

Minutes of the Ex Situ Conservation Working Group (DRAFT).

1st July 2020

Chair and minutes: F. Tejerina.

Participants: a total of 26 persons attended to the meeting. See attached list in the annex II.

Presentations of the meeting can be download from:

<https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/index.php/event/web-meeting-of-the-ex-situ-working-group-2020/>

Welcome-opening

F. Tejerina welcomed the participants and opened the meeting explained the objectives and outlined the program. The participants agreed to the agenda (Annex I).

Introduction of participants and guests follows. 18 countries are represented either by Working Group members or NCs. There are 4 Spanish observers from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Four guests are invited speakers to supply more information from Ad Hoc Action (AHA) on a modern genebank documentation software, GeneResBridge project, AHA on Transboundary breeds in Europe and the communication strategy of ERFP.

1. Report on the WG activities.

Fernando Tejerina reported the activities of the WG in the last year, the most relevant achievements have been:

- Approvement by the ERFP steering committee and development of the Ad Hoc Actions:
 - for the development of specifications for a modern gene bank documentation software.
 - to support the development of EUGENA, to identify candidate EUGENA gene banks, and improve the information about the gene banks in Europe.
- Ending of the models of MTA/MAA for use of gene bank material in breeding, conservation and research and publication of the models in ERFP Webpage <https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/index.php/news/final-version-of-the-guidelines-of-material-acquisition-agreements-and-material-transfer-agreement-for-genebanks/>.
- Dissemination of IMAGE outputs and collaboration with ERFP Secretariat in the dissemination of information and knowledge in the ERFP Webpage and Social Media.

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- Collaboration with others ERFP WGs In the design of the Ad Hoc Action Transboundary breeds in Europe.
- Development of EUGENA.
 - New gene bank on board: National Bank of Biological Material from Poland.
 - Update of information in the EUGENA webpage.
- Collaboration with GenRes Bridge Project:
 - Development of a proposal of specific strategic recommendations for Ex Situ Conservation of AnGR.
 - Attendance to the Ex-situ conservation workshop.

Finally, the WG Chair inform about the recently publication of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/686 Supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of germinal product establishments and the traceability and animal health requirements for movements within the Union of germinal products of certain kept terrestrial animals. This regulation recognises for first time a specific status for gene banks in the European animal health regulation. Link to the document: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0686&from=ES>

2. Results of the Ad Hoc Action: Development of specifications for a modern gene bank documentation software (CryoWEB 2.0) and further steps.

Zhivko Duchevev report on the activities and results of the AHA. In relation with activities, a survey was designed by the members of the AHA, the aims of this survey were:

- Review current status of documentation of farm animal gene banks (ex situ in vitro) across Europe.
- Identify the information needs of the various countries
- Help preparing functional specifications for modern gene bank documentation software

The survey was sent to the all NC, IMAGE project participants and Ex situ WG members, and a total of 25 responses were collected.

The results of the survey were analysed in a webconference meeting of the members of the AHA at 11 of March. Zhivko Duchevev presented the final results of the AHA, in relation of 3 different issues (see presentation for details):

- Setup and documentation in the gene banks.
- Documentation software employed in the gene banks.

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- Requirements for a new documentation software.

After the presentation of the results, a small survey was launched to collect the impressions of the WG members in relation with the development of a new software. The results are allocated in Annex III.

Zhivko Ducheve also introduced the characteristics and organization of the Animal-GRIN, which is the documentation software used by USA, Canada and Brazil (https://agrin.ars.usda.gov/main_webpage_dev/ars?language=EN&record_source=US)

From the analysis of the results of the AHA, and the experiences in other countries (Animal-GRIN) four options to develop a new documentation software for gene banks were proposed:

- No common action
- Common action for groups of similar countries
- Common action for all EUGENA members
- Common action for all ERFP members

After a discussion on the cost, personnel and maintenance needed for each of the alternatives, the WG agree to develop a survey to the NC (with the advisement of the WG members) to identify the most suitable option in the month of July.

