



**ERFP Secretariat**



**Dear National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources in Europe,**

The ERFP Secretariat was pleased to see quite a few National Coordinators and members of the ERFP Task Force on ABS participating the Bonn Workshop on ABS in preparation of the 1st Session of the Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing in Svalbard, Norway in September this year. .

The ERFP Secretariat is preparing the annual Assembly of National Coordinators which will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia this year. As decided during Assem-

bly last year, ERFP can offer financial support for a number of National Coordinators. We do hope this will stimulate participation and to see all of you in Bratislava.

**Frank Begemann**  
ERFP Secretariat, Germany

Content:	page
Country and GPA progress reports	1
18th ERFP Assembly	2
ERFP WG on Documentation and Information	3
ERFP WG on Ex Situ Conservation	4
ERFP TF on ABS	4
ARIMNET/ERAnet Project „DoMEStic“	5
Evaluation of 870/2004	6
Events & Publications	6

**ERFP Country Reports and Progress Reports on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action**



The progress reports on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources at country and regional level, and by international organizations, are now available on the **FAO website** (scroll down to “National

Reporting” and open the link via “click to enlarge”). Progress reports were prepared by 32 from the 45 ERFP countries over recent months as well as a regional report by the European Regional Focal Point and by a couple of networks for the management of animal genetic resources and international organizations. The results will be used by FAO to prepare a synthesis report on progress on the im-

plementation of the Global Plan of Action, which will be presented as a preliminary summary at the ERFP Assembly and of course at the forthcoming 7th Session of the **Intergovernmental Technical Working Group** on Animal Genetic Resources in October 2012 .

Since most countries reported to FAO on progress on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and FAO will give a summary on the findings during Assembly, the ERFP Secretariat together with the Steering Committee therefore decided to spare the National Coordinators the extra work and not request an additional ERFP country report. Our apologies to those who already returned the report which will publish on the **ERFP website** of course.

**18th ERFP Assembly in Bratislava, Slovakia - 25th to 26th August 2012**

National Coordinators and listed observers are invited to participate in the 18th ERFP Assembly Meeting of the National Coordinators for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources in Europe. The ERFP Assembly will be held this year from Saturday, 25th to Sunday, 26th August 2012 in Bratislava, Slovakia in connection with the annual meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP).

The ERFP Assembly Meeting will take place at

**Hotel TATRA a. s.**

Nám. 1. mája 5

SK-811 06 Bratislava

Slovakia

phone reception: +421 2 59272111

phone reservation: +421 2 59272123

fax: +421 2 59272135

email: rezervacie@hoteltatra.sk

homepage: <http://www.hoteltatra.sk/>

Please find the up-dated draft agenda for download together with other meeting documents and location information at the [ERFP website](#).

If National Coordinators or representatives from invited observers are unable to attend they may send a representative. For organisational reasons the ERFP Secretariat needs a registration for the ERFP Assembly. Please return the **registration form** for each participant to the ERFP Secretariat before 31st July 2012 or let us know if you are unable to attend.

National Coordinators may be accompanied to the ERFP Assembly by technical advisors, who need to be confirmed by the National Coordinator and will have to cover their own expenses for participation.

Two major issues will be up for discussion.

1) As laid down in the ERFP Terms of Reference the ERFP Steering Committee consists of five members of the Assembly and a chair, each elected by the Assembly for a 4 year term of office. The members should represent each of the European sub-regions – South, Central, East, West and North, with the chair being outside the regional consideration. Currently, the ERFP Steering Committee consists of the following National Coordinators:

- Asko Mäki-Tanila, Chair, National Coordinator of Finland
- Didier Bouchel, National Coordinator of France
- Tamás Szobolevszki, National Coordinator of Hungary
- Nina Saether, National Coordinator of Norway
- Elżbieta Martyniuk, National Coordinator of Poland
- Oya Akin, National Coordinator of Turkey.

The terms of office for Asko Mäki-Tanila as Chair and Didier Bouchel as member of the ERFP Steering Committee end in 2012. We therefore request National Coordinators for two nominations to the ERFP Steering Committee, a Chair and one member representing the West Region, by the end of July 2012.

2) ERFP budget and reimbursement for participation at various ERFP meetings have been under discussion. During last year's ERFP Assembly "Rules of Reimbursement" have been adopted. After one year in practice they need revision. The draft version will be discussed during Assembly.

Looking forward to seeing you in Bratislava!

## Meeting of the ERFP Working Group on Documentation and Information

The ERFP WG on Documentation and Information organised its annual meeting in Padova, Italy, in the facilities of the Agricultural University on the 27th March 2012. Within the main topics of the meeting was to work on the content of the annual report of the ERFP WG that will be presented to the ERFP Annual Assembly this August in Bratislava. This item was discussed in connection with the ERFP regional report and the WG's contribution for the 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group next October in Rome.

