communications and many posters, all of major AnGR conservation interest.

Chair of the session is Miguel Toro.

ERFP Workshop: Conservation of livestock genetic resources by utilization, 29 April—2 May 2009, Reykjavik, Iceland

The workshop was organized by the NC of Iceland, Dr. Ólafur R.

Dýrmondsson and the ERFP Secretariat in Greece, with the support of the Farmers Association, the Agricultural University and the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of Iceland.

The topic of the Workshop was the "Conservation of livestock genetic resources by utilization" as a means of developing sustainable breeding systems for local breeds. Livestock production in Iceland is an example of heritage breeds of dairy cattle, horses, sheep and goats being of vital importance in this context. The Workshop with the combined field trip focused on possible ways to utilize local breeds applying scientific methods and appreciating the knowledge of local farmers. Consider stakeholder involvement, public perception and sup-

port and the role of NGOs in an overall European context.

The scientific programme covered a range of papers, related with the subject and a round table discussion was organised on the International Regime and the Access and Benefit Sharing in AnGR.

The technical excursion to both West and South - Iceland, guided by Dr.Dýrmondsson, introduced the participants to the native landraces of dairy cattle, sheep and horses, the only breeds of these species in the country. They have been involved in genetic selection programmes nationwide for a long time yielding generally good results in terms of productivity, yet maintaining much diversity such as in colours.

Iceland is selfsufficient in all types of meat as well as milk and eggs and the breeding and utilization of the old, native breeds, and their



The participants of the Workshop in Blue Lagoon

conservation, is well supported by the farming community and the general public. The workshop was attended by 35 participants from 22 European countries.

Amongst recommendations was the need to strengthen research into the genetic diversity of native breeds, whether still

important in agricultural production systems or not, so as to realize their role in future sustainable agriculture.

The presentations can be downloaded from the ERFP website (rfp-europe.org).

(By O. Dýrmondsson)

Results of the 7th ERFP Call for Action

Following Vilnius Workshop decisions, the ERFP Secretariat launched the 7th Call for Actions including five thematic topics formulated by the NCs during the ERFP Projects Coordination session.

- Coordination of the actions of different stakeholders for the management of AnGR (governmental /research/ breeders association/ NGOs)
- Identification of various threats for indigenous breeds (genetic, diseases, political, social, economical etc)
- Breeds characterization and taxonomy
- Exploitation / utilization of

local breeds for the production of local products - Economical evaluation of breeds

- Sustainable breeding programs

From the 8 proposals submitted, the following 3 projects with the higher evaluation were eligible for funding :

1. *Proper way of supports for endangered livestock breeds*
2. *Development of a regional network in function of sustainable breeding programs for transboundary breeds*
3. *Characterisation of the indigenous and improved podolic cattle breeds and identification of threats for*

extinction in global challenges

Including this 7th Call for Action, the ERFP has given a financial support to a total of 21 projects.

In the frame of ERFP strategy to facilitate the countries that are not members to join ERFP an action has been funded on the "Control and management system of AnGr in Central Asia" following a proposal submitted by the NC of Kazakhstan.

The current status of the ongoing projects will be presented in the Projects Coordination Meeting on Saturday the 22nd of August in Barcelona. In this session the thematic topics for the new Call for Action will be also discussed.

EFABIS update

Dear NCs,

ERFP is working together with FAO and EAAP in coordinating the European Database for AnGR, on the acquiring and updating the information on the European farm animal breeds and on the roles of access to this information.

As, ERFP gives attention to have an updated and well developed database for AnGR at European level we urge you to continue your efforts on updating and completing your national data in EFABIS database.

ERFP Project

The Murinsulaner horse: A project on traditional transboundary breeds on the example of a nearly forgotten horse

The Mura river side of Noricum belongs to four countries: Croatia, Slovenia, Austria and Hungary and it is the reason for the international cooperation in order to save the breed Murinsulaner. These horses served well in agriculture, logging in forestry and also in the war or before the town omnibuses. After the decline caused by mechanization, the increasing aspect of horse meat production with the fashion of bigger horses did speed up the decrease. The impact of Belgian and Percheron breeds accelerated the decadence. Thus, the breed was not listed any more, only the type survived within the cold blooded horses. In Croatia, however, a small number of mares are registered as Murinsulaner i.e. Međimur-ski horse breed.

