

## Minutes of the ERFP Assembly of National Coordinators

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of September, webconference

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

**Participants:** See attached list

*All presentations delivered during the ERFP Assembly are uploaded on the ERFP website.*

### 1. Welcome and opening

Sipke Joost Hiemstra, the Chair of the ERFP Steering Committee, welcomed the Assembly. He thanked the Secretariat for its organization. The Agenda is presented with modifications for day 2. There are no further amendments; the agenda is accepted.

### 2. Report from the ERFP Secretariat

*Cf. [slide presentation](#) and written report (1\_ERFP\_Secretariat\_WrittenReport\_Assembly\_2021\_Final.pdf) prepared by the Secretariat prior to the GA meeting. The written report was amended by the SC and GA, therefore the new version is sent with the GA minutes.*

ERFP Annual Progress report

**The presented Annual Progress Report 2020-2021 was approved by the Assembly.**

ERFP Financial report

All the budget figures are included **in the secretariat report**. Since the minutes are public, for security reasons these elements are not included in the General Assembly report or on the slides to be found on the ERFP website.

**The presented final budget for 2020 was approved by the Assembly.**

For the second consecutive year, the sanitary situation has great impact on the budget expenses since neither the WG meetings nor the GA were held physically in 2021. On the other hand, the use of virtual meetings allowed the SC to meet 5 times this year, and allowed new ways of communication from ERFP such as the Merino and genebank webinars and the ERFP webinar to be held September 9<sup>th</sup>. Some Ad Hoc actions (development of genebanks, Transboundary breeds) also used this way of communication to meet at frequent interval.

### 3. Reports from the ERFP Working Groups

All chairs briefly summarized the work of the group and future plans. All the details are described in the written report that were provided before the General Assembly and in the

slide presentations. Reports of the various Ad Hoc actions were also provided before the General Assembly; a recap of all the AHA started in 2020 are provided in the Secretariat report.

*In Situ* Working Group: a new task is suggested by the GA which is to collect all the strategic plans drafted by the EU countries for the new CAP.

	Slide presentation	Related AH action
Doc & Info WG	<a href="#">Doc&amp;Info slide show</a>	<a href="#">Transboundary breeds</a>
Ex situ WG	<a href="#">Ex situ slide show</a>	<a href="#">Development of genebanks</a>
In situ WG	<a href="#">In situ slide show</a>	<a href="#">Merino network</a>

The ERFP SC chair congratulates Fernando Tejerina for its nomination as a chair for the *ex situ* WG.

During the presentation of the Ex Situ WG report, Fernando Tejerina asked the General Assembly on several issues:

- Advances in the development of documentation software:

Since a common project for all ERFP countries does not seem to be realistic, the chair suggests that each country develop a software with their own resources. However it is suggested to develop a Task Force to coordinate efforts and reduce costs.

⇒ **The proposal is accepted by the General Assembly.**

- Proposal to change EUGENA ToR into a one-step procedure:

Germany warns countries that when signing such a MoU, they need to assess the situation before:

i) NCs need to make sure that they are in the position to sign on behalf of their country and genebanks;

ii) that all relevant national legislation is followed by the genebanks, including ABS, Animal Health, etc.

⇒ **The proposal is accepted by the General Assembly.**

EFFAB offers to be involved more actively in the *ex situ* WG since one of their task is to develop guidelines for cryoconservation, in order to avoid duplication.

### **All presented reports and work plan were approved by the Assembly.**

- TF permanent secretariat

The work of this TF was put on hold with the development of the two strategies of the GenResBridge project. The implementation of the strategies will have a repercussion on how a permanent secretariat could be set up. Meanwhile it was difficult to discuss the need for higher country contributions if such an organisation is implemented while the covid situation led ERFP in having bigger savings.

#### 4. FAO report

*Cf. [slide presentation](#).*

The GenResBridge project is also an opportunity to increase the awareness around EFABIS; workshops are organized to help NCs entering their data and more virtual meetings are planned in order to show what are the benefits and uses that can be provided by EFABIS.

#### 5. Progress report by the EAAP WG-AnGR

*Cf. [slide presentation](#).*

In the absence of Jesus Fernandez due to last minute unforeseen circumstances, the secretariat is presenting his slides. Jesus Fernandez's term as EAAP WG-AnGR chair is achieved, and Peer Berg was elected to replace him. The General Assembly congratulates Peer for his election and thanks Jesus Fernandez for his commitment and good interaction with the ERFP network.

