

Danijela Bojkovski

Chair of the WG *In situ* conservation and valorisation of AnGR working group

## **ERFP working group In situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR - Report for the period 2020/2021**

### **1. Objectives of the group (Summary)**

The overall objective of this WG is to improve in-situ conservation (on-farm conservation) and valorisation of AnGR to provide a basis for their sustainable use. Experiences on different initiatives with exchange of information between countries on implemented and planned activities related to on-farm conservation, success stories and projects need to be shared. The group reviewed legal conditions and financial support measures to optimize their implementation in on-farm conservation strategies. Members of the group were actively involved in two ad hoc action groups and supported the development of a European strategy for AnGR as well as transboundary breed issues. The WG therefore supports on-farm conservation efforts for transboundary breeds as well as the promotion of the use of rare breeds and corresponding R&D activities among relevant stakeholders, for value chains and landscape management, the identification of "added value" arguments (e.g. cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, ecosystem services, local marketing, organic farming). In line with the European strategy for AnGR, approaches for a better integration of in situ and ex situ conservation activities in Europe need to be developed and promoted together with the WG "Ex situ conservation".

### **2. Membership of the group (chair in grey)**

Country	Name Member	Surname
Albania	Kristaq	KUME
Austria	Beate	BERGER
Croatia	Ante	IVANKOVIĆ
Finland	Juha	KANTANEN
France	Coralie	DANCHIN-BURGE
Germany	Holger	GÖDERZ
Greece	Dimitrios	TSIOKOS
Iceland	Birna K.	BALDURSDÓTTIR
Italy	Fabio	PILLA
Latvia	Anna	ZELTKOVSKA
Lithuania	Ruta	ŠVEISTIENĖ
Montenegro	Milan	MARKOVIC
Nordgen	Mervi	HONKATUKIA
Norway	Peer	BERG
Poland	Agnieszka	CHEŁMIŃSKA
Portugal	Filomena	AFONSO
ProSpecieRara	Philippe	AMMANN
Serbia	Srdjan	STOJANOVIĆ
Slovenia	Danijela	BOJKOVSKI
Spain	Jesus	FERNANDEZ MARTIN
Sweden	Per	THUNMAN
The Netherlands	Jack	WINDIG
United Kingdom	Marcus	BATES

### 3. Activities in the past year and output/results

Due to the Corona pandemic, WG activities were limited. The WG meeting was held online, with half a day devoted to WG topics and another day meeting with other ERFP WGs. The online meeting of WG In situ took place by Zoom platform on 31 May 2021 and the joint meeting was held on 3 June 2021. The agenda of the WG In situ meeting was as follows:

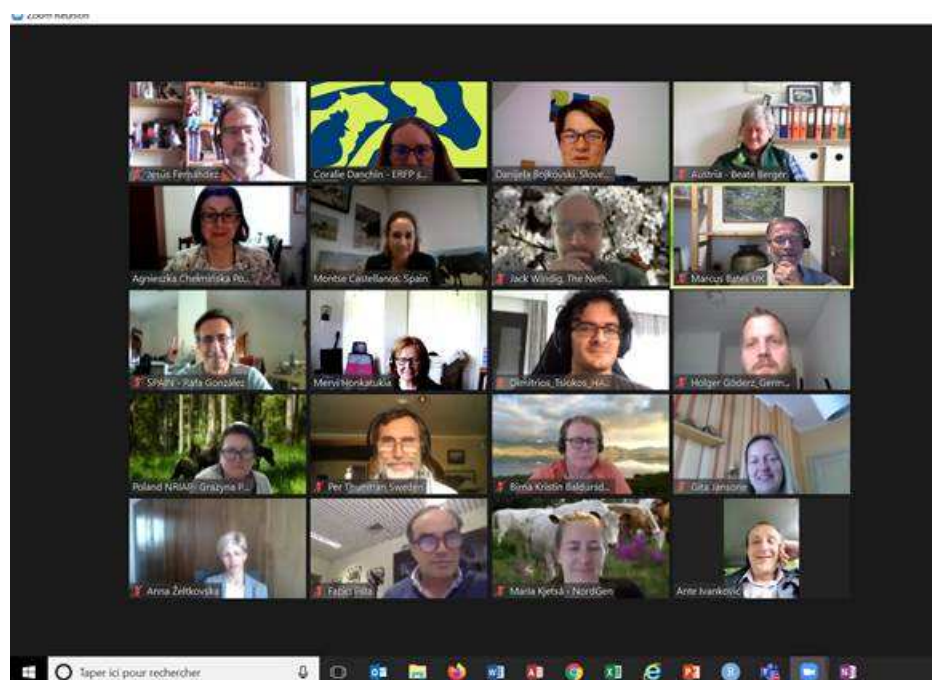
Chair: Danijela Bojkovski

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May-31 <sup>th</sup> -2021	Meeting-of-WG-In-situ	α
10:00-10:10	Welcome-and-Introduction- Objectives-of-the-WG-meeting	Chair
10:10-10:30	European-Strategy-for-the-Conservation-and-Use-of-animal-genetic-resources-presentation-of-part-for-In-situ-conservation-and-key-commitments	Chair
10:30-11:00	Feedback-on-key-commitments	Chair
11:00-11:30	"Promote-and-support-rural-development-measures-for-AnGR"	Srdjan-Stojanović
11:30-11:50	Presentation-of-the-outcomes-Ad-hoc-action: Merino	Fabio-Pilla
11:50-12:20	Break	α
12:20-12:40	In-situ-conservation-of-Genetic-Resources-presentation-of-demo-cases	Enrico-Sturaro
12:40-13:00	Work-plan-for-2022-(to-be-approved-at-Assembly)	Chair
13:00-13:20	Ad-hoc-action-proposals	All
13:20	AOB-conclusion	Together

