



Minutes of the Ex Situ Conservation Working Group.

Madrid, 22 May 2019

Chair : F. Tejerina.

Participants: a total of 23 persons participated to the meeting. See attached list in the annex.

Minutes : J. Ramljak, M. Henning and F. Tejerina.

Welcome-opening

F. Tejerina welcomed the participants and opened the meeting, explained the objectives and outlined the program. The participants agreed to the agenda (in the annex).

Introduction of participants and guests follows. 17 countries are represented either by Working Group members or NCs. There are 3 Spanish observers from Madrid Faculty of Veterinary and Spanish National Gene Bank. Two guests (from Brazil and Italy) are invited speakers to supply more information from IMAGE consortium and also the ERFP Chair attended to the meeting to present the GeneResBridge project and information about IMAGE project.

Jelena Ramljak was elected as rapporteur of the meeting.

The Zagreb 2018 WG meeting minutes and the WG Ex Situ Report were amended due to a mistake in the list of countries enrolled in EUGENA (Serbia had signed the MoU before the meeting and was not in the minutes/report as a country party of EUGENA).

1. GenResBridge: role and expected outputs for Ex situ Conservation WG (S. Hiemstra.)

Sipke Hiemstra introduced the topic and the main objectives of the GenResBridge project. He highlighted the relevance of developing a European integrated conservation strategy for the three domains (plants, animal and forest) because there is a lack of EU framework for Agrobiodiversity conservation and use at the moment. The strategy allows to get a better linkage between the three domains and stakeholders, researchers and governments.

After the presentation the main points of the discussion were:

- The relevance to find common elements for the three domains in the built process of the Strategy.
- A need of define a common terminology and key words which could be used for the three domains.



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- The breeders/user perspective, and their relevance as a common point where the three domains come together.
- EUGENA is a key element for the future Strategy.
- WG can support the GenResBrige project, but a communication and collaboration between the three ERFP Working Groups is necessary.

In the development of the strategy it will be mandatory to incorporate the key messages about the relevance of the ex situ conservation. The chair proposed the creation of a small group of experts (Martina Henning, Nina Sæther, Marcus Bates, Gustavo Gandini, Alessandra Stella and Sipke Hiemstra) to propose the key messages about Ex situ Conservation and Gene Banks.

The WG members will collaborate with Enrico Sturaro (WG Docu and Info) in the collection of case studies of use of genetic resources of the three domains.

Finally, the WG proposed Gustavo Gandini to attend to the Workshops GenResBridge project in Slovenia (June).

2. Transboundary breeds: The new regulation on movements within the Union/imports of germinal products, and their impact in the gene banking. (F. Tejerina).

The chair of the WG presented the main elements of the current veterinary regulation on the movements within the Unión of germinal products, and identified the reasons because this regulation is not suitable for endangered transboundary breeds. The new proposal Commission delegated regulation establish a specific derogation for the movements of germinal products from endangered breeds between genebanks, which is an opportunity to improve the Ex situ conservation. However, the procedure to authorise a movement between genebanks is not well define, the development of elements at national level is required and cooperation and mutual information between member states are needed.

The situation at national level was also analysed, the new veterinary regulation will be not applied for the movements of germinal products in the countries and each member state (MMSS), as nowadays, could establish their own rules.

In relation of the new veterinary regulation, the chair propose that the Ex Situ WG, could:



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1. Design recommendations/guidelines to develop the procedures/regulation to authorised or recognised genebanks for germinal products moved to gene banks in another Member State.
2. Inform to MMSS, if the country have signed the EUGENA MoU, the authorisation/recognition could be use as LoA to enrol the genebanks in EUGENA.
3. Inform MMSS and EU Commission about genebanks in EUGENA could move germinal products to others MMSS gene banks without ulterior authorisation or recognition.
4. Promote the use of EUGENA as the reference data base for the authorities in the MMSS of EU.
5. Design recommendations/guidelines to help MMSS in the procedures for the movement of germinal products between genebanks.
6. Develop recommendations/guidelines for the development of national regulation about animal health requirements for the collection of germinal products whose destination is a gene bank.
7. Develop recommendations/guidelines for the development of Breeding Programmes by Breeders Associations of endangered transboundary breeds (Collaboration with In-situ WG and Docu and Info WG).

3. Outcomes of the Innovative Management of Animal Genetic Resources (IMAGE) project.

This part of the meeting was dedicated to the outcomes of IMAGE project:

- Alessandra Stella presented the tools to upload gene bank data into the IMAGE portal.
- Rafael Silva presented a work on the Optimizing ex-situ genetic resources collections.
- Sipke Hiemstra explained two new activities of the IMAGE project:
 - o A request of DNA samples to develop a multi-species SNP array that can be used for genomic characterization of gene bank collections (the request letter is attached to the report).
 - o A discussion paper on gene banking involving germ cells or gonads.

4. Compare and discuss user policies and access rules of national gene banks.

The next representatives of the countries presented the situation of their national gene banks in relation of acquisition and transfer of the germinal products:



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- Bulgaria: Valentin Gergiev.
- Croatia: Jelena Ramljak.
- The Netherlands: Anouk Schurink
- France: Delphine Duclos.
- Germany: Martina Henning.
- Italy: Gustavo Gandini.
- Norway: Nina Sæther.
- Portugal: Rosa Pereira.
- Spain: Rosa Diez.
- Sweden: Eva-Marie Stallhammar

The main conclusions in relation with the acquisition and transfer of the germinal products, are:

- The acquisition policies of the genebanks are very diverse, and it is developed in function of the objectives and structure of each genebank.
- The transfer policies of the genebanks are also very diverse between the genebanks.
- In some cases, genebanks have not established an acquisition/transfer policy, yet.
- In some cases, genebanks do not regulate the acquisition of the material by a MAA, the storage is made without any legal document.
- In some cases, genebanks do not regulate the transfer of the material by a MTA, the use is developed without any legal document.
- The arrangements between providers /genebanks are very diverse, in function of the different type of providers in each country (individual breeders, breeders association, companies). The ownership rights of the storage material are also very diverse between countries.
- In several countries, the role of the breeder associations is highly relevant, they collaborate in the development of the acquisition/transfer policies and procedures. In that cases is frequent the constitution of a council/committee (breeders associations, genebanks and/or government) to manage the acquisition and use of the material.