Ana Granados (EFFAB) is letting ERFP know that EFFAB is facing the same issues about invited speakers and the visibility of challenge sessions for instance. EFFAB is having undergoing discussion with EAAP about these issues; some connections could be done with ERFP so we could solve our issues together.

#### 6. ERFP 2022 Future plans

*Cf. secretariat report and [slide presentations](#).*

It is suggested to the General Assembly that since the Covid situation led to savings, the funding could be used to **strengthen** our communication strategy and to **implement** new Task Forces (TF° as well as Ad Hoc Actions. It is reminded to the NCs that TF need a General Assembly approval while Ad Hoc Actions can be validated by the Steering Committee.

The **Task Force about Transboundary breeds**, led by Enrico Sturaro and Eleonore Charvolin, is **approved**.

The proposal to merge the TF "Permanent Secretariat" with the follow-up of the EGRS and Animal Strategy is **approved**. Sipke Hiemstra agrees to lead this TF.

Fernando Tejerina reminds the General Assembly that, following his presentation about the Ex Situ Working Group, he would like to create a Task Force to collectively analyse the costs and benefits of a genebank software. This Task Force, led by Fernando Tejerina, is **approved**.

A discussion follows the presentation on the TF about breeding programs. A first step is needed beforehand that would first analyse the current situations, during an Ad Hoc Action for instance. The implementation of indicators or guidelines would be a second step to implement based on the results of the Ad Hoc Action. The implementation of the breeding

program TF is therefore **postponed**. An Ad Hoc Action will be drafted for the next Steering Committee, Ana Granados (EFFAB) is willing to be part of it. The leadership of the AHA is still to be decided.

**The Assembly approved the presented future plans and budget proposal for 2022.**

## **7. Elections**

ERFP Chair - according to the ERFP Terms of Reference, the term of office for the current Chair of the Steering Committee Sipke Joost Hiemstra ends in 2021. **Montserrat Castellanos Moncho** (Spain) is candidate for the election. An email was sent to all NCs and no other proposal was received. The candidate introduced herself to the GA.

**The General Assembly elects Montserrat Castellanos Moncho as the new Chair of the ERFP.**

It is agreed that Sipke Joost Hiemstra will Chair the 2021 GA meeting until its end.

ERFP Steering Committee member – According to the ERFP Terms of Reference, the term of office for Srdjan Stojanovic ends in 2021. **Danijela Bojkovski** from Slovenia is candidate for the election. An email was sent to all NCs and no other proposal was received. The candidate briefly introduced herself to the GA.

**The General Assembly elects Danijela Bojkovski as a new member of the SC.**

Since Montserrat Castellanos Moncho was elected as an ERFP Chair, a new representative is needed in the Steering Committee. The proposed candidate is **Nina Sæther** from Norway. No alternate candidate are suggested. The candidate introduced herself to the GA.

**The General Assembly elects Nina Sæther (Norway) as a new member of the SC.**

The Secretariat takes the opportunity to thank Sipke Hiemstra for his active and friendly coordination all these years, and to thank also Srdjan Stojanovic for his time and commitment to ERFP. A virtual meeting is unfortunately not an appropriate way to thank them, and it is hoped that the GenResBridge dissemination event in Brussels will be the opportunity to do so.

The General Assembly closed its first day of meeting after the elections. It is reminded to all NCs that a webinar presenting what is ERFP and its main outcomes is held in the afternoon of that day. All the presentations are now available on the [ERFP website](#).

## **8. Secretariat elections in 2022**

*Cf. [slide presentation](#)*

The term of the current Secretariat ends in August 2022, therefore the procedure for application and selection of the new secretariat is launched according to the [ToR](#).

Each National Coordinator will receive an individual email to inform him personally about the procedure. In a nutshell, any organisation interested by holding the secretariat needs to send its application by December 31st 2021, with its NC approval.

France will submit a proposal to keep the Secretariat for another term, but all proposals will be examined by the SC equally.

#### **9. Genres Bridge: presentation of the final version of the European Genetic Resources Strategy (EGRS) and validation**

The European Genetic Resources Strategy is presented by Sipke Hiemstra. The document was sent before the General Assembly to all NCs.

The validation process is as follow: during the General Assembly, the NCs whether they want that ERFP endorse the EGRS as a network. NCs will also be invited to indicate if their country agrees to endorse the EGRS by October 3<sup>rd</sup>. However a global follow up of the implementation of the strategy at EU and country level will be achieved in the dedicated TF (see previously).

