



ERFP Secretariat



Dear National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources in Europe,

The ERFP Secretariat successfully completed its first year of office with the 17th Assembly of European National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources. We are looking back at fruitful discussions and splendid after-work activity kindly organized by our Norwegian colleagues which gave us a good impression about the Norwegian animal production. A short summary you may find in the article below.

The last months of summer bustled with activity and the Se-

cretariat was glad to hear that the ERFP Task Forces on Agri-Environmental Measures and Risk Status & Indicators picked up work. You may read summaries of their meetings in Madrid, Spain resp. Tekirdag, Turkey and the results of their work also in this newsletter.

Frank Begemann

ERFP Secretariat, Germany

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17th ERFP Assembly of European National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources



More than 40 National Coordinators and invited observers attended this year's ERFP Assembly on 27th and 28th August in Stavanger, Norway. After the welcome to Norway by the National Coordinator, Nina Saether, the Chair of the ERFP Steering Committee and National Coordinator Finland, Asko Mäki-Tanila, lead through a rather tight agenda: two new members - Nina Saether, NC Norway

and Elzbieta Martinyuk, NC Poland - were elected to the ERFP Steering Committee; Frank Begemann, ERFP Secretariat, presented the annual report and budget report and the budget for 2012 was discussed. It now includes provisions for participation of NCs to the ERFP Assembly. The respective leaders of the ERFP Working Group and Task Forces gave short summaries resp. reports on their work and further proceedings.

On the second day of the Assembly the focus was on collaboration with reports from EAAP and FAO. After an overview of the annual progress reports from Babette Balzer, ERFP Secretariat, Catherine Marguerat gave more detailed information on the status of safeguarding rare or endangered breeds in Switzerland.

Reports and all presentations held during the 2-day Assembly can be found on the [ERFP website](#).

Project funded by the French Ministry of Agriculture: VARUME - Establishment of an observatory of the genetic VARiability of RUMinants and EQUidae

Project Duration: 2012 - 2014

Protection of biodiversity is one of the current major issue. However, protection of the biodiversity created by manhood, namely, for animal species, Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR), is often forgotten in the actions implemented. Yet they are a fundamental part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that France ratified in 1992. It is strategic to maintain the genetic variability of selected populations so they can comply with the breeding strategies of the future.

Several types of information and different methods are used to assess the genetic variability of a population. In France, pedigree information is widely used to evaluate the breeds' genetic diversity. However, these studies were mostly conducted on a one time basis. Moreover, with the setting up of genomic selection we have now a rich source of information that could be used also to characterize the genetic variability of individuals and populations. However, these markers are not used to this end so far.

Project partners - Deliverables

Some of the major players in French animal breeding for ruminants and horses, namely



- the French Livestock Institute (Institut de l'Élevage),
- the French horse and Riding Institute (IFCE),
- INRA,
- the National Union of cooperatives for Animal

Insemination (UNCEIA) and

- the French federation of breed societies and breeders associations in charge of herd books (Races de France)



joined up in a project in order to create an observatory of the genetic variability of the French equine and ruminant breeds.

The first work package of the project is dedicated to the regular creation of genetic diversity indicators by breed based on pedigree information. The second work package is a feasibility study on the use of molecular data provided by genomic selection in order to create diversity indicators.

At the end of the project, the main indicators by breed will be available on the internet. To help stakeholders to master the interpretation of the indicators provided, a guide will be written and several training courses will be carried out. A link will be established between this observatory and the national portal on genetic resources "RG-Scope" initiated by the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB).

This project is meeting fully the many initiatives that are underway to define and implement at national level and under the auspices of the FRB, a strategy for biodiversity management. It is also meeting at a more global level the FAO recommendation to manage the genetic diversity of our breeds in a sustainable way.

Coordinator of the project:

Coralie Danchin-Burge

1st meeting of the ERFP Task Force on Agri-environmental Measures in Spain



The ERFP Task Force on Agri-environmental measures celebrated a meeting in Madrid, Spain from 19th to 20th September 2011. Members from five countries - Finland, Germany, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey - attended the meeting.