The issue of defining "local" and "transboundary" breeds has been discussed and it was recommended that National Coordinators should check the correctness of assigning breeds to the "transboundary" class in the database.

It was agreed to put emphasis to update the population data within the deadlines, and that all breeds should be reported in EFABIS even if no monitoring of the population data is established yet. The report shall evaluate the completeness of the population data. The existing EFABIS tools will be used, but furthermore the report shall provide also information by analysing the extracted population data.

The progress of the implementation process of



PEDs (production environment descriptors) and the required changes in data structure and data storage, were considered. The next steps that are needed, after the installation of the module in DAD-IS and European and National Information Systems, include the translation of labels, descriptions, names of layers and drop-down lists in global and national systems.

The WG members gave short overviews about the work and situation regarding "Documentation and Information of AnGR" in their countries. These presentations and the discussion showed a variety of activities, as well as many details and requirements that have to be worked out. Documents and presentations can be downloaded from the [ERFP website](#).

The future priorities for the WG, including the following:

- facilitate population data upload and export
- facilitate data (especially population data) entering
- new data / outputs relating to the PEDs module
- new outputs at regional level
- revision of existing data
- degree of completeness (relating to the PDI mentioned above).

Following the decisions of the WG meeting in Padova, a short expert meeting was organised in Thessaloniki, Greece from 11th to 13th June 2012, in the facilities of the Veterinary Research Institute of NAGREF, in order to prepare the draft report for the Annual Assembly. In this meeting, Christina Ligda, Eleonore Charvolin, Enrico Sturaro and Eildert Groeneveld participated. During the meeting the form of the annual report has been discussed and drafted. The report is consisted of the following parts and will be circulated to the WG before being finalised:

- overview of the status of reporting
- overview of Breed Risk Status and Trends
- overview of response measures
- general remarks and considerations.

Christina Ligda, Chair of ERFP WG on Documentation and Information

chligda@otenet.gr

## Workshop on Ex situ Conservation in Zagreb, Croatia from 23rd to 26th May 2012



University of  
Zagreb

A workshop on Ex Situ Conservation was held in Zagreb, Croatia from 23rd to 26th May 2012. The workshop was based on the work plan of the ERFP Working Group on Ex Situ Conservation as presented during the ERFP Assembly in Stavanger, Norway 2011 covering the main issues:

- exchange of information about national legal and institutional arrangements;
- exchange of experiences of CryoWEB use between user countries;
- discussion of steps towards a coordinated European gene bank strategy.

The topics were discussed in depth by nominated members of the ERFP WG Ex Situ and with additional experts with relevant, long-term and comprehensive experience at hand.

48 participants from 30 countries were present. Their participation and the organisation of the workshop was made possible by contributions from ERFP, FAO and the host in Croatia, the University of Zagreb.

After welcome of the participants by the host and the organisers, Sipke -Joost Hiemstra, the Chair of the ERFP WG Ex Situ, opened the workshop by giving an introduction to the workshop programme and objectives:

- exchange experiences
- support and establish AnGR Gene Banks
- develop a European strategy for gene banks

- discuss the legal framework (the ERFP website now hosts a special site for ex situ conservation)
- co-ordinate European Gene Banks
- exchange experiences on the use of CryoWEB.

On day 1, 23rd May, presentations from a number of countries from the European region were given on legal and institutional arrangements for ex situ conservation at national level.

The plenary on day 2, 24th May, focused on trans-boundary options and models for regional gene banks and on technical issues such as application of **CryoWEB** and cryobiology.

On day 3 of the workshop on 25th May, the plenary was split into parallel groups. Group I contained the CryoWEB users. They discussed their experience in the implementation and use of CryoWEB and identified items for improvement or further development.

Parallel group II discussed opportunities and challenges for cross-border and pan-European Gene Bank Strategy.

The workshop closed on 25th May with a summary and identification of remaining issues and further activities for the ERFP WG Ex Situ.

With a view to the expected output, the workshop report by rapporteurs B. Berger, Austria and E.-M. Stalhammar, Sweden, the 4-page summary reports from each country together with the pdf-copies of all powerpoint presentations and a draft discussion / position paper on the European Gene Bank Strategy on the **ERFP website**.

## Meeting of the ERFP Task Force on Access and Benefit Sharing

With a view to preparing the meeting of the Ad hoc technical working group on access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture which will be held in Svalbard from 10th to 14th September 2012, an ABS workshop followed by an ERG coordination meeting took place from 27th to 29th June 2012 in Bonn, Germany. The event was jointly organised by the Danish EU Presidency together with Germany and the Netherlands. Results of the Workshop will be published on a website by the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, soon.

