**Report of the ERFP WG In situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR 2018**

1. **Objectives of the group (Summary)**

The overall goal of this WG is the improvement of the *in situ* conservation (on-farm conservation) and valorisation of AnGR to provide a base for their sustainable use. Experiences on different initiatives with sharing of information among countries about implemented and planned activities related to on-farm conservation, success stories and projects need to be exchanged. The group will review legal conditions and financial support measures in order to optimize their implementation in on-farm conservation strategies. The WG will also support the on-farm conservation efforts for transboundary breeds as well as the promotion of the utilization of rare breeds and respective R&D activities to relevant stakeholders, for value chains and landscape management, the identification of “added value”-arguments (*e. g.* cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, ecosystem services, local marketing, organic agriculture). Approaches for a better integration of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation activities in Europe need to be elaborated and promoted together with the WG “Ex situ conservation”.

1. **Members of the group**

**Country Member**

Albania Kristaq Kume

Austria Beate Berger

Croatia Ante Ivankovic

Finland Mervi Honkatukia

France Coralie Danchin-Burge

Germany Sebastian Winkel (Chair)

Greece Dimitrios Tsiokos

Iceland Birna K. Baldursdottir

Latvia Ligija Ozolina

Lithuania Ruta Sveistiene

Montenegro Milan Markovic

The Netherlands Jack Windig

Norway Peer Berg

Poland Agnieszka Chelminska

Portugal Filomena Afonso

Serbia Srdjan Stojanovic

Slovenia Danijela Bojkovski

Spain Jesus Fernandez Martin

Sweden Per Thunman

Switzerland Philippe Ammann

United Kingdom Marcus Bates

1. **Activities in the past year and output/results**

The WG was constituted in its first meeting on 7th/8th May 2018 in Bonn (Germany). There, the WG elaborated its working programme for the next MYPOW of ERFP (see chapter 4).

One identified task is the drafting of an ERFP position paper regarding the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) of the EU. The negotiations for the new CAP have already started. From the point of view of the WG, it is important, that the *in situ* conservation of AnGR is properly addressed in the new CAP. Therefore, the WG drafted a position paper and sent it to the ERFP TF EU matters for further consultation. The CAP reform and the position paper will be discussed during the ERFP Assembly Meeting 2018.

Experiences for in situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR from Finnland, France, Lithuania, Poland and Spain were presented during the WG meeting in Bonn.

1. **Plans and priorities for the next year (to be formally approved by Assembly)**

***Task 1: Best practices for in situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR***

Task leader: Coralie Danchin-Burge, France, coralie.danchin@idele.fr

Background:

The best way to achieve a sustainable future for rare breeds is to find them an economical value. Our collective experience, as European experts of *in situ* conservation programs, show that there are many ways to address this issue and the good way to help breeds’ managers to find the best path to achieve a sustainable value to their breeds is to provide them examples of best practices throughout Europe.

There have been several European projects over the years (such as the EURECA and HERITAGESHEEP European GENRES projects; the on-going Preparatory action – EU plant and animal genetic resources II and the H2020 TREASURE projects; the FAO initiative to integrate success stories in the DAD-IS database) which have been or which are doing such a census, as well as country initiative (such as the French VARAPE project).

Objectives:

The aim of this task is to give a very pragmatic tool for breeders’ organisations by analyzing how each actor in the various examples managed to tackle the various issues they were addressed and what were the key questions they had to overcome to succeed eventually.

Description of work:

Year 1:

* Make a census of the previous and on-going projects with an equivalent goal and promote them through the ERFP website;

Year 2:

* Develop a grid (based on the findings from the VARAPE project) to collect best practices for *in situ* conservation;
* when needed, the previous findings from the European projects will be updated and/or adapted to this grid;

Year 3:

* Finding new examples in different European countries in order to have the best representation as possible as far as type of products (dairy, meat, fiber…) and services provided, as well as geographic representations;

Year 4:

* Analyzing all the cases based on the grid (final work) in order to develop a “tool box” to help the valorization of rare breeds.

A lot of the promoters of such initiatives at the local level do not have an adequate level of English and/or time to fulfil such a questionnaire. A close collaboration with the NCs will be needed so that the questionnaires as well as the outcomes from the project are translated in each participating country.

***Task 2: ERFP Guidelines for in situ conservation of transboundary breeds***

Task leader: Jack Windig, Netherlands, jack.windig@wur.nl

Background:

Very good FAO guidelines for *in situ* conservation of AnGR exist. However, cross-border collaboration is not well covered. In Europe, many endangered transboundary breeds exist, and thus additional efforts are needed for improved *in situ* conservation of these breeds.

Objectives:

The aim of this task is to develop ERFP Guidelines for *in situ* conservation of endangered transboundary breeds.

