

Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee (SC) meeting

3rd of June 2020

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)

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

2. Organization of the General Assembly: place, date and draft agenda

The EAAP conference will be held virtually, therefore there is no need to link our General Assembly (GA) to this event in 2020. It was suggested in a previous Steering Committee to host our Assembly during the meeting organized by the H2020 GenRes Bridge project, to be held in Padova in November. However there are no certainty that this event will be held physically [Addendum: the meeting will be 100% online]. Another issue is that the GenResBridge integrated and domain strategies need to be presented to the NCs before the Padova event, since this meeting will be a last step before a final version. The NCs need to have the possibility to amend significantly the strategies (if needed) before November.

⇒ The SC decides to host a virtual General Assembly before the Padova meeting.

The agenda is debated by the SC. Virtual meetings are mentally demanding and need to be short to keep the attention of the audience.

⇒ The SC decides to hold a GA divided in two half days, one devoted to “business as usual” topics (budget, WG and AHA reporting etc.), the other to the GenResBridge strategies.

⇒ The Secretariat will send an email asap so the participants hold the dates for the General Assembly (September 3rd and 4th) and the GenResBridge meeting in Padova.

3. GenResBridge: follow up of the AnGR strategy and integrated strategy; common answers to EC consultations

The process is moving forward but the drafts cannot be circulated to a wider audience yet; however the NCs need to be aware of the process so they can react adequately when they receive the proposals.

The secretariat will inform the NCs that two important processes are under way:

- A general strategy for the three domains (Animal, Forest, Plant) that is being currently drafted; inputs from the Animal Domain are gathered through the *Ad Hoc* Action led by Danijela Bojkovski (Slovenia); the Padova meeting will be the final occasion to discuss the draft.
- A specific Animal strategy will also be drafted and finalized by June 2021; the process is coordinated by Sebastian Winkel (BLE, Germany) and Danijela. We are also hoping to be able to present a first version during the General Assembly.

Sipke Hiemstra gives a report of the meeting organized by the GenResBridge coordinator, Michele Bozzano (EUFORGEN) with representatives of the EC. Eleven people from various DGs attended. The first aim of the meeting was to build awareness around the project by a small presentation of its aim and different processes. The interaction was limited but it was expected. It is necessary to interact as often as possible with the various EU administrations, both at EU and national level, to make sure that the strategy will be implemented. A policy brief will be drafted by the person in charge of communication at EUFORGEN (Ewa Hermanowicz) to help. There is also an opportunity with Germany being at the presidency of EU for the next 6 months and which had already decided to include GR in the roadmap of the council groups.

The GenResBridge partners were also told recently that there was several on going public consultations about some major policies to be developed such as “from Farm to Fork”, however the deadline were such that no domain coordination was possible to implement.

4. Update on activities and road maps of various WGs, *Ad Hoc* Actions/Task Forces

One WG (WG Doc & Info) had an on line meeting (the minutes and presentations are available [here](#)), the *ex situ* WG will host a webmeeting at the end of June. Emails were sent by the chair of the *in situ* WG to give update about the progresses made within each task.

Ad Hoc action Transboundary breeds: the AHA was presented to the Doc & Info WG; it was suggested to send examples by email. The working core group is being built and the first webmeeting will be held in June. The idea is to have a core group (6 people maximum) for

physical meetings due to budget limitation, however virtual meetings could be opened to any interested participant for a given country, after the NC approval.

The *Ad Hoc* action about EUGENA communication is working well and a flyer presenting the EUGENA network has been sent to the SC for information [Addendum: the flyer is finalized and available [here](#)].

The *Ad Hoc* action for developing specifications for a gene bank documentation software (Cryoweb2) – a 2019 AHA – started in 2020 and the physical meeting was cancelled at the last moment due to the coronavirus situation; a virtual meeting was hosted instead. Further work was done by Zhivko Ducheve and the co-leaders contacted Harvey Blackburn (USA) to evaluate the possibility of implementing their software solution (ARS GRIN). The pros and cons are to be discussed.

The *Ad Hoc* action about the Merino breeds still need some improvement of the partners list; within a country, all the representatives need to be validated by the NCs.

New *Ad Hoc* actions proposals can be sent by NCs for the General Assembly.

The TF permanent secretariat will meet June 4th.

5. Communication: contract with Alcandora, involvement of the WG

The contract with the communication agency Alcandora ends June 30th. The SC acknowledges that the work done is satisfactory, however some tuning needs to be done on couple issues.

Montserrat Castellanos Moncho offers to discuss the new terms directly with Alcandora based on the following points:

- An assessment of the content and followers of each social media shows that Linked does not seem to fit our purposes today. It will be suggested that Alcandora put more efforts on the three other social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).
- The idea of the newsletter should also be dropped.
- New visual should be developed (such as a banner, posters, flyers); a specific budget might be needed.
- More attention should be put to disseminate content directly linked to AnGR; some information shared (such as [this one](#)) are too far-fetched. An issue is the volume of information provided by the ERFP network is fairly small which leads Alcandora to look for Intel by itself. The ERFP network needs to be proactive in sending relevant information else our communication strategy will fail. A suggestion is to create a group dedicated to gather information to be disseminated; a solution would be to have one person responsible per working Group.

- The SC agrees that IDELE signs a new contract on behalf of ERFP with Alcandora for another year, however it is suggested to proceed to some changes in its terms.

The SC thanks Montserrat Castellanos Moncho for the work done on behalf of ERFP.

A general feeling is that in order to be more effective we need to implement a new *Ad Hoc* Action to follow up our communication strategy.

6. AOB

It is reminded that for the next SC, since it is held before the General Assembly, the WG chairmen and the chairman of the EAAP WG-AnGR are invited to join the second part of the meeting, and the session ends with a bilateral meeting with a FAO representative. Due to the importance of the action, it is suggested to invite Danijela Bojkovski with the WG chairmen, as the leader of the GenResBridge Ad Hoc action.

The next webmeeting of the SC will be held August 26th 2020

The meeting closed at 12:00.