

Mrs Danijela Bojkovski

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

Report of In situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR ERFP working group – 2021/2022

1. Objectives of the group (Summary)

The overall goal of this WG is the improvement of the in situ conservation (on-farm conservation) and valorisation of AnGR to provide a base for their sustainable use. Experiences on different initiatives with sharing of information among countries about implemented and planned activities related to on-farm conservation, success stories and projects need to be exchanged. The group will review legal conditions and financial support measures in order to optimize their implementation in on-farm conservation strategies. The WG will also support the on-farm conservation efforts for transboundary breeds as well as the promotion of the utilization of rare breeds and respective R&D activities to 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 agriculture). Approaches for a better integration of in situ and ex situ conservation activities in Europe need to be elaborated and promoted together with the WG “Ex situ conservation”.

2. Membership of the group (chair in grey)

Country	Name Member	Surname	Institute
ProSpecieRara	Philippe	AMMANN	ProSpecieRara
Iceland	Birna K.	BALDURSDÓTTIR	Agricultural University of Iceland, The Icelandic Genetic Resource Center
United Kingdom	Marcus	BATES	British Pedigree Association - Chief Executive of British Pigs Association
Norway	Peer	BERG	Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Austria	Beate	BERGER	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management Institute for Organic Agriculture and Biodiversity
Slovenia	Danijela	BOJKOVSKI	University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical Faculty
Poland	Agnieszka	CHEŁMIŃSKA	National Research Institute of Animal Production, Krakow, Department of Horses Breeding

Country	Name Member	Surname	Institute
France	Coralie	DANCHIN-BURGE	Institut de l'Elevage
Spain	Jesus	FERNANDEZ MARTIN	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria
Germany	Holger	GÖDERZ	Federal Office for Agriculture and Food
Nordgen*	Mervi	HONKATUKIA	NordGen - Nordiskt Genresurscenter
Croatia	Ante	IVANKOVIĆ	Department of Animal Science and Technology - Faculty of Agriculture
Finland	Juha	KANTANEN	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) - Department of Production Systems
Albania	Kristaq	KUME	Albagene Ass.
Montenegro	Milan	MARKOVIC	University of Montenegro -Biotechnical Faculty
Italy	Fabio	PILLA	Università del Molise
Serbia	Srdjan	STOJANOVIĆ	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Department for Rural Development
Lithuania	Ruta	ŠVEISTIENĖ	Animal Science Institute of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
Sweden	Per	THUNMAN	SICAMM
Greece	Dimitrios	TSIOKOS	Hellenic Agricultural Organization -Research Institute of Animal Science
Portugal	Pedro	VIEIRA	Agriculture Ministry (MAFDR) DGAV
The Netherlands	Jack	WINDIG	Wageningen University and Research, Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands
Latvia	Anna	ZELTKOVSKA	Ministry of Agriculture - Livestock Production and Animal breeding division
Georgia	Tornike	ZHGENTI	Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture, Department of Livestock Breeding and Forage Production

* observer

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

Working group activities in the period 2021/2022 included following tasks:

- The domain-specific strategy for animal genetic resources was presented at the launch event in Brussels. Event was organized to launch the Genetic resource strategy for Europe and WG Chair was actively involved in the preparation of presentation, participation at the final event and presentation of the AnGR Strategy for Europe.
- Members of the WG contributed to the Task Force “Transboundary breeds in Europe. Promote concerted action between countries”. During 2021/2022 few meetings were organised online. The results will also be presented at the EAAP 2022 conference.

- The *In situ* WG assessed key recommendations of the AnGR Strategy and how to achieve them in order to support preparation of the Action Plan and how this could be connected with the Development of the ERFP MyPOW.
- *Ad hoc* action: Merino network organized online webinar “Merino and Merino derived Merino breed in Europe state of art and hypothesis for their in-situ valorization” in Februar 2021.
- The WG reviewed financial support measures for the new Support measures in the light of new New Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2023- 27.
- Meeting of the Working Group *In situ* conservation was held on 1st – 3rd June 2022. After few years meeting was organized in person, however members has possibility to join online. Agenda and minutes of the meeting are available online.
- Most important outcome of the meeting was sharing experiences on different initiatives related to on-farm conservation and success stories related to ecosystem services, cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, landscape management in protected areas with local breeds.

4. Plans and priorities for the next period 2022/23 (to be formally approved by Assembly)

- Ad hoc action? – Review of the definitions (native/local/national breeds) in the different countries.
- Review if countries have specific *In situ* conservation programs? What are the conservation goals and priorities? Detection and coordination of the main actors involved (interface between researchers, breeders, policy makers).
- Explore support measures, initiatives and networking activities for *in situ* conservation (niche markets for products of local breeds, establishment of ark farms, initiatives for the management of landscapes and wildlife habitats, as well as touristic activities).
- Strengthen and support of landscape management with local breeds (Ad hoc action? -> Task Force?)
- Strengthen cooperation / networking with breeders (workshops, Ad hoc action?)
- Support and collaboration in Ad hoc action: Transboundary breed.
- The characterisation of the traits/features responsible for the adaptation of local breeds (giving them value).
- Ad hoc action? to support: Local breed and transhumance in the Alps and in the Mediterranean regions.

5. Other

