



**ERFP Secretariat**



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

The newly established ERFP Working Groups picked up their work during a kick-off meeting which was held in Bonn in April. During the 2-day meeting the experts from all over Europe got to know each other and exchanged national experience in the respective field. A short summary of the meeting can be found in this newsletter.

While the rapporteurs finished writing their reports the next ERFP event is being prepared: the European National Coordina-

tors for Animal Genetic Resources will have their annual Assembly Meeting in Stavanger, Norway on 27th and 28th August. The invitations are out, the organisational framework is outlined in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Norway!

**Frank Begemann**  
ERFP Secretariat, Germany

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**Launch of call for proposals under the Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources**

Germany, Switzerland and Norway announced on 21st July during the 13th session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the FAO (CGRFA) in Rome, that they will support the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the conservation of endangered livestock breeds with USD 1,000,000.



FAO will publish the first call on its website after the summer break and make another announcement once the call is published.

The CGRFA has set a limit of one project proposal per country.

Concept notes for projects have to be submitted by Commission Members, through National Focal Points. Concept notes for projects should fall into the priority areas identified by the CGRFA, such as:

- information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building (reflecting the Global Plan of Action's strategic priorities 12, 13 and 14);
- The sustainable use of animal genetic resources (reflecting the Global Plan of Action's strategic priorities 4, 5 and 6); and
- Managing animal genetic resources (reflecting the Global Plan of Action's strategic priorities 1, 8 and 9).

The CGRFA agreed to limit the initial maximum allocation per project to USD 50,000 for single-country projects and USD 100,000 for bilateral, regional or multilateral projects and the project length to not more than two years.

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

The 17th ERFP Assembly will be held in connection to the annual meeting of the European Federation for Animal Science (EAAP) in Stavanger, Norway on 27th and 28th August 2011 at the Clarion Hotel.

The invitations went out in May to National Coordinators, ERFP Project Coordinators and observers - organisations which have in the past worked closely together with ERFP.

Participants are requested to send the registration form to the ERFP Secretariat by **27th July 2011**.

Only **one** representative per country may participate at the Assembly Meeting this year. If necessary the representative may be accompanied by one technical advisor (or else) to participate at the meeting. With respect to limited funds available for the Assembly Meeting participation of persons other than those invited (National Coordinators, Project Coordinators, ERFP WG / TF leaders and observers) may not be possible. This item shall be discussed during Assembly for future proceedings.

ERFP cannot offer any financial support for the participation of National Coordinators (i.e. travel, accommodation). This item shall be discussed during Assembly for future proceedings as well.

As in the last years the National Coordinators are also requested to prepare a country report. The ERFP Secretariat will give a synopsis on the status and/or progress of work on Animal Genetic Resources in Europe during the Assembly Meeting.

Following the ERFP Terms of Reference there will be elections to the ERFP Steering Committee

since Mark Maguire's (Ireland) term of office ends in 2011. As laid down in the ERFP Terms of Reference the ERFP Steering Committee should consist of five members of the Assembly plus one 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 is chaired by Asko Mäki-Tanila from Finland and consists of the following National Coordinators:

- Didier Bouchel, National Coordinator of **France**
- Tamás Szobolevszki, National Coordinator of **Hungary**
- Oya Akin, National Coordinator of **Turkey**.

The National Coordinators are therefore requested to submit two nominations to the ERFP Steering Committee.

For further information and up-dated documents related to the ERFP Assembly please refer to the ERFP website.

In preparation for the Assembly the ERFP Steering Committee will meet one day earlier on 26th August 2011.

### Agenda for the 17th ERFP Assembly

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and opening by the host government	N. Saether, Norway
	Chair: A. Maki-Tanila, Chair of ERFP Steering Committee	
09:15 – 09:45	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· election of rapporteur</li> <li>· election of ERFP Steering Committee Member for East and North regions</li> </ul>	A. Maki-Tanila, Chair ERFP Steering Committee