Before the meeting, a questionnaire on the framework of Agri-environmental measures in every country was sent to the members of the group, and responses were gathered to contribute to the discussions of the meeting.

The first day of reunion in Spain was dedicated to build up an overview of the state of Agri-environmental measures in different countries, in order to identify:

1. Features common to all Agri-environmental measures
2. Factors contributing to success
3. Factors leading to failure
4. Actions that can be undertaken to help the conservation of local breeds
5. Criteria and definitions
6. Possible Indicators and future actions

It was agreed that a document should be generated to present the Task Force's conclusions to the ERFP Assembly of National Coordinators. Also,

the possible framework for these measures beyond 2014 was under discussion, when a new Regulation on Rural Development, where Agri-environmental measures are included in the EU, should be on place.

The second day there was a technical visit, hosted by the *Asociación de Raza Avileña- Negra Ibérica*, for better understanding the role of these measures to help farmers to maintain their activity.

The technical visit included the communal feeding facilities, where livestock from 60 farms are fed from their weaning to their slaughter. It also serves as one of the breeding program control centres where bulls can be selected. The group visited also two farms which received cattle from different Agri-environmental measures.

Finally, the group went to the cattle exhibition in Ávila, devoted to the Avileña breed which is celebrated every year. 2011 was the 40th anniversary of the *Asociación de Raza Avileña- Negra Ibérica*. This year they were displaying an itinerant exhibition on cattle transhumance.

María Luisa Ballesteros Jareño

Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs

Joint meeting: Share and exchange between ERFP Task Force on Indicators and Risk Status and ERFP project “Development of models assessing the breeds risk status by utilisation of population and relevant georeferenced data” - October, 4th 2011 - Tekirdag, Turkey

A joint meeting of the ERFP project “Development of models assessing the breeds risk status by utilization of population and relevant georeferenced data” and the ERFP Task Force on Indicators and Risk Status was held on the 4th of October 2011 in Tekirdag, Turkey.

test the indicator.

Discussion: The aim of the discussion was to define which group is working on what, define the border between the two and propose the workplan for the next period. Looking at the nature of the two



ERFP project: The aim of the project to develop a common base on the information that should be collected (their format including the spatial dimension of the data), and develop models that will weigh the different threatening factors to an index appropriate to classify the breeds according to their degree of endangerment, to be used as a tool to make decisions relevant with the management of animal genetic resources.

ERFP Task Force: Furnish a toolbox to NC, to help them to describe and follow their breed > producing a light document with case studies and propose some developments in EFABIS for allow comparisons and establishment of a European dashboard on AnGR. One of the existing indicators is dealing with “Native breeds”, this group as to find a agreed definition among Europe and help to

groups and following the discussions during the whole day, it was concluded that the TF will work on “what is existing, and test it” regarding numerical and genetic indicators (primary indicators) and will also work on native breeds definitions and the ERFP project will work on “ what could be developed ” by testing the geographical criteria (primary indicators) and on socio-economic indicators (secondary), developing models to assess the threats to the breeds. The aim of the two groups is to provide tools and recommendations to ERFP NCs, and to the large community of AnGR in Europe.

The international context and emergency to have something to propose was considered: CGRFA need to develop an urgent status indicator to provide it to CBD. During SBSTTA (Nov2011), the

continued from page 4: Joint meeting

Strategic Plan for the CDB will be developed; the 13th objective for 2020 is "minimize genetic erosion". CBD process made 3 categories for classifying indicators, (A=useful, B=need development, C=not for general use). At this time, indicator for genetic resources is in the category B. It is nearly sure that in the Strategic Plan, only indicators in category A will be taken. It is very important for Genetic Resources to be included in the CBD Indicator process; otherwise the indicator for genetic resources will probably not fit to the reality and make impossible the implementation of 2020 objectives.

After some precisions on primary (objective) and secondary indicators (subjective), discussions were on the definitions of Native Breeds. It was proposed to produce a document on Native breed, and explain different cases that show the differences between native as "in its country of origin" and native as "locally adapted and became native". Having a European common definition will allow Task Force to work on the indicator proposed to SEBI.