The ERFP Task Force on ABS took the opportunity to meet prior to the workshop for preparation and dealt in detail with the guiding questions for the ABS workshop with a view on animal genetic resources. Elżbieta Martyniuk, National Coordinator of Poland and Chair of the ERFP TF ABS gave a summary of the status of ABS negotiations in the context of CBD, Nagoya Protocol and on the specific issue of ABS for genetic resources for food and agriculture. Information and background study papers can be found on the **ERFP website**.

## ARIMNET – ERA NET Project: Mediterranean biodiversity as a tool for the sustainable development of the small ruminant sector: from traditional knowledge to innovation - DoMEsTic



The kick-off meeting of the ARIMNet project “Mediterranean biodiversity as a tool for the sustainable development of the small ruminant sector: from traditional knowledge to innovation – DoMEsTic” was organised in the Dairy Research Institute of NAGREF in Ioannina, Greece, from 4th to 5th July 2012.

The project aims to investigate the factors that influence the sustainability of pastoral and rangeland production systems in the participating countries, focusing on sheep and goat production, and examine the adaptation strategies to the socio-economic and environmental challenges. Towards this aim, the following aspects will be examined:

1. the different components of the production systems,
2. the role of local authorities and the organisation at territorial level,
3. the distribution of the products through the supply chain, the trends in the market and the role of the different stakeholders.

Tools will be developed to support the sustainable development of the production systems contributing to the increase of the value of the breeds, their commercial valorisation, their uptake in agriculture and their positive impact in rural economies. The plan will allow to underline positive synergies in breeds-products interactions. The transverse analyses of specific case studies in the partner countries in a comparative way will allow the construction of specific guidelines to promote breeding programmes and valorisation strategies for local breeds. The outputs will provide practical frameworks for the valorisation of local genetic resources and the successful uptake of their products into the markets.

The first part of the meeting was addressed to the local organisations (Farmers’ Associations, Cooperatives, Administration bodies) aiming to inform

the local stakeholders on the objectives of the project. During the second day, a technical visit was organised with the collaboration of the Pastoral Farmers Association in Peristeri (village in Epirus) to visit the sheep flocks in the mountain pastures (in 2,200 meters altitude).



Coordinator:

- Greece – NAGREF, Veterinary Research Institute, Thessaloniki - Dr Christina Ligda,

Partner Institutes:

- France - Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, SAD LRDE, Dr Anne Lauvie
- Cyprus - Agricultural Research Institute, Dr Georgia Hadjipavlou
- Morocco - Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Prof. Abdelilah Araba

The technical visit in the mountain pastures was supported by the Farmers Association of Pastoral Farmers, who have organised the transportation, with the coordination of the President of the Association, Giannis Dekolis.

More information on the [website](#).



## 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**

- **Addresses** and address lists updated in the Intranet

## Upcoming events

- 18th Assembly of European National Coordinators for AnGR - Bratislava, Slovakia - 25th to 26th August 2012
- 1st Session of the Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on ABS for GRFA - Svalbard, Norway - 11th to 13th September 2012
- 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on AnGR - Rome, Italy - 24th to 26th October 2012
- FP7-KBBE Call - European Commission - deadline: Feb 2013

## Evaluation of Community Programme on Genetic Resources in Agriculture (EC No. 870/2004)

In January, the European Commission held stakeholder consultations on the Community Programme on Genetic Resources in Agriculture (previously Council Regulation (EC) No 870/2004). ERFP also made a contribution. The results are published as an "Independent expert evaluation of the 870/2004 Council Regulation".

All documents are available for download on the **ERFP website**.

Representatives from the EU Members States and Croatia were invited to discuss the evaluation report in Brussels on 13th June 2012 with the GENRES Committee.

The ERFP Newsletter is published under the supervision of the Steering Committee by the ERFP Secretariat.



Federal Office for  
Agriculture and Food

**Federal Office for  
Agriculture and Food**  
Information and Coordination Centre  
for Biological Diversity (IBV)  
Deichmanns Aue 29  
DE-53179 Bonn  
Germany

phone: +49 (0) 228 6845 3239  
fax: +49 (0) 228 6845 3105  
e-mail: [frank.begemann@ble.de](mailto:frank.begemann@ble.de)  
[www.genres.de](http://www.genres.de)  
[trgdeu.genres.de](http://trgdeu.genres.de)

INFORMATION AND  
COORDINATION CENTRE

**BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

## AnGR Publications

- **Turkey:**  
*Domestic Animal Genetic Resources in Turkey*
- **Hungary:**  
*Global Plan of Action and Interlaken Declaration (Hungarian)*
- **Serbia:**  
*Zasavica Special Nature Reserve*
- **Genetic Selection Evolution** article:  
*Genetic diversity, population structure and subdivision of local Balkan pig breeds and practical value in conservation programs*
- **Ursula Böhmer:**  
*Photobook: All ladies - Cows in Europe*