□ **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2011** □

09:45 – 10:30	Report from the ERFP Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· ERFP annual progress report</li> <li>· ERFP plan for 2012</li> <li>· ERFP Assembly 2012: participation and location</li> </ul>	F. Begemann, ERFP Secretariat
10:30 – 11:00	<i>coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 11:45	Report from the ERFP Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· ERFP budget and approval</li> <li>· ERFP Rules for Reimbursement</li> <li>· Financial support for participation of National Coordinators to ERFP Assembly</li> </ul>	F. Begemann, ERFP Secretariat
11:45 – 12:15	Reports from the Working Groups ( <i>max. 15 minutes each</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Documentation and information</li> <li>· Ex situ conservation</li> </ul>	C. Ligda, Greece S.J. Hiemstra, Netherlands
12:15 – 13:15	<i>lunch break</i>	
13:15 – 13:45	Reports from the Task Forces ( <i>max. 15 minutes each</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Access and benefit sharing</li> <li>· Agri-environmental measures</li> <li>· Risk status and indicators</li> </ul>	E. Martyniuk, Poland I. García Sanz, Spain E. Charvolin-Lemaire, France
13:45 – 16:00	Reports from <i>ad hoc</i> actions ( <i>max. 10 minutes each</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· ERFP-Project Indicators for the management of Animal Genetic Resources</li> <li>· Workshop for European NCs on strategies, relevant for the genetic management and sustainable use/breeding of AnGR</li> <li>· Seminar on “Conservation and use of farm animal genetic resources: challenges in practice”</li> </ul>	E. Charvolin-Lemaire, France S.J. Hiemstra, Netherlands K. Oldenbroek, Netherlands
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Various aspects and possible evolution of in situ conservation in Europe</li> <li>· Study of origin and conservation strategy of the Pramenka sheep breeds as regional transboundary breeds</li> <li>· Development of a regional network in function of sustainable breeding programs for transboundary breeds</li> <li>· Proper way of supports for endangered livestock breeds – SUBSIBREED</li> <li>· Characterization of the indigenous and improved Podolic cattle breeds and identification of threats for extinction in global challenges</li> <li>· Evaluation of Current Status of Busha Cattle and development of a regional breeding programme for their conservation and sustainable economic use</li> <li>· Development of models assessing the breeds risk status by utilization of population and relevant georeferenced data</li> </ul>	A. Ivancovic, Croatia  D. Kompan, Slovenia  T. Szobolevszki, Hungary  K. Kume, Albania  A. Georgoudis, Greece
16:00 – 23:00	<i>social side event incl. dinner</i> <i>Ceremony for Andreas Georgoudis</i>	

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

	Chair: A. Maki-Tanila, Chair of ERFP Steering Committee	
09:00 – 09:30	Synthesis of country reports	B. Balzer, ERFP Secretariat
09:30 – 10:00	Safeguarding rare or endangered breeds in Switzerland	C. Marguerat, Switzerland
10:00 – 10:30	progress report by FAO	FAO
10:30 – 11:00	<i>coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 11:15	progress report by EAAP WG-AnGR	EAAP
11:15 – 11:45	report by EU COM	NN
11:45 – 13:00	general discussion	
	closing remarks	A. Maki-Tanila / N. Saether
13:00 – 22:00	<i>technical visit incl. lunch break and dinner</i>	

### Kick-off meeting of ERFP Working Groups in Bonn

The newly established ERFP Working Groups on Documentation and Information / In Situ Conservation met in April in Bonn. The kick-off meeting aimed at laying the foundation for draft annual work plans for the Working Groups to be presented to the Assembly of National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources in Europe in Stavanger in August 2011. The work plans will be presented by the Heads of the respective Working Group.

The ERFP Working Groups have been established in order to provide guidance for the Assembly for the benefit of all European National Coordinators on Animal Genetic Resources and to further support and coordinate the work on Documentation and Information respectively on In Situ Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources throughout

#### ERFP Working Group on Documentation and Information

Europe.

The Meeting was chaired by Mark Maguire, Ireland. With regard to the ERFP Multi-Year Programme of Work the following points were taken into consideration during discussion:

- draft concept for the future of EFABIS: transfer of regional database and the supporting national inventories into a permanent information infra-

structure for AnGR in Europe.

- implementation of the Global Plan of Action with respect to Documentation and Inventories
- facilitating collaboration and networking of relevant stakeholders in the European region.

All participants described their experience with EFABIS or other national inventories in a short presentation to the Working Group.

