

European Union Reference Center for Endangered Breeds (EURC-EAB)

S.J. Hiemstra, ERFP General Assembly, Porto 2022



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EU Animal Breeding legislation

**REGULATION (EU) 2016/1012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 8 June 2016**

on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding, trade in and entry into the Union of purebred breeding animals, hybrid breeding pigs and the germinal products thereof and amending Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, Council Directives 89/608/EEC and 90/425/EEC and repealing certain acts in the area of animal breeding ('Animal Breeding Regulation')

Specific references to (breeding programs) of Endangered Breeds, e.g.:

- (23) If the aim of the breeding programme is to preserve the breed, the requirements of the breeding programme could be complemented by ex situ and in situ conservation measures or any other tools for monitoring the status of the breed that would ensure a longterm, sustainable conservation of that breed. It should be possible for those measures to be laid down in the breeding programme.
- (27) Because the preservation of endangered breeds requires the setting up and recognition of breed societies with a limited number of breeding animals participating in their breeding programmes, the size of the breeding population should not, in general, be considered to be an essential requirement for the recognition of breed societies managing endangered breeds or for the approval of their breeding programmes, particularly since the recognition is carried out nationally.
- (28) Specific rules, in particular those on the upgrading from the supplementary section into the main section and on derogations for the performance testing and genetic evaluation, should be laid down in this Regulation to take account of the specific status of endangered breeds.

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Call for submissions (deadline May 2022)

*“In accordance with Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 a European Union Reference centre, responsible for the **scientific and technical contribution to the establishment and harmonisation of methods** for the preservation of endangered breeds, and the preservation of the genetic diversity existing within those breeds, will be designated”*

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European Union Reference Center for Endangered Breeds (EURC-EAB)

July 2022 - Consortium selected by EC

3rd of October – proposal for approval in meeting of Permanent Committee on Zootechnics



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EURC-EAB - Consortium

- Wageningen Research, Wageningen Livestock Research (WLR, the Netherlands) – [Coordinator](#)
→ Sipke J. Hiemstra and colleagues
- Institut de l’Elevage (IDELE, France) – [ERFP link](#) (Secretariat)
→ Coralie Danchin-Burge and colleagues
- Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE, Germany)
→ Holger Goederz, Lisa Balzar and colleagues

EC-funding 100k€/year (2 years) + similar budget co-funded by NL, DE, FR (Ministries of Agriculture)

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Activities (1)

Cooperation with breed societies, third parties designated by breed societies and competent authorities (WLR)

- Sub-activity 1.1 – Develop and maintain EURC website and EURC contact point (WLR)
- Sub-activity 1.2 – Survey on status of implementation of (EU) 2016/1012 for endangered breeds (BLE)
- Sub-activity 1.3 – Disseminate existing guidelines and tools for implementing breeding and conservation strategies of endangered breeds (IDELE)

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Activities (2)

Methods for the preservation of endangered breeds, and the preservation of the genetic diversity existing within those breeds (IDELE)

- Sub-activity 2.1 – Guidelines for evaluating breeding programmes for endangered breeds (WLR)
- Sub-activity 2.2 – Harmonisation and standardisation of breed risk status indicators (BLE)
- Sub-activity 2.3 – Technical guidelines to assess the genetic health of endangered breeds (in situ) (IDELE)
- Sub-activity 2.4 – Ex situ conservation of endangered breeds as a complementary tool for in situ conservation (IDELE)

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Activities (3)

Emerging problems, international cooperation and technical expertise (BLE)

- Sub-activity 3.1 – Training and dissemination through webinars and conferences (IDELE)
- Sub-activity 3.2 – Cooperation with European and internationally recognised organisations (BLE)
- Sub-activity 3.3 – Provide input and technical expertise for the Standing Committee on Zootechnics and for exchange between Member States (WLR)

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