The first event was the

reunion at Kozárd (Hungary) for preparing the time table of the work and for outlining its details. At the second workshop of the Órség National Park participants discussed the object of a well constructed international registration and management based on data collection. The problem of utilization of working horses in modern world and the aspect of nature protection and tourism should not be neglected either. A score table was developed, accepted and introduced with the most important data set.

Differential characteristics of Murinsulaner type:

Conformation: accurate distinction from the other cold blooded horse breeds the Haflinger included

Smaller size: less expensive keeping, and more skill and agility, scarcely also ridden



Comparison of cold blooded and Murinsulaner type (right)

Beauty: more attractive for breeders and also in tourism

Faster: more economic in work.

Working ability: use in traditional agricultural work program (tourism incl.)

Color : chestnut, black, bay and brown - grey, roan, dun, paint and leopard pattern are disliked.

Data and identification figures of the registered horses:

Birth date, sex, color, markings and brands (or chip No if any), measurements: height at withers (tape or stick), hearth girth, canon girth, parents, grand parents, grand-

grandparents, owner name / address, digital photo for illustration.

In winter months data collection on discovering, identifying and registering the existing Murinsulaner type horses in four countries was carried out. A short visit of the close relative Freiburger horse breed at Avanches, Switzerland confirmed the possible and effective use of semen for regeneration and stabilize the Murinsulaner type.

Up to the end of February data about 70 horses are registered for selection and acceptance at the next meeting. The work was done in collaboration with owners and breeders' associations. (By T. Svobolevski)

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The ERFP website is updated regularly.

www.rfp-europe.org

NEWS:**EU Project - GLOBALDIV**

GLOBALDIV is a 3 years project funded by the European Commission on AGRI-GEN RES Programme that started on March 1st, 2007. It aims at promoting the formation of international interdisciplinary groups of experts in characterization and conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources from many different European and non-European countries.

SUMMER SCHOOL

GLOBALDIV Summer Schools are training activities, comprising theoretical and practical lectures, organized by the project on 2008 and 2009, to train PhD students and junior researchers on specific topics related to the use of the new technologies

and approaches to characterize and conserve genetic diversity in farm animal species.

The 2009 School will be devoted to socio-economic aspects of conservation, to breed prioritisation and conservation strategies, integrating genetics, socio-economics, environmental data and geography. It will be held in Piacenza, Italy from 7th to 10th September, 2009

Application is opened until the 25th July 2009.

You can find all the information at:
www.globaldiv.eu

ERFP Project - Origin and Conservation Study of the Pramenka sheep breeds, 4-6 June 2009, Beograd, Serbia

The second meeting of the ERFP funded project on the Pramenka sheep breeds took place in Beograd, Serbia (4-6 June 2009). The participants presented the status of the Pramenka sheep breeds in their countries. In the round table discussion that followed there was a fruitful discussion on the origin, structure and diversity of the breeds and on the conservation strategies as a possibility for cooperation in the region.

The 2nd day a field trip was organised in a farm of Busha cattle, Podolian cattle (BelaCrkva) and sheep and goat farms (Vlasko-vitoroga sheep, Zuja sheep and Balkan goat) in Deliblatska Pescara, which is a natural protected area.

The outcomes of the meeting will be presented in the Projects Coordination meeting in Barcelona, 22 August.



The Vlasko-vitoroga sheep breed

Workshop,**Bydgoszcz, Poland, 18-19 March, 2009**

The first GLOBALDIV Workshop took place in Poland on 18th-19th March 2009, in the University of Technology and Life Sciences of Bydgoszcz. Of the total of 70 participants attended the workshop, 26 were partners and experts of the project and 44 were from the local organizing Institution and participants from other countries. 22 countries were represented, also the other 3 ongoing GENRES projects (*EFABISnet*, *EURECA* and *HERITAGE SHEEP*) and 7 International organizations (*FAO*, *ILRI*, *IAEA*, *EAAP*, *WAAP*, *ICAR* and *USDA*).

The material of the workshop can be downloaded from www.globaldiv.eu

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