



**New ERFP Secretariat**



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

This is the first issue of the ERFP newsletter which the "new" Secretariat will send you. We hope to bring you some news beyond the regular e-mail circulations and the news on the ERFP web-site.

Apart from the new ERFP Secretariat and the new ERFP website layout we are looking at quite a lot of "new"s in the ERFP Organisation as well: the Terms of Reference have been agreed during the last Assembly meeting in Crete and finally the establish-

ment of new Working Groups and Task Forces.

The Task Forces will take up their work as seems fitting.

Since the Working Groups are still without leadership, the nominated members will be invited to a kick-off meeting to Bonn, Germany.

We are looking forward to make some progress in the conservation and sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources across Europe with combined efforts and advanced cooperation.

Best wishes,

**Frank Begemann**

ERFP Secretariat, Germany

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**International Expert Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing of Farm Animal Breeds**



From 8th to 10th December 2010, the **Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN)** held an international expert workshop in Wageningen, the Netherlands. The meeting was sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Norwegian Ministry for Agriculture and Food and the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture.

The objectives of this workshop were:

- to better understand major factors driving the international exchange of animal genetic resources for food and agricul-

ture

- to identify potential impacts of the adoption of a Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing on the exchange and use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
- to explore the need and options for appropriate sectoral measures for Access and Benefit-Sharing regarding animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

The report of this meeting and the conclusions of the final workshop session can be accessed at:

[http://www.cgn.wur.nl/UK/CGN%](http://www.cgn.wur.nl/UK/CGN%20Gener-)

[20Gener-al%20Information/Education%20and%20information/Seminars/.](http://www.cgn.wur.nl/UK/CGN%20Gener-al%20Information/Education%20and%20information/Seminars/)

**Workshop announcement: In vivo conservation of farm animal genetic resources**

From 14th to 18th June 2011 the CGN and FAO will hold a workshop on **In Vivo Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources**. Please find more details in the announcement following the link <http://www.rfp-europe.org/index.php?id=532>.

**ERFP project (2009-2011): Characterization of the indigenous and improved Podolic cattle**



With the leadership of the University of Debrecen, Hungary, a project named 'Characterization of the indigenous and improved Podolic cattle breeds and identification of threats for extinction in global challenges' was submitted to the ERFP Call for Action in 2009. The project proposal was eligible for funding. Participants of the project include the ANABIC in Italy, the Neusiedlersee National Park in Austria, a Hungarian Grey cattle breeder in Serbia and two partners in Hungary: the Association of Hungarian Grey Cattle Breeders and the University of Debrecen, as a coordinator.

The aims of the project include the establishment of the taxonomic position and relations of breeds within the Podolic cattle group. Therefore, the analyses

and comparison of the phenotype and also the genotype of the different breeds are necessary. This work is based on the literature and new laboratory results. Study of the historic backgrounds of the breeds, as well as the methods for possible utilization and the exploitation of the rusticity of local breeds are also involved in the project. Moreover, it is a crucial need to elaborate good programs for sustainable breeding strategies which must contain aspects of both preserving the genetic diversity within the breeds for the future generations and at the same time recommendations for the actual utilization of special products. The project aims to establish cooperation between the breeders of the Podolian cattle group. To give a personal importance and atmosphere to effective work four meetings were planned to be organized for changing the experiences. The results of two years work will be summarized in a book.

The first meeting (in connection with the ANABIC organized congress in Matera, Italy) was a great opportunity to start the project and to collect new ideas and

possible solutions for the best elaboration of the project. Participants of this meeting elaborated a questionnaire aimed to collect all the already available and most important data on the Podolic cattle breeds.

The second workshop was held in Backa-Topola, Serbia, at the farm of Szabolcs Truzsinszki. As the topic of this meeting was the introduction of local products of Podolian cattle breeds, there was opportunity to hear some great lectures on the experiences, difficulties and opportunities of making, marketing and selling these products.

The third workshop of this project was organized by the Neusiedlersee National Park in Illmitz, Austria. Aim of this meeting was to discuss the genetic diversity of Podolian cattle breeds. Moreover, topic was expended with threats and subsidies for these breeds in the different countries.

The final workshop will be held in Hungary. The task of the final meeting will be to accept the final report .e. a book ready for printing. Moreover, a decision will be made on the methods of disseminating the results among



European  
Regional Focal  
Point for  
Animal Genetic  
Resources



anabic



Nationalpark  
Neusiedler See • Seewinkel



Szabolcs  
Truzsinszki  
Farmer, Serbia



Association of  
Hungarian  
Grey Cattle  
Breeders



Association of  
Hungarian  
Grey Cattle  
Breeders

## ERFP project (continued)

Podolian cattle breeding countries.

