

Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

November 16th 2020, webconference

Participants:

Chair: Sipke Joost Hiemstra, The Netherlands

National coordinators, members of the SC:

Christina Ligda, Greece

Srdjan Stojanović, Serbia

Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain

Ruta Šveistienė, Lithuania

Jan Hendrik Schneider, Germany

Secretariat:

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

Sipke Hiemstra welcomes the participants and introduces the agenda.

1. Brief information about the budget and bank payments

Cf. slides.

Due to the Covid situation, the expenses are much lower than in the previous years which allowed the network to allocate a bigger budget to Ad Hoc Action (cf. General Assembly).

2. Follow up of the GenRes Bridge project

Cf. slides.

The SC wants to thank warmly Danijela Bojkovski for all her work chairing the GenResBridge AHA.

The calendar for the “Padova” virtual meeting is presented. It is reminded that the main target of the meeting is:

- To pinpoint the main issues of the documents: major items that should be reformulated or that are missing.
- Formulating strategic recommendations.

For instance, from the Animal domain perspective, the strategy as it is focusing too much on a conservation perspective; sustainable use should be emphasized in a stronger way.

Minor comments should be conveyed to Danijela Bojkovski before December 2nd.

ERFP is responsible for organizing the session on Tuesday morning; a reminder will be sent November 17th once it is settled with the organizers what is the list of people attending the

meeting Tuesday, in the afternoon. Between the two meetings Danijela Bojkovski, Sipke Hiemstra and Coralie Danchin will be in charge of compiling the comments so they can be presented during the afternoon session.

3. Validation of the 2021 *ad hoc* actions

a. Communication

A proposal drafted by Coralie Danchin thanks to Montse Castellanos presentation for the General Assembly was sent to all the SC prior to the meeting. Some comments are added during the session, one major item is to plan the actions in follow-up of the GenResBridge project. The new draft will be sent to all the AHA members and it is suggested to start the action next year.

The SC validates the AHA and agrees with its planning.

b. Transboundary breeds

Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire collected a good set of examples. A meeting will be organized shortly with the AHA members to start the work; the main objective is to draft a guidelines based on examples. Montse Castellanos suggests to contact Monica MARTIN CORNEJO who presented the Pottoka example in Madrid (2019) to help with the work.

The SC validates the extension of one year of this AHA.

c. Merino network

Some harmonization is needed in the network with the presence of two Spanish actors of the Merino breed, the Merino Flock Book, which can certify the origin and pedigrees of the registered animals, and a representative of a cooperative groups who is representing a much larger numbers of animals but without pedigree follow-up. A consensus needs to be found to name and work with the two type of populations, the pure breed, and the related animals. Montse Castellanos organized a meeting with the actors Tuesday, November 17th to do so.

The main objective of the AHA is to build a network and find common topics to work among Merino type breeds.

The SC validates the extension of one year of this AHA.

d. Interoperability of ex situ databases and portals

The importance of this topic was agreed on at the last GA but no leader was found to start this action. The SC suggests that the secretariat gets in touch with Zhivko Duchevev if he agrees to help on drafting a concept note that could be presented first in the Doc & Info WG. Christina Ligda, Sipke Hiemstra and Roswitha Baumung could be part of the drafting team at the start. A close connection should be done with the undergoing work of the WP4 of the GenResBridge project.

e. Genebank awareness

Christina Ligda wrote this action in order to impulse actions from the national authorities into setting up genebanks.

Sipke Hiemstra suggest to formulate the action with a wider audience and expertise. An idea could be to hold a one day symposium prior the WG *ex situ* meeting. Christina Ligda will contact the *ex situ* WG chairman to see if he supports the idea and to finalize the proposal.

f. Other ad hoc actions

Nina Sæther was contacted in 2019 to coordinate the work for the next ITWG. The session has been delayed several times due to the sanitary situations. It should be held virtually mid May 2021.

Ruta Šveistienė is thinking that it would be interesting to build an Ad Hoc action around rare pony breeds of the Nordic countries (Baltic + Scandinavian). The objective would be to exchange experiences and knowledge in the Baltic and Northern countries about this type of populations.

⇒ The SC supports the idea but a more elaborated proposal would be needed for the next SC meeting.

4. Joint working groups 2021

The next ITWG will be held virtually in May. The secretariat will contact the WG chairs to ask them their preference for holding a meeting between two weeks (last week of May or beginning of June).

Due to the unstable situation, it is suggested to decide if the meeting will be hosted virtually or physically at the next SC.

5. AOB – Date for the next TF

Sipke Hiemstra informs the SC that his term as a chairman ends at the next General Assembly. The ERFP network needs to think about his replacement as early as possible.

A for the members of the SC, Srdjan Stojanović, will end his term in 2021 too.

TF permanent secretariat: it is suggested to meet the afternoon following the next SC.

The next webmeeting of the SC will be held March 10th 2021

The meeting closed at 16:00.