The criteria and thresholds for Primary Indicators, which will be probably integrated in the new FAO guidelines were presented.

if possible. Any other country who wants to test it will be welcome. Data that are needed for implementing this geographical indicator is the No of Animals/farm / breed. UK has used the post codes to define the geographical location.

Regarding Socioeconomic factors; that are classified as secondary indicators, the group will define the common base on the information that should be collected and whether these will be collected at farm or breed level. The information is divided as social, economical, environmental and political factors. A first proposal was circulated to the group and will be finalized after receiving input by all participants.

Share of the work and deadlines

- ERFP Task Force:
 - Definition: Native Breed and develop examples
 - Take into account the different proposed indicators by Lawrence, try these on different countries and see which others we could use at European level (numerical and genetic ind.) > status and trends indicators
 - Meeting end of February – start of March (location to be confirmed)
- ERFP project :
 - Geographical concentration : checking the criteria proposed by UK / examples of different countries (FR, UK, GR, SL, others), analyse the possibilities and problems at European level
 - Socio economic:
 - * Finalise the data to be included (end of November)
 - * Circulate the questionnaire –

Responses end of February

* Analyse the data

- Common work:

- TF+WG for a common production to deliver in Bratislava

Eleonore Charvolin

Christina Ligda

It is the minimum needed for implementation of the global level. Task Force will work to describe which other primary indicators (Numerical and Genetic) we need/can have in Europe. The goal is to produce the toolbox for NCs in Bratislava and propose it for being developed with EFABIS.

ERFP project WG will work on testing the geographical one, developed in UK. France, Slovenia, Greece are volunteer to test it with their own data,

	Vulnerable	Endangered	Critical
Numerical (cattle)	2000	1000	100
(sheep/goats/horses)	6000	3000	300
Geographical (75% of the population within)	50 km	25 km	12,5 km
Genetic	0,5% - 1%	1%-3%	>3%

Quick scan: Patents in Animal Breeding



A recent study of Wageningen University and Research Centre was aimed at providing insight into recent developments around patents related to breeding of animals for production of food and the impact on the right of use of these animals. Protection of intellectual property is a subject of public debate when it concerns rights on aspects of life. There are increasing concerns in society and among various stakeholders in the domain of animal breeding and animal production on the increase in number and scope of patents and carry-over effects onto subsequent generations.

The last 10 years, there has been a clear increase in the number of patent applications in the area of farm animal breeding, compared to the 30 years before that period. The increase applies to all species in animal production and mainly concerns patent applications in the area of molecular genetics.

Patents related to pig breeding were studied in more detail. Until the end of 2010, a total of 53 European patent applications were filed that concerned breeding pigs for food production. Nine of these applications are still being reviewed and another nine have been granted. The remaining applications were rejected, lapsed or withdrawn. Besides these, there were another 50 European patent applications concerning transgenic pigs, of which 14 are still being reviewed and 13 have been granted. Organisations filing patent applications are predominantly academic institutions and large companies.

Problems identified in this study mainly concern the process of reviewing patent applications. The process takes very long and causes a long period of uncertainty. It is not clear how the patent legislation should be interpreted, which feeds the uncertainty. The lack of clarity mainly refers to carry-over effects of patents onto subsequent generations, the definition of "essentially biological process", the exact difference between an invention and a dis-

covery and the patentability of a variety with a wider patent. There was a tendency for vaguely phrased patent applications with excessively broad claims. The majority of applications with broad claims were rejected, sometimes only after opposition of international citizen groups.

Based on the observations, we conclude that the impact of animal breeding patents on the right of use of animals in animal production is limited, as yet. The high costs involved with the patent application and the complexity of maintaining patents are in practice for most animal breeding organisations prohibitive. The possibility of patents in combination with the still decreasing number of independent parties in the global commercial animal breeding sector remains a potential risk on monopolies in animal breeding.

The report of the quick scan is only available in Dutch. We are interested in collaborative projects to further look into (intellectual) property rights systems, also related to the access and benefit sharing issues. For suggestions please contact one of us below.

Jan ten Napel

Sipke Joost Hiemstra

Global Plan of Action published in Serbian



The Serbian translation of the "Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources" has been completed and published by arrangement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management, Republic of Serbia. The electronic version of the document can be downloaded from the [website of FAO](#).

