

## **Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting**

March 31<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 - webconference

### **Participants:**

**Chair:** Sipke Joost Hiemstra, The Netherlands

### **National coordinators, members of the SC:**

Christina Ligda, Greece

Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain

Jan Hendrik Schneider, Germany

Srdjan Stojanović, Serbia

Ruta Šveistienė, Lithuania

### **Secretariat:**

Coralie Danchin-Burge and Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire (France)

### **Invited:**

Danijela Bojkovski, leader of the GenResBridge Ad Hoc action.

## **1. Welcome and presentation of the SC – agenda**

Sipke Hiemstra asks the Secretariat to present the agenda. All the documents presented were sent before the meeting so the SC could prepare their questions in advance to facilitate the web meeting. Danijela Bojkovski is participating to the SC meeting for the point 2 of the agenda, as the leader of the GenResBridge Ad Hoc action.

## **2. Follow up of the GenRes Bridge project**

*Cf. slides*

Danijela Bojkovski is leading the session.

For our domains, two relevant documents will be drafted during the GenRes Bridge project: the global integrated strategy, drafted by the University of Birmingham (UoB) on behalf of all the partners, and the domain specific AnGR Strategy, which is the responsibility of ERFP. The final version of the global integrated strategy should be finalized by June 2021; this date seems also reasonable to finalize the AnGR Strategy too.

The first step is to provide relevant information and recommendations to UoB so they can use this material to draft the global strategy. For ERFP, it was decided that the information needed would be drafted by volunteers; each item needs to be half a page long. Some of the

chapters have already contributors (for instance the WG chairmen) and during the SC more volunteers are added for each chapter.

Based on the information from the different networks, UoB will circulate a first draft of the European GenRes Strategy to the networks and the GenResBridge project partners by the 11th of May.

Meanwhile, based on a template provided by Sebastian Winkel, a first draft of the AnGR Strategy could be drafted before our General Assembly.

- ⇒ The Secretariat is responsible to communicate about the process and calendar to all NCs.

### **3. Follow-up of routine tasks by secretariat:**

#### **a. - Financial situations: budget; country contributions.**

Some additional invoices are expected related to the Cryoweb Ad Hoc action. Since the physical meeting was canceled at the last minute, several trips could not be refunded and therefore some participants are requesting reimbursement. An estimation of the invoices is provided to the SC which shows that the 2019 budget will end with a negative value, close to what was expected.

- ⇒ The SC agrees to close the 2019 budget.

The 2020 budget is expected to be strongly impacted by the Coronavirus situation. The budget provided for the joint meetings is expected to be used only partly.

On the other hand, it can be expected that some countries decide not to contribute this year. The contribution rate was good so far with 12 countries that already wired their contribution (final number was 27 in 2019), however Sipke Hiemstra would like the Secretariat to monitor as closely as possible the situation to present a revised budget as soon as possible. Despite the situation, a reminder should be sent to countries before the summer.

Coralie Danchin is asking if she or IDELE could subscribe a yearly Zoom license on behalf of ERFP. The SC agrees to give the mandate to Coralie to arrange the Zoom licence for ERFP.

- ⇒ The SC gives Coralie Danchin the permission to subscribe to Zoom on behalf of ERFP and to ask for a reimbursement of the costs of the license.

*[Addendum: since the decision was taken, concerns were triggered by the press about the security level of Zoom conferences. Since Enrico Sturaro has a Zoom subscription himself to hold the Doc and Info WG, the situation needs to be reevaluated in a next SC]*

b. - Communication - status and how to proceed + Z. Duchev agreement and status

The contract with Alcandora was set for a year so we need to decide if we want to renew it. The slides are presenting the number of followers in our network. It can be improved but we definitely need more input from the NCs to do so. Montserrat Castellanos managed to improve tremendously the audience on Facebook thanks to a dedicated link sent to all the contacts she has with the breeding organizations. The Secretariat used this mail to create a template that was provided to all NCs for local use.

Montserrat Castellanos suggests that each WG nominates a person responsible for channeling and facilitating posts and news to the secretariat. The proposal will be sent by the Secretariat to the WG chairmen. She will also send a news item about ERFP to EAAP as an item for their newsletter. The SC thanks her greatly for all her involvement.

c. - On going expert list

The updated list is provided to the SC.

#### 4. New actions

a. EAAP request to contribute to funding of invited speaker

Jesus Fernandez asked if there was a possibility for ERFP to fund the fee for two invited speakers in the joint session of the EAAP organised by the WG AnGR (Governance of AnGR).

