

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

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Role of the WG In situ conservation

- Improvement of the *in situ* conservation (on-farm conservation).
- Valorisation of AnGR for their sustainable use.
- Information and knowledge exchange on initiatives related to on-farm conservation, success stories and projects.
- Review of legal conditions and financial support measures for on-farm conservation strategies.
- Technical cooperation.



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Role of the WG In situ conservation

- Support of the on-farm conservation efforts for transboundary breeds.
- The promotion of local breeds through the use in landscape management, identification of "added value" (e. g. cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, ecosystem services, local marketing, organic agriculture).
- Promotion and support for a better integration of in situ and ex situ conservation activities in Europe.
- Collecting best practices for in situ conservation and publish them online.



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How do we operate?

- Annual meetings.
- Ad hoc actions collaboration of members and within WG.
- Sharing responsibilities and tasks within WG.
- Collaboration with other ERFP WGs and SC.











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Examples of successful activities

Development of the position paper regarding the CAP

DRAFT

Position paper of the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

concerning the future Common Agricultural Policy

Collecting best practices for in situ conservation and publish them online.



Best practices for in situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR

1) - Feel free to contact the ERFP secretariat to improve our list !

- HERITAGESHEEP 2007 to 2009 https://www.heritagesheep.net/
 EURECA 2006 to 2009 http://www.regionalcattlebreeds.eu/
 Preparatory action on Genetic Resources 2016 to 2018 –
 http://www.geneticresources.eu
 TREASURE 2016 to 2019 https://treasurckis.sl/
 REDVERSE 2017 to 2020 https://cra-susan.eu/content/rediverse

- TERREG:

 Bluesel (2010 to 2015) http://www.bluesel.eu

 BlueSter (2018-2021) https://www.interreg-fwvl.eu/sites/default/files/bluester_fr.pdf



Examples of successful activities

Promote and support rural development measures for AnGR

Goal: analyse and review the support measures of RDA plans for the conservation of local breeds in the different countries.

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Rural development support measures for **Animal Genetic Resources**

Results of a survey among European National **Coordinators**



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Examples of successful activities

Support of the European AnGR Strategy development

2.3.1 In situ conservation of AnGR

Principally, conservation by sustainable utilization is the main strategy for all breeds and breeding populations. The key principles of sustainable use are already explained in chapter 2.2, including the implementation of sustainable and effective breeding programs and the marketing of breed related products and services. In this chapter, we take conservation as the entry point that is particularly relevant for breeds that are at risk of extinction.

In situ conservation is performed through the breeding and use of animal populations, so that genetic diversity is best utilized in the short term and maintained for the longer term. Successful in situ conservation requires a well-designed breeding program. For local breeds at risk there is little opportunity left for genetic improvement and specific conservation support measures are often needed for breed survival.

Breeding programs for breeds at risk should put more emphasis on maintaining within-breed genetic diversity, because when population size is small, genetic variants can get lost as a result of selection or genetic drift.



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Examples of successful activities

Merino and Merino-derived breeds in Europe

Goal: to establish network of stakeholders, joint monitoring, promotion, investigate genetic structure and relationship among Merino and Merinoderived breeds

Merino and Merino-derived breeds in Europe

state of the art - in situ valorization

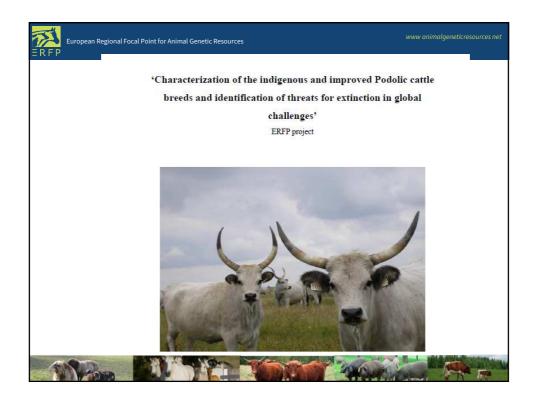
Webinar

Monday 15th February 2021 13.50 (CET)

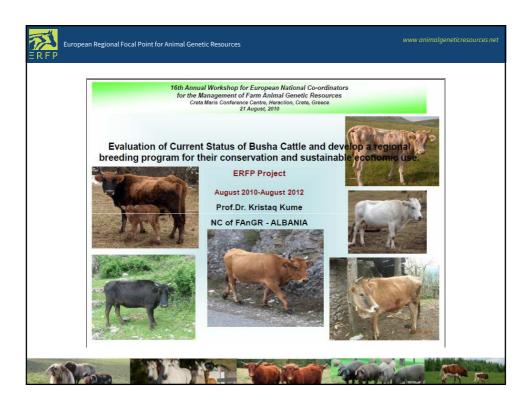




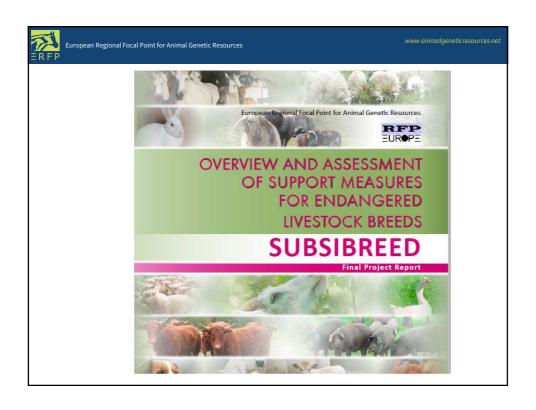


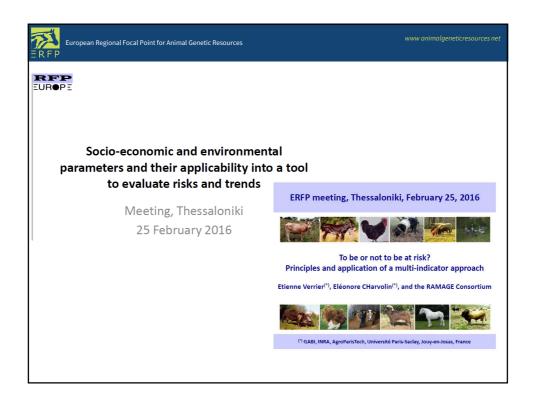














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Work plan 2021-2022

Task "Promote and support rural development measures for AnGR"

Development of a method to calculate the payments and preparation of the flyer with most important facts and findings.

Task "Support of the project AnGR Strategy development"

The WG will continue to support development of the AnGR Strategy and forthcoming action plan.

Task "Ad hoc action Merino"

The WG will continue to support activities of the group.

Task "ERFP Guidelines for transboundary breeds"

The WG will continue to collaborate in this action and develop case studies further.

Approved by the ERFP Assembly



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Work plan 2021-2022

New proposals for further discussion:

- How in situ conservation is understood, arranged, perceived in different 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.
- How countries are implementing the new CAP in relation to farmers, gene banks and breeders' associations.
- Support the Ad hoc action/TF: Evaluation of breeding programs.
- Strengthen communication activities, awareness raising messages.
- Statement on strengthening the use of local breeds in landscape management and conservation (Holger Goederz).

Approved by the ERFP Assembly