Srdjan Stojanovic, National Coordinator of Serbia

8th Rare Breeds International (RBI) Global Conference

The 8th RBI Global Conference, hosted by Namik Kemal University at Tekirdag in Turkey, provided a valuable framework for further



(Irene Hoffmann) and also from the four RBI Directors present (Keith Ramsay, Ihsan Soysal, Maija Pongtaga and Lawrence Alderson).

cooperation with ERFP. It was held 4-8 October 2011 with satellite meetings before and after the main event plus a technical tour of farms and a social tour of Istanbul. There was a rich cultural and geographical mix of delegates who brought diversity from 38 different countries, and the conference was notable for the body of delegates from western Asia who were able to interact directly with European colleagues to discuss questions and problems facing the conservation of native AnGR. In particular, there were oral and/or poster presentations from Pakistan, Nepal, Georgia and Iran (several from the latter), and also presentations from Africa (Sudan and South Africa). The interaction and exchange of experience and knowledge provided a springboard for the development of new opportunities and creation of new friendships.

Nine NCs within ERFP registered to attend the conference, but Andreas Georgoudis and Sipke Hiemstra were unavoidably prevented. Direct contributions from ERFP started in the first session with a presentation by ERFP Management Committee member, Oya Akin, who spoke on regional experiences in Europe illustrated by the structure and functions of ERFP. Other presentations were given by Olafur Dyrmondsson (NC Iceland), Ela Martyniuk (NC Poland), Nina Saether (NC Norway), Drago Kompan (NC Slovenia) and Srdjan Stojanovic (NC Serbia). There also were important presentations from FAO

Prof. Ihsan Soysal, was Chairman of the Organising Committee and Scientific Committee, and successfully developed a programme of 80 presentations which balanced contributions from international experts with opportunities for research workers and conservationists in Turkey to expose their policies and programmes to a wider audience. Approximately 150 delegates registered for the main conference, plus a number of extra delegates who attended as part of their educational development, and others who attended satellite meetings. A formal dinner hosted by the Mayor of Tekirdag provided a suitable occasion for presentation of Fellowship to RBI awards to Jean Boyazoglu, Salah Galal, Andreas Georgoudis, Keith Ramsay and Lawrence Alderson.

Satellite meetings of ERFP task forces (TF) and working groups (WG) took place before and after the conference. A joint meeting of the TF 'Risk status and indicators of animal genetic resources', chaired by Eleonore Charvolin, and the WG project 'Development of models assessing the breeds risk status by utilisation of population and relevant georeferenced data' chaired by Christina Ligda, took place on 4 October, and a project meeting of "SUBSIBREED", chaired by Drago Kompan, took place on 8 October.

Lawrence Alderson, RBI

ERFP Steering Committee

Chair:

Asko Mäki-Tanila, **Finland**

ERFP Secretariat:

Frank Begemann, **Germany**

Members:

Didier Bouchel, **France**

Tamás Szobolevszki, **Hungary**

Nina Saether, **Norway**

Elsbieta Martyniuk, **Poland**

Oya Akin, **Turkey**



Website

- fotos from last ERFP Assembly in the [Intranet](#)
- new structure in the "[publications](#)" section

Upcoming events

- [International Conference](#) "Role of research in sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas" - Podgorica, Montenegro—23rd to 25th May 2011

AnGR Publications

- **Italy:**
Fondazione Iniziative Zooprofilattiche E Zootechniche Brescia "[La Salvaguardia della Biodiversità Animale](#)"
- **Serbia:**
"[Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration](#)" (Serbian Version)
- **FAO:**
"[Report of 13th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#)"
- **EAAP:**
Presentations of the Symposium on "[Environmental value of animal genetic resources](#)"
- **ERFP Projects:**
Report and presentations from the project meeting in Tekirdag, Turkey - 7th to 9th October 2011 "[Proper way of supports for endangered livestock breeds](#)" – [SUBSIBREED](#)
- **NordGen:**
Material from Workshop on "[Socio-economic and Cultural Values of Farm Animal Breeds](#)" - Reykjavik, Iceland - 7th to 9th August 2011

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