3. Update of the EUGENA status.

The Chair presented the current status of EUGENA in relation with:

- Countries members
- Genebanks members
- Species, type of material and amount of material in EUGENA.

The most relevant facts in relation with the development of EUGENA have been the incorporation of a new gene bank (National Bank of Biological Material from Poland, the incorporation of information about 67.292 new samples and 20 new breeds.

Members of the WG Ex Situ from Germany, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Norway and Lithuania reported about the status of signing the MoU for EUGENA including further planning of countries, and possible obstacles.



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4. Update of the Ad Hoc Action to support the development of EUGENA, to identify candidate EUGENA gene banks, and improve the information about the gene banks in Europe.

Fernando Tejerina report about the achievements of the AHA, which main objective is increase the number of member countries and gene banks enrolled in EUGENA, through a better knowledge of EUGENA between the actors involved in the management of the AnGR (Breed societies, reproduction centres, competent authorities, researchers) in the European Region.

The results of the AHA have been:

- The designing of the EUGENA Flyer: <https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-EUGENA-Flyer-V2.pdf>
- The designing of the EUGENA Membership Certificate.
- The mailing (to more than 3.000 recipients) to disseminate the Eugena Flier and collect information to build the European Inventory of Gene Banks (under construction)

5. Update of the development of the European Integrated Strategy for the Conservation and Use of crop, forest and animal genetic resources.

Danijela Bojkovski presented the main objectives of the GenRes Bridge project, the reasons to develop and integrated conservation strategy for genetic resources in Europe, its main objectives, and the process to develop the strategy.

In addition, the development of a European genetic resource's programme/strategy on AnGR was also presented.

The WG chair made a call to the WG members to collaborate in the development of these strategies.

6. Ad Hoc Action: Transboundary breeds in Europe. Promote concerted action between countries.

Enrico Sturaro presented (with a lot of problems with the connection) the AHA on Transboundary Breeds which aim is propose the pathways to develop a common management of the endangered transboundary breeds by developing respective ERFP guidelines.



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7. Workplan for 2020 -2021

The chair presented a proposal of workplan for 2020-2021. After the meeting a consultation period will be opened 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).

8.AOB.

Coralie Dachin explained (with a lot of technical problems) the conclusions of the Ex Situ Conservation Workshop on sharing resources among genebanks and conservation sites (GenRes Bridge Project) and ask for collaboration to disseminate them. Martina Henning offer her collaboration to develop this task.



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ANNEX I: AGENDA.

Begin	End	
8:30	8:50	Welcome – Opening. Round of introduction. (WG Members). Objectives of the meeting – Report on the WG activities. (F. Tejerina).
8:50	10:30	Results of the Ad Hoc Action: Development of specifications for a modern gene bank documentation software (CryoWEB 2.0) and further steps (Z. Ducheve).
10:30	10:45	Break
10:45	11:15	Update of the Ad Hoc Action to support the development of EUGENA, to identify candidate EUGENA gene banks, and improve the information about the gene banks in Europe. Updating of EUGENA status. (F. Tejerina).
11:15	11:45	Update of the GenRes Bridge Project: Update of the development of the European Integrated Strategy for the Conservation and Use of crop, forest and animal genetic resources. (D. Bojkovski).
11:45	12:05	Ad Hoc Action: Transboundary breeds in Europe. Promote concerted action between countries. (E. Charvolin-Lemaire/E. Sturaro).
12:05	12:20	Workplan for 2021 (to be approved by ERFP General Assembly). (F. Tejerina)
12:20	12:30	AOB - conclusion