**The ERFP General Assembly expressed its support to the European Genetic Resources Strategy, prepared by the GenRes Bridge project.**

#### **10. GenResBridge: presentation of the gateway, validation of the list of participants for the final event, journal sustainability**

*Cf. [slide presentation](#)*

All NCs and ERFP network are invited to create an account and include inputs in the [GenResBridge gateway](#); the more information there is, the more interest there will be. Videos are available to explain [how to proceed](#) to include contents.

Official launch of the strategy: the event will be held physically in Brussels, with the possibility to attend online November 30<sup>th</sup>. Invitations will be sent directly by the GenResBridge consortium; each GenResBridge partner have travel costs covered for two persons and on top of it a total of 25 persons per network can have its travel reimbursed.

GenRes Journal sustainability: elements were provided to the ERFP network just before the General Assembly, therefore there was not time to assess them. Further work is needed to see how the ERFP network can contribute to the journal economic model.

#### **11. GenResBridge: presentation of the European AnGR strategy – group work**

Danijela Bojkovski presented briefly the European AnGR strategy which was sent to all NCs before the General Assembly. NCs and stakeholders can send their comments within two weeks.

A group work follows in order to give first insights on the action plan. All the inputs will be used by the Ad Hoc Action group to draft the first version of the action plan, which will be sent to NCs with the new draft.

The meeting ends at 12:45. Before its end the ERFP secretariat thanks all the ERFP network for its commitment with a specific word for Sipke Hiemstra for all his dedication throughout the years.

The new chair, Montserrat Castellanos thanks also the Assembly and looks forward for the achievement of all the plans ERFP have, and hopes that our common effort will help us grow.

<b>The next GA should be held in Porto, Portugal</b>
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## List of participants

Country/Organisation	Name Member	Surname	Function
Malta	Noel	AZZOPARDI	NC
Iceland	Birna K.	BALDURSDÓTTIR	NC
Germany	Lisa	Balzar	Technical adviser
United Kingdom	Marcus	BATES	Technical adviser
FAO	Roswitha	Baumung	Invited
FAO	Paul	Boettcher	Observer
Slovenia	Danijela	BOJKOVSKI	NC
Portugal	Nuno	CAROLINO	NC
Spain	Montserrat	CASTELLANOS MONCHO	NC
ERFP	Eleonore	Charvolin	Secretariat
ERFP	Coralie	Danchin	Secretariat
Hungary	István	DANI	NC
Rare Breed International	Juan Vicente	Delgado Bermejo	Observer
Bulgaria	Zhivko	Duchev	Invited
Spain	Jesus	FERNANDEZ MARTIN	EAAP WG
DAGENE	András	GÁSPÁRDY	Invited
France	Florian	GIRAUD	NC
Germany	Holger	GÖDERZ	Technical adviser
EFFAB	Ana	Granados Chapatte	Observer
United Kingdom	Amelia	GREENHAM	Technical adviser
Cyprus	Georgia	HADJIPAVLOU	NC
The Netherlands	Sipke-Joost	HIEMSTRA	NC
Nordgen	Mervi	Honkatukia	Observer
Croatia	Ante	IVANKOVIĆ	NC
Estonia	Sirje	JALAKAS	NC
Latvia	Gita	JANSONE	NC
Sweden	Caroline	JOHANSSON	NC
SAVE Project Office	Waltraud	KUGLER	Observer
United Kingdom	Caroline	LIDELL	Technical adviser
Greece	Christina	LIGDA	NC
Sweden	Karin	LUNDBORG	Technical adviser
Czech Republic	Vera	MATLOVA	NC
Rare Breed International	Francisco J.	Navas González	Observer
Czech Republic	Tomáš	Němeček	Technical adviser
The Netherlands	Marjolein	Neuteboom	Technical adviser
Poland	Grazyna	POLAK	NC
Switzerland	Melissa	RAEMY	NC
Norway	Nina	SÆTHER	NC
Germany	Jan Hendrik	SCHNEIDER	NC
Poland	Ewa	SOSIN	Technical adviser
Serbia	Srdjan	STOJANOVIĆ	NC

Country/Organisation	Name Member	Surname	Function
Italy	Enrico	Sturaro	WG chair
Switzerland	Claudia	Stürzinger	Technical adviser
Lithuania	Ruta	ŠVEISTIENĖ	NC
Spain	Fernando	Tejerina	WG chair
Slovakia	Ján	TOMKA	NC
Ireland	Sharon	WALSHE	Technical adviser
Latvia	Anna	Želtkovska	Technical adviser

During these two days, a total of 48 participants attended, including 22 NCs, 12 Technical advisers and 12 observers or invited speakers.