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- At national level there are specific regulations which define the general elements of the Agreements for the acquisition and transfer of the material.

5. Analyse of the MTA/MAA proposal, discussion and common position for the joint meeting with ABS task force.

The Chair presented the last proposals of MTA/MAA, the comments received in the consultation period and the main changes, whose aim was making the documents more flexible and open, with the objective of each genebank select the most suitable elements to built their specific MTA/MAA.

The main points of the discussion were:

- The final document should be as flexibles as possible.
- More clarification is needed about some tasks.
- After finishing the guidelines a test period could be recomendad, and in function of the results, later modifications will be implemented in the documents.

Finally, the WG agreed in still working with the current version of documents in the Joint Meeting with the ABS Task Force.

6. Updating of EUGENA state. Proposal of Ad Hoc Action to support the development of EUGENA and improve the information about gene banks in Europe.

The Chair presented the current status of EUGENA: countries members, genebanks members, species, type of material and amount of material.

Members of the WG Ex Situ reported about the status of signing the MoU for EUGENA including further planning of countries, and possible obstacles.

The Chair presented a proposal of Ad Hoc Action to support the development of EUGENA and improve the information about gene banks in Europe. The main objective of the Ad Hoc Action is to increase the number of member countries and gene banks enrolled in EUGENA, due to a better knowledge of EUGENA between the actors of the management of the AnGR (Breeder societies, reproduction centres, competent authorities, researchers) in the European Region.

After the meeting a consultation period will be open to send comments to the proposal, and also for new nominations to collaborate with the Ad Hoc Action.



7. Proposal of Ad Hoc Action for the development of specifications for a modern gene bank documentation software.

The Chair presented the Ad Hoc Action approved by the Steering Committee, by the absence of Zhivko Ducheve (Proponent of the Ad Hoc Action)

The main objective of the Ad Hoc Action is review the current status of documentation of the national gene banks across Europe, will identify the information needs of the various countries in this regard, and will prepare functional specifications for an up-to-date documentation software

8. Workplan for 2018 -2019

The chair presented a proposal of workplan for 2018-2019. After the meeting a consultation period will be open to send comments to the proposal, and also for a prioritization of the tasks (with the exception of EUGENA development, which is the high priority for the WG).



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ANNEX: AGENDA.

Begin	End	
8:30	8:45	Welcome – Opening. Round of introduction. (WG Members). Election of rapporteur. Plans and priorities for 2019. Objectives of the meeting. Fernando Tejerina.
8:45	9:45	GenResBridge: role and expected outputs for Ex Situ conservation WG. Sipke Hiemstra.
9:45	10:30	Transboundary breed: The new regulation on movements within the Union/imports of germinal products, and their impact in the gene banking. Fernando Tejerina.
10:30	11:00	General discussion on the topics of the morning.
11:00	11:30	Coffee Break
11:30	12:30	Outputs of the IMAGE project: Upload gene bank data in the IMAGE portal. Alessandra Stella.
12:30	13:30	Outputs of the IMAGE project: Optimizing ex situ genetic resource collections for European livestock conservation. Rafael Silva.
13:30	13:45	Development of a multi-species SNP array. Request of samples. Sipke Hiemstra.
13:45	16:00	Lunch time.
16:00	17:00	Compare and discuss user policies and access rules of national gene banks. Short country presentations (5 minutes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulgaria: Valentin Gergiev. • Croatia: Jelena Ramljak. • The Netherlands: Anouk Schuring • France: Delphine Duclos. • Germany: Martina Hening.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy: Gustavo Gandini. • Norway: Nina Sæther. • Portugal: Rosa Pereira. • Spain: Rosa Diez. • Sweden: Eva-Marie Stallhammar.
17:00	18:00	Analyse of the MTA/MAA proposal, discussion and common position for the joint meeting with ABS task force. Discussion all participants.
18:00	18:30	Updating of EUGENA state. Proposal of Ad Hoc Action to support the development of EUGENA and improve the information about gene banks in Europe. Fernando Tejerina.
18:30	18:45	Proposal of Ad Hoc Action for the development of specifications for a modern gene bank documentation software. Fernando Tejerina.
18:45	18:55	Workplan for 2019 -2020 (to be approved in Ghent). Fernando Tejerina.
18:55	19:00	AOB






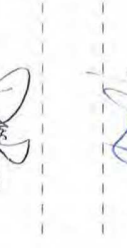
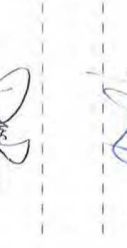








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ATTENDANTS

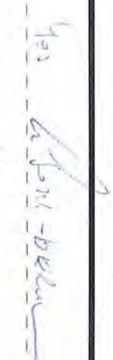

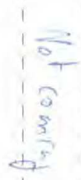





Meeting of the ERFP WG "Ex situ conservation"

Madrid, May 21st - 23rd 2019

Country	Last name	First name	Organization	Email address	Invited?	Signature
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Country	Last name	First name	Organization	Email address	Invited?	Signature
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Chairman in bold