As a result of the project, we expect to have a great collection and summary on the available genetic diversity of the Podolian cattle group. This summary will reveal the genetic and phenotypic relationships among Podolian cattle breeds and will serve as a basis for making recommendations on the maintenance of genetic diversity within the breed group. By achieving this goal, we can preserve something very valuable for the future generations. Moreover, by analyzing the opportunities of possible utilizations and looking for niche markets for the products of these breeds, we can help Podolian cattle breeders to perform a more successful breeding work and more and more people can consume healthy and especially tasty beef or milk products.

### Béla Béri

Project Leader

Associate Professor

University of Debrecen, Hungary

## 1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition of Greek autochthonous farm animal breeds 5th February 2011, Thessaloniki



During the 7<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition for Livestock - Zootechnia 2011, the **Greek Focal Point** (consisted by Andreas Georgoudis, Christina Ligda and Evi Danou) initiated the 1<sup>st</sup> show of the farm animal breeds supported by the Hellenic Milk and Meat Organization. The show was a joint project of the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food, the National Agricultural Research Foundation, the Hellenic Organisation for Milk and Meat and the Federation of Livestock Farmers, with the participation of the relevant Breeders organizations.

The breeds that participated in the show were transported from regions from all over the country, with the active participation of the farmers and their organisations.

It is the first time that an exhibition of the all autochthonous farm animal breeds is organised in Greece. The main objective was to show to the public the diversity of livestock breeds of the

country and demonstrate their importance for the rural development. Furthermore, the organisers focussed to the role of the farmers and their organisations, as these breeds are used for production and their conservation and development is closely connected with the future of the farmers that continue to raise these breeds, sometimes under difficult conditions.

With the opportunity of this event



a booklet on the autochthonous farm animal breeds of Greece has been published, with information on the status of the breeds, their description and the on going activities. The English edition of the booklet can be downloaded from the ERFP website:

<http://www.rfp-europe.org/index.php?id=445>

**Christina Ligda, Greece**

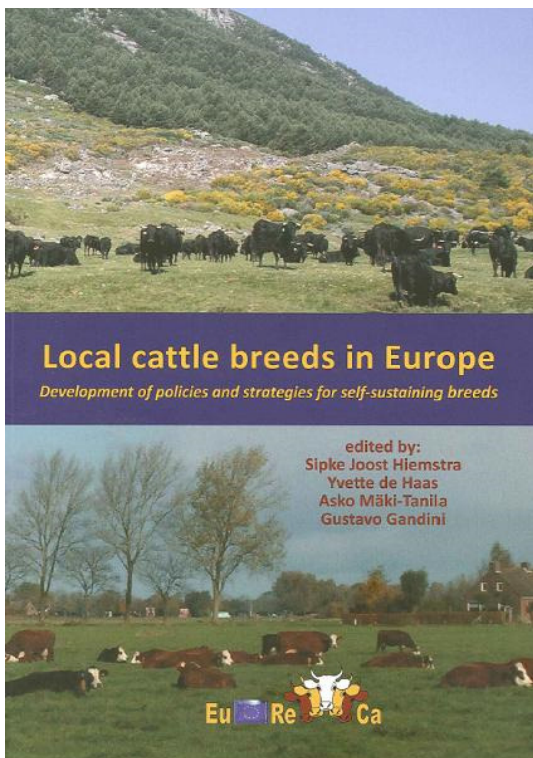
## EuReCa-Project: Towards self-sustainable European, Regional Cattle breeds



The EU co-financed project coordinated by the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands ran from 2007—2010.

The aim of EuReCa was to better understand the state of the local cattle breeds in Europe, to identify factors that contribute to their success or failure, and to recommend decision-making tools for development of ambitious and sound strategies and policies. The most secure conservation strategy for those breeds is to promote measures which contribute to self-sustainability of the breed.

The publication "Local cattle breeds in Europe: Development of policies and strategies for self-sustaining breeds" explains the approach how the question of "Which policies and strategies are required to successfully maintain our European Farm Animal Genetic Resources?" was answered. For more information on the project and comprehensive overview on the local cattle breeds in Europe. <http://www.regionalcattlebreeds.eu/>



## Constitution of ERFP Working Groups and Task Forces completed

Following the new Terms of Reference, the ERFP Secretariat invited the National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources of Europe in December 2010 to nominate experts to work in the ERFP Working Groups on Ex situ Conservation and on Documentation & Information as well as the three Task Forces on Access and Benefit Sharing, Risk Status & Indicators and on Agri-environmental measures. There have been 14 nominations for each Working Group all of which were accepted. The ERFP Working Group on Documentation and Information will be completed with representatives from EAAP and FAO *ex officio* to ensure first-hand communication regarding EFABIS and DAD-IS.

The Task Forces on Access and Benefit Sharing consists of 7 experts and the other two Task Forces of 8. Though there have been more nominations for the last two the countries concerned withdrew their nominations after consultation with the ERFP Steering Committee.