Description of work:

Year 1:

* Inventory of points to be covered in guidelines for *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds:
* Make list of topics. Topics mentioned in WG meeting 2018, to be extended and streamlined:
* How to establish breeding programmes in the various countries? (Some countries do not have defined breeding programmes.)
* When is a population big enough to start a breeding programme?
* How to establish international breeding programmes?
* How to harmonize national breeding programmes for transboundary breeds?
* How to motivate breeding organisations to collaborate?
* How to deal with potential and occurring conflicts between breeders in different countries?
* How to deal with the EU zoo-technical and veterinary legislation?
* How to deal with ABS-measures?
* How can genomic analysis, modern breeding technologies and alternative breeding methods facilitate cross border in situ conservation of AnGR?
* What is the role of Ark Farms and Rescue Centres?
* Scan FAO guidelines for points already covered and points to be added or extended
* In WG meeting 2019 discuss topics and plan to realize guidelines, detail work plan and divide tasks between working group members

Years 2 and 3:

* Work out details where needed, *i.e.* interviews with experts, compute or simulate technical aspects of breeding, draw lessons from best examples etc.
* For three main sections:
* Organisational aspects
* Technical aspects of breeding
* Political and legislative aspects

Year 4:

* Write and publish guidelines

***Task 3: Promote and support rural development measures for AnGR***

Task leader: Srdjan Stojanovic, Serbia, srdjan.stojanovic@minpolj.gov.rs

Background:

Each country has its own action plans for the breeds that are at risk of extinction. Financial support for the conservation of endangered locally adapted breeds in the countries is implemented through action plans, which are part of the Rural Development Program (RDP). A first overview on the payments for endangered breeds in the European countries has been achieved by the ERFP Ad hoc action SUBSIBREED. In addition, the EU project “Preparatory action – EU plant and animal genetic resources” provided valuable results for the implementation of payments for endangered breeds. This task shall continue the respective activities of these projects. Except direct support through the payments for conservation of AnGR, the other agro-environmental measures are being implemented in many countries within the framework of RDPs, which indirectly help conserve of AnGR (*e. g.* payments for the preservation of high-value pastures through grazing, organic production, etc.).

Objectives:

The objective of this task is analyzing and reviewing the support measures of rural development action plans for conservation of farm animal species in the countries of member partners. This includes measures directly for endangered breeds and theirs impact on population trend of the breeds in partner countries and other indirect measures that affect the preservation of locally adapted endangered breeds. Most probably there are different solutions that could be used in the countries. National Coordinators will have an insight into different solutions that they could implement for their locally adapted breeds.

Description of work:

Year 1:

* The main task is to review the support measures for individual breeds. If there are payments, how it is calculated and distributed. This survey would include opinions what would be the right measure to stop the decrease in number of breeds and in the long term to sustain the breeds.
* All these information will be obtained through questionnaires. All WG members will take part in drafting appropriate questionnaires in order to get answers for the above objectives from the European NCs, especially for which endangered breeds and with help of what kind of conservation programs they want to sustain the breeds.

Year 2:

* When we have the answers, we will analyse and categorize them according to the nature of the program into separate groups.
* A methodology will be developed to calculate the necessary and justifiable payments for the breeders. The methodology will focus on economical evaluation of local breeds in comparison to exotic breeds and try to find the method for evaluation of measures, which will reach the breeder of local breeds to better position.
* Additionally it will be analysed which states apply indirect support measures and how they influence the preservation of locally adapted endangered breeds (grazing measures, organic production, etc.).
* Results will be summarized in an on-line brochure (booklet) in order to promote the preservation of AnGR.

***Task 4: Exchange of recommendations of national advisory bodies on AnGR***

Task leader: Sebastian Winkel, Germany, sebastian.winkel@ble.de

Background:

Many European countries have constituted one or more advisory bodies for the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR. These advisory bodies usually publish recommendations, position papers and statements for the *in situ* conservation and valorisation of AnGR on national level in national language. These recommendations could also be interesting and useful in the other European countries.

Objectives:

The objective of this task is to distribute relevant recommendations, position papers and statements of the national advisory bodies. Therefore, the WG will collate the relevant publications, translate them into English and distribute them by the ERFP website.

Description of work:

Year 1:

* Collation of relevant publication within the WG
* Translation of the publications into English by the respective WG member
* Distribution of the translated publications by the ERFP Website

Following years:

* Updating and addition of relevant publications

***Task 5: Support of the project GenRes Bridge***

Background:

ERFP together with ECPGR and EUFORGEN applied successfully for the EU-project GenRes Bridge. The main goals of this project are the development of a European Strategy for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the improvement of the collaboration between the three networks ECPGR (PGR), ERFP (AnGR) and EUFORGEN (FGR) with the European Union. The three networks and their bodies shall be intensively involved in this project.

Objectives:

The objective of the WG is to support “GenRes Bridge” with the expertise of the WG members.

Description of work:

Year 1 to 4:

* Support the work of GenRes Bridge on request of the ERFP Secretariat