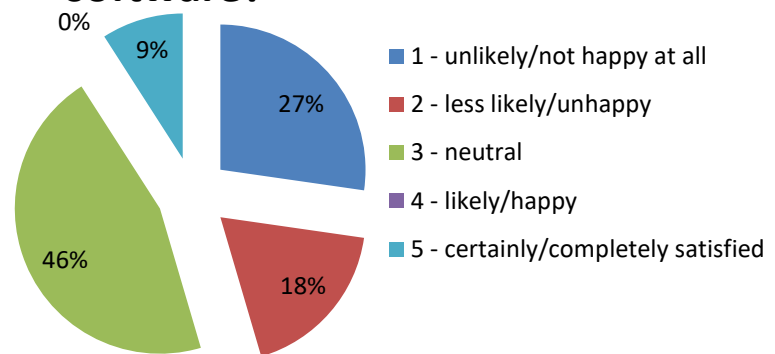
ANNEX II. ATTENDANTS.

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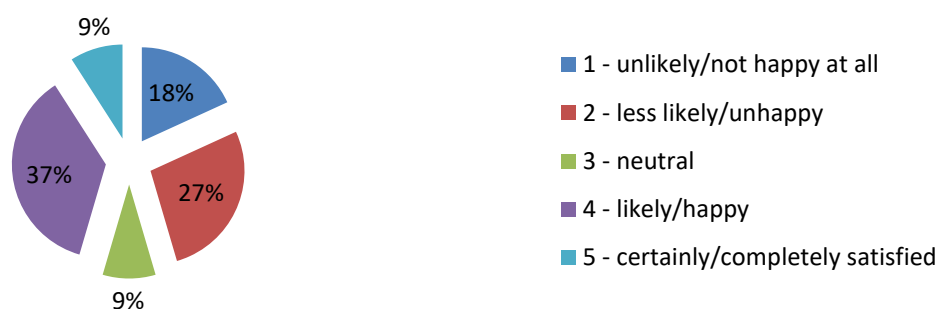
ANNEX III: Results of the survey conducted during the online meeting WG Ex situ conservation

We have a total of 11 respondents

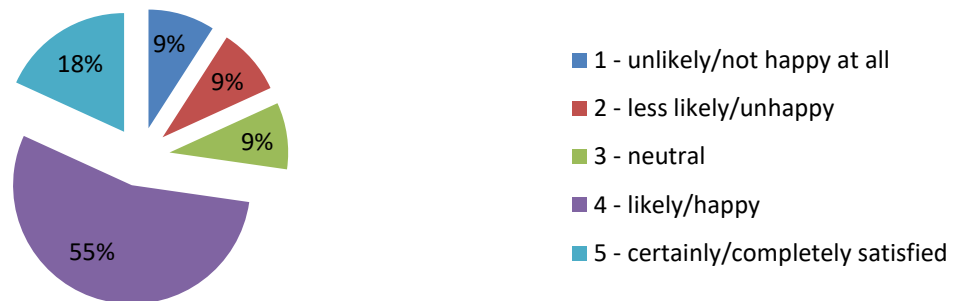
Are you happy with the currently used gene bank software?



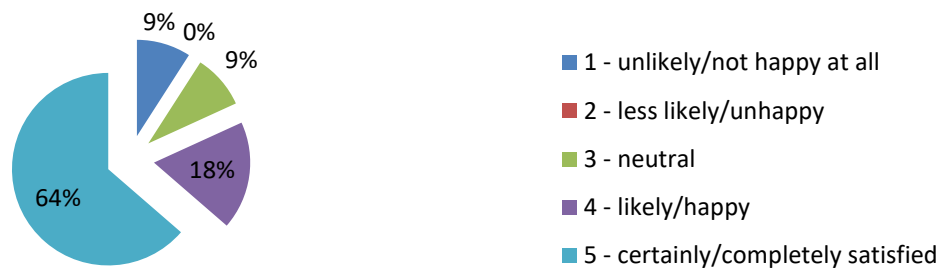
How likely it is to change it with a modern/sofisticated one in the near future relying on own resources?



How likely is to migrate to a new software if there are also external resources available?



Do you see a potential benefits on cooperating with countries in similar situation regarding development of common software?



Do you consider lack of adequate software also obstacle to join EUGENA?