Currently there are four potential speakers:

- Elżbieta Martyniuk, on international governance of animal genetic resources who should get support directly from EAAP;
- Henner Simianer, on governance units and decision making;
- Lidia Chavinskaia on appropriation of breeding technologies;
- Jose Pais, who is the Technical Executive Secretary of the Mertolenga cattle breed.

The challenge session is defined in the following abstract:

*Governance can be defined as the way stakeholders organize themselves to make decisions and to ensure that those decisions are enacted in a fair manner. It involves issues either related to power balance, representativeness of actors, information sharing, responsibilities and accountabilities on activities, or rights and benefits.*

*Adequate governance for the sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources involves multiple challenges. In this session, we propose to illustrate those challenges*

*regarding a diversity of scales and topics, and discuss how future socio-economic, technological, legal and environmental changes may affect the governance of animal genetic resources in the future.*

*The session will be organized around a small number of interventions by a few selected speakers followed by a round table.*

The SC regrets that EAAP is not able to fund the fee of invited speakers in the challenge session. The opinion of the SC is that ERFP is willing to fund the fee for one invited speaker, provided that FAO or EAAP will be able to fund the second one.

#### **b. Invitation to partnership in an European project**

The Secretariat was asked to participate in a project for a coming call. It causes issues since:

- ERFP is not a legal body, therefore it means that IDELE will have to be involved on behalf of ERFP;
- ERFP can be asked to participate in different projects that are competitors. Since the Secretariat is representing the whole network, it would not be fair to choose one project and to discriminate another similar project.
- The secretariat mandate is only 4 years long and the project commitment can last after the end of the mandate (case of the GenResBridge project).

For now the SC agrees that ERFP could be involved in a project as a member of an advisory board or a stakeholder, represented by the Secretariat, when the project is in line with the objectives of ERFP. But further guidelines should be elaborated in the case stronger involvement (in a communication task for instance) is offered, which could end with the hiring of someone by IDELE, on behalf of ERFP, for a short term contract for instance.

⇒ The Secretariat will write a proposal for specific guidelines to be amended by the SC

#### **c. IMAGE follow up issues**

The Secretariat is responsible for publishing all the relevant data on the ERFP website. The follow-up work can also be taken over by the Ex Situ WG and the WG Documentation and Information. As for the IMAGE portal, its follow up discussions should be included in the Cryoweb Ad Hoc action, in the context of EUGENA, and in relation to EFABIS and linkages between databases.

## **5. Organization of the General Assembly in Porto**

Eleonore Charvolin contacted the Portuguese National Coordinator (Nuno Carolino) and Ana Sofia Gonçalves Santos to start organizing the logistic of the GA. However we have to wait to know if the EAAP meeting will be held physically before going further. Due to the situation, it is decided to hold another SC in June to decide if, how and when we can hold our General Assembly. There is still a possibility to hold it in Padova in November, if the sanitary situation makes it possible.

The Secretariat is asked to inform all the NCs to wait before making any travel arrangement to Portugal.

Eleonore Charvolin informs the SC of on-going discussions between the local organizers, Jesus Fernandez and herself about the possibility of a reduced fee for ERFP NCs provided they attend only one day of congress (Monday, for the joint ERFP-EAAP-FAO session). The local organizers might agree for a reduced fee since some of the costs (such as meals and coffee break) cannot be offered.

***[Addendum: the decision was made April 28<sup>th</sup> to cancel the physical venue of EAAP].***

## **6. Planning of the further ERFP activities in 2020**

### **a. Joint meeting of the WG**

The joint meeting was cancelled due to the sanitary situation; each WG are scheduling actions in order to keep the networks alive. The Working Groups (cf. slides) are planning a web meeting.

### **b. Ad hoc actions incl. ITWG Joint working groups 2020**

The transboundary Ad Hoc action will start with the first meeting of the Doc & Info WG. All WG are involved in it. The idea is to draft guidelines to be presented during the 2021 GA. The work might interest the other networks and the main conclusions should be included in the AnGR domain strategy.

⇒ The SC validates the Ad Hoc Action.

Merino Ad Hoc action: the Italian NC endorsed the action and more details (including the list of partners and potential stakeholders) was added to the action. However there are still issues; NCs should endorse who are the partners for their country and more specifically the data used and the outcome of the project should be shared to all the potential Merino stakeholders. Montserrat Castellanos and Christina Ligda will write a mail to the Ad Hoc action coordinator to clarify the situation.

The FAO ITWG for AnGR is postponed to the end of the year; the Padova meeting could be a good opportunity to plan a venue of the dedicated Ad Hoc action, the Secretariat will suggest the idea to Nina Saether.

## **7. Date for the next SC**

**The next meeting of the SC will be held by webconference June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020**

**The meeting closed at 15:00.**