The detailed report, the list of participants and presentations held during the meeting can be found on the [ERFP website](#) ("meetings").

Christina Ligda, Greece was elected Head of the Working Group.



## ERFP Working Group on Ex Situ Conservation

The meeting was chaired by the elected Head of the Working Group, Sipke-Joost Hiemstra. The following items were up for discussion:

- how are cryo-conservation schemes organised and how are breeding associations and AI centres involved in different countries
- what are European and national (sanitary) legislation governing the collection and cryo-conservation of genetic material

- review of available technology and urgent needs of legislation

- establishment of a European Cryobank.

Participants were asked to describe their experiences, obstacles, problems and possible solutions in establishing a national cryobank.

The detailed report, the list of participants and presentations held during the meeting can be found on the [ERFP website](#) ("meetings").

## News from the ERFP Task Force on ABS

An ad hoc session of the ERFP Task Force on ABS was held as "satellite meeting" to the 4-day workshop "In vivo conservation of farm animal genetic resources" in Wageningen from 14th to 18th June 2011.

For further information there is an informal report of the First Meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ICNP-1) which was held from 5th to 10th June 2011 in Montréal, Canada, the [decisions](#) taken there and the [IISD summary report](#). The information note from the EU Presidency and

the Commission prepared for the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 21st June 2011 can be found in the [ERFP Intranet](#).

An EU statement on ABS was coordinated on 8th July 2011 at the meeting of the WP FAO coordination.

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture also discussed ABS issues under [agenda item 2.3](#) at its 13th session from 18th to 22nd July 2011. An Ad hoc Technical Working Group on ABS for CGRFA was established. Members from the European Region are the Netherlands, Norway, UK, Switzerland and Spain. All other ER countries may participate as observers.



## Report of Regional Workshop on "In vivo" conservation of European livestock: "Challenges of applying guidelines into practice"

From 14th to 17th June 2011 a European workshop was held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, which was hosted by the Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands (CGN) of Wageningen University and Research Centre. The workshop brought together National Coordinators, scientists and other experts, from both Eastern and Western Europe and was attended by 48 persons from 26 countries. Objectives of the workshop were:

- to evaluate the draft [FAO guidelines](#) for In Vivo Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources and
- to exchange practical experiences and challenges for in vivo conservation in practice.

The workshop was sponsored through a collaborative effort by the [Animal Genetic Resources Branch](#) and the [Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe of FAO](#), ERFP and the [Dutch Ministry for Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation](#).

During the workshop each chapter of the draft guidelines was evaluated. The workshop also included presentations of national programs and experiences by participants, and a field trip to see in vivo conservation activities in operation on several local farms.

More information is available at the [CGN website](#), including copies of all presentations.

## 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**



### Website

Pictures from ERFP Meetings are now available via the [ERFP Intranet](#). Please let the ERFP Secretariat know in case you wish your photo removed.

## AnGR Publications

- **Czech Republic:**  
Czech translation of "[Global Plan of Action and Interlaken Declaration](#)"
- **Serbia:**  
"[Serbian Biodiversity Strategy and Animal Genetic Resources](#)"

## Upcoming events

- [ERFP Projects Meeting](#) "Transboundary Breeds" / "Busha Cattle" Kolašin, Montenegro - 29th June to 2nd July 2011
- [13th Regular Session](#) of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) - Rome, Italy - 18th to 22nd July 2011
- [EAAP Session](#) "Environmental Value of Animal Genetic Resources" Stavanger, Norway - 29th August 2011
- [Nordgen-Workshop](#) "Socio-economic and Cultural Values of Farm Animal Breeds" Reykjavik, Iceland - 7th to 8th September 2011
- [Technical Conference](#) of the ERFP Task Force on Agri-Environmental Measures Madrid, Spain - 19th to 20th September 2011
- [Annual Meeting](#) of SAVE Foundation and SAVE Network Dimitrovgrad, Serbia - 22nd to 25th September 2011
- [RBI 8th Global Conference](#) "Sustainable Conservation of Livestock Breeds Diversity for the Future: Impact of Globalisation of Animal Breeding and the Loss of Farm Animal Genetic Diversity - a Conflict?" Tekirdag, Turkey - 4th to 8th October 2011

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 99 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)

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COORDINATION CENTRE