### ERFP Working Groups

The Working Groups are established by the Assembly on a permanent basis to work on long-term tasks. Each Group will be coordinated by a leader who shall be elected by the members of the Working Group. The Working Groups are meant to provide guidance on issues of a technical and advisory nature and should publish technical and advisory information for the benefit of all NC's.

All members of both ERFP Working Groups (Documentation and Information / Ex-situ Conservation) are invited to a **kick-off meeting** which will be held on 14th / 15th April 2011 in Bonn, Germany. The members already received the 1st announcement. The up-dated agenda and further information will follow.

### Working Group Ex situ conservation (Cryo-conservation)

*Head of Working Group:*  
not appointed yet

*Members:*

Croatia:	Jelena Ramljak
Finland:	Terhi Nikkonen
France:	Coralie Danchin-Burge
Germany:	Martina Henning
Hungary:	István Péntek
Italy	Gustavo Gandini
Montenegro:	Dusica Rdonjic
Netherlands:	Sipke Joost Hiemstra
Norway:	Nina Sæther
Slovakia:	Elena Kubovicova
Slovenia:	Drago Kompan
Switzerland:	Fritz Schmitz-Hsu
Turkey:	Umut Tasdemir
Ukraine	Svetlana I. Kovtun

### Working Group on Documentation and Information

*Head of Working Group:*  
not appointed yet

*Members:*

Croatia:	Davorin Pranić
France:	Eléonore Charvolin
Germany:	Joerg Bremond
Greece:	Christina Ligda
Ireland	Mark Maguire
Italy	Enrico Sturaro
Montenegro:	Bozidarka Markovic
Netherlands:	Rita Hoving
Norway:	Anna Rehnberg
Serbia:	Srdjan Stojanovic
Slovakia:	Marta Oravcova
Slovenia:	Angela Cividini
Turkey:	Nermin Aksumer
Ukraine:	Leonid V. Vishnevsky

*ex officio* EAAP, FAO

### ERFP Task Forces

The ERFP Task Forces are established on a temporary basis to solve specific tasks and consist of 3—8 experts each. The outcomes of their work will be presented to the Assembly.

#### Task Force on Access and Benefit Sharing

*Head of Task Force:*

Poland: Elsbieta Martinyuk

*Members:*

Germany:	Bianca Lind
Montenegro:	Milan Markovic
Netherlands:	Sipke-Joost Hiemstra
Norway:	Nina Sæther
Slovenia:	Metka Žan-Lotric
Switzerland	François Pythoud

#### Task Force on Risk Status and Indicators

*Head of Task Force:*

France Eléonore Charvolin

*Members:*

Albania:	Lumturi Papa
Croatia:	Ante Ivanković
Greece:	Christina Ligda
Ireland:	Lawrence Alderson
Netherlands:	Jack Windig
Turkey:	Inci Togan
Ukraine:	Oleg A. Katerinich

#### Task Force on Agri-environmental Measures

*Head of Task Force:*

Spain Isabel García Sanz

*Members:*

Finland:	Asko Mäki-Tanila
France:	Lucie Markey
Germany:	Hermann Schulte-Coerne
Montenegro:	Milan Markovic
Serbia:	Suzana-Djordjevic Milosevic
Slovenia:	Marija Klopčič
Turkey:	Yasemin Oner

Further Information on up-coming meetings and relevant documents on the subjects can be found on the ERFP website. Working papers as well as contact details for the members of the ERFP Working Groups and ERFP Task Forces are uploaded to the intranet.

## ERFP Steering Committee

### Chair:

Asko Mäki-Tanila, **Finland**

### Members:

Didier Bouchel, **France**

Tamás Szobolevszki, **Hungary**

Mark Maguire, **Ireland**

Oya Akin, **Turkey**

Frank Begemann, **ERFP Secretariat**

## New ERFP website online



home

- Terms of Reference
- Programme (MYPOW)
- Organisational Structure
- Meetings
- Publications
- Intranet
- Imprint

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP)

The European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) is the regional platform to support the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources and to facilitate the implementation of FAO's Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources in Europe.

**Contact**

- Frank Begemann
- Jörg Bremond
- Babette Balzer

**Links**

- EFABIS
- DAD-IS

The new ERFP website is available at <http://www.rfp-europe.org/>.

Content and structure are aimed to be transparent and self-explanatory so that all information can easily be traced and found. The new ERFP Terms of Reference and Work Programme are included as are contact details and country information.

The Intranet provides documents

for internal use such as the addresses of all National Coordinators which will be updated regularly (login for NCs only).

And last but not least: news on activities regarding Animal Genetic Resources in Europe are welcome! If you wish to place news at the website, please send an e-mail to:

**[babette.balzer@ble.de](mailto:babette.balzer@ble.de)**

## Team of the new ERFP Secretariat

The ERFP Secretariat Team consists of the following three people:

### Frank Begemann



is also Head of IBV and has long-standing experience in international plant genetic resources

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### Jörg Bremond



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



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