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[https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ERFP-Working-Group-In-Situ-Conservation-2021\\_Agenda.pdf](https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ERFP-Working-Group-In-Situ-Conservation-2021_Agenda.pdf)



### ***Promote and support rural development measures for AnGR***

Task leader: Srdjan Stojanovic, Serbia, [srdjan.stojanovic@minpolj.gov.rs](mailto:srdjan.stojanovic@minpolj.gov.rs)

The Working Group (WG) In situ Conservation and Valorisation of AnGR, initiated a Europe-wide survey on national support measures for the conservation of local breeds. The objective of this task was to analyze and review the support measures of Rural Development Action Plans for the conservation of AnGR in the ERFP member countries.

The results of the survey from 14 participating countries provide new insights for the implementation of support measures for the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR across Europe. Local breeds are not only a source of genetic diversity in agriculture and livestock, they also represent a national heritage and provide identity for the local community. In order to share knowledge about different support measures, a publication has been prepared, which needs to be revised and supplemented with more data. The summary brochure focusing on the main conclusions and linking AnGR with rural development measures would be beneficial for the website. For the future, it would be worthwhile to explore issues related to the implementation of new CAP measures in relation to farmers, gene banks and breeders' associations.

[https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2\\_ERFP\\_Insitu\\_rural\\_development-.pdf](https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2_ERFP_Insitu_rural_development-.pdf)

### ***Support of the project GenRes Bridge and development of the European strategy for AnGR***

Task leader: Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia, [danijela.bojkovski@bf.uni-lj.si](mailto:danijela.bojkovski@bf.uni-lj.si)

Over the past year, the ERFP has worked intensively with ECPGR and EUFORGEN on the preparation of the European Strategy on Genetic Resources. The WG has provided content for the preparation of the European Genetic Resources Strategy and the domain-specific strategy for AnGR. The WG Chair is a member of the ERFP ad hoc action GenRes Bridge and has contributed to the development of the European Genetic Resources Strategy and a domain-specific strategy for AnGR.

As a result of the GenResBridge project Enrico Sturaro presented demonstration cases for integrated conservation of genetic resources. Within the project, innovative approaches for conservation and use of GenRes were proposed as regional centers of diversity for all domains. The demonstration cases were prepared to include and analyze genetic resources

from all three domains. For AnGR in Slovenia, the demonstration case was prepared by the chair of WG In situ.

[https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/1\\_ERFP\\_Insitu\\_AnGR\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/1_ERFP_Insitu_AnGR_Strategy.pdf)

### ***Development of the Ad hoc action Merino***

Ad hoc action leader: Fabio Pilla, Italy, [pilla@unimol.it](mailto:pilla@unimol.it)

Merino and Merino-derived sheep breeds are widely distributed worldwide, both as purebred and admixed populations. The general objective of this ad hoc action is to establish a European network of stakeholders of different categories (breeders, breeders' associations, researchers, governmental organizations, the private sector, etc.) for the joint monitoring and promotion of the transnational Merino sheep population, with particular attention to the issues of conservation genetics and wool use and valorization. Over the past year, the group has been actively working to investigate the genetic structure and relationships among Merino and Merino-derived breeds around the globe relevant to the conservation, management and utilization of Merino genetic variability. Fabio Pilla presented first preliminary results on genetic distance and valorisation of wool products.

[https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/3\\_ERFP\\_Insitu\\_Merino.pdf](https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/3_ERFP_Insitu_Merino.pdf)

### **4. Plans and priorities for the next year (to be formally approved by Assembly)**

- How is in situ conservation understood and arranged in different countries (animal breeding legislation = conservation is part of breeding program). We could investigate how in situ conservation is perceived by countries.
- Identify protected areas and AnGR conservation how they contribute to protected areas.
- Explore possibilities to create a framework for the European network of in situ conservation.
- Ad hoc action: Merino will continue with its work. The main goal is to organize a physical meeting in 2022.
- How countries are implementing the new CAP in relation to farmers, gene banks and breeders' associations.
- Support the ad hoc action on Transboundary breed (2 members of WG are working in this group).
- Support the Ad hoc action/TF: Evaluation of breeding programs.

- Strengthen communication activities, awareness raising messages need to be prepared by our group, 1 member from each WG will be appointed to the communication group - nomination to be made by GA.
- Statement on strengthening the use of local breeds in landscape management and conservation (Holger Goederz).

### **AOB: INFOGRAPHIC**

Jack Winding presents infographic created by WUR: The infographic shows in a user-friendly way how to deal with relatedness and inbreeding in AnGR conservation and population management. The infographic was created for breeders and owners of AnGR to better understand population management: <https://www.wur.nl/nl/Dossiers/dossier/Fokken-met-verstand-1.htm>

### **5. Other**

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