

Minutes of the ERFP Assembly of National Coordinators

September 3rd and 4th, 2022, Porto, Portugal

Chair: Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, NC, Spain

Participants: See attached list

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

1. Welcome and opening

Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain, the Chair of the ERFP Steering Committee, welcomed the Assembly in Porto and thanked everybody for attending despite the sanitary conditions that are still not under control. She thanked the Portuguese National Coordinator for hosting the ERFP Assembly and the Secretariat for the organization. She presented the agenda; there were no amendments, and the agenda was accepted.

2. Portugal – overview of the AnGR

Cf. [slide presentation](#)

Nuno Carolino presents a quick overview of the diversity of AnGR in Portugal. Despite being a small country, Portugal is the home of a wide farm diversity.

NCs were quite interested by the work underdone in protected areas; in several countries it is difficult to have links with these areas since they are under the environment jurisdiction and the link with agriculture can be challenging. With climate change, coping with fire hazards start to be a major issue and the use of grazing seem to be an interesting path to prevent fires. Roswitha Baumung reminds the NC that any data related to breed and ecosystem services should be included in DAD-IS for better valorization.

3. Report from the ERFP Secretariat

Cf. [slide presentation](#) and written report (1_ERFP_Secretariat_WrittenReport_Assembly_2022_Final.pdf) prepared by the Secretariat prior to the GA meeting.

The Secretariat presented the annual progress report for the 2021-2022 period.

The presented Annual Progress Report 2021-2022 was approved by the Assembly.

ERFP concluded the 2021 financial year with a balance of 432 777,36 €.

The presented final budget for 2021 was approved by the Assembly.

The general expenses in 2022 amounted to 22 127,45 € and the countries contributions to 73 500,00 € (all amounts as per August 1th, 2022). As per August 1st 2022, the remaining funds are equal to 440 294,66 €.

The National Coordinators attention is directed to the fact that ERFP plans to spend more than the yearly budget for the second year in the row, due to the increase volume of activity and cost of Secretariat.

4. Reports from the ERFP Working Groups and Task Force

All chairs briefly summarized the work of the group and future plans. All the details are described in the written WG report and in the slide presentations (cf. table).

WG	Slide presentation	Written report
Doc & Info WG	Doc info slides	Doc info report
Ex situ WG	Ex situ slides	Ex situ report
In situ WG	In situ slides	In situ report

Danijela Bojkovski emphasizes that lot of proposals were suggested in the *In Situ* WG but there are very few volunteers to lead them. She will attend a SAVE meeting the second week of September to see if collaborations can be set up about the ark farm network.

RBI is asking if they could join the *In Situ* WG, their proposal is approved.

Following a question from Germany, Fernando Tejerina informs that Hungary is the first country that registered in the EUGENA network using the one step process.

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

Montserrat Castellanos takes the opportunity to thanks the chairs for their work and commitment in the drafting of the strategies, with special regards to Danijela Bojkovski for leading the Strategy AHA.

5. Communication strategy

[Cf. slide presentation.](#)

The communication strategy is building from the Ad Hoc action that was developed in 2017. A communication contract was issued for a year (starting in June 2019) with a Spanish company, Alcandora. Two periods followed the first contract, and to fit better the ERFP work pattern, the new contract period will start September 15th till next year so the GA can assess the work done from the previous period and amend the contract accordingly, if needed.

As a reminder, here are the keywords used for our social media:

Instagram: @ERFP_animalgenetics

Twitter: @ERFPAnGR

Facebook: @ERFPAnGR

LinkedIn: ERFP Animal Genetic

The secretariat is asking the audience to send the links from any website with relevant information about their country breeds, even if it is developed in their national language. The chair renews her call for a leader of the TF communication.

6. Progress report by EAAP WG-AnGR

[Cf. slide presentation.](#)

Jesus Fernandez is presenting the report on behalf of Peer Berg. The GA takes this opportunity to thank Jesus Fernandez of all the work accomplished for the ERFP network in the previous years.

Montserrat Castellanos informs the NCs that efforts are made each year to get a discount for NCs at EAAP, but the discussions are complicated since it depends of each local organization.

The secretariat also shares the idea from the SC to ask to lobby for having a main speaker in the EAAP plenary session in 2023 since biodiversity and conservation is one of the main themes. It would be a great opportunity for presenting the GR strategies and the European Reference Centre for Endangered Animal Breeds (EURC EAB, see later).

7. Reimbursement forms and policy

The new reimbursement form and amendments to the reimbursement policy are presented. As for the maximum amounts to be reimbursed per trip, the ERFP secretariat will wait to have received all the requests for the WG in Paris and the GA and suggests an amount to be agreed on by NCs through an email consultation.

As for the rest of the text, the **new reimbursement rules are adopted by the GA.**

8. ERFP future plans and 2023 budget approval

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

The actions foreseen in 2023 are listed in the slide presentations.

A suggestion for 2023 is to split the sessions of the WG in two different events, one virtual, to discuss the points that are specific to the WG, and one physical for the cross-sectorial issues. In 2023, the ICAR annual Conference will be held in Toledo (Spain) from 22 to 26 May. The ERFP chair suggests holding the annual ERFP WG meetings at the same time to better connect our networks, with some presentations that could be common between ICAR and the WG.

The ERFP secretariat presents [slides](#) that were shown during the SC last December about the sustainability of the GENRES journal. It is reminded that this publication is not a competitor of other genetics journals, on the contrary it is a great opportunity for publishing “grey” literature. Mervi Honkatukia (Nordgen) asked if opinion papers are accepted, Enrico Sturaro answers positively. The ERFP proposal is to vote for a maximum budget of 10,000 € to help the sustainability of the GENRES journal.

For the TF genebank software, a budget of 25 000 € is requested, which includes an estimation of 15.000 € for the customization of the software. The TF is planning to meet this

fall the different companies that are providing this service to make a final decision on the software to be purchased.

Several AHA have been suggested for next year and three of them are presented specifically during the GA. Since some of them are going to start in 2022 (therefore with funding from the 2022 budget), new ideas can be submitted to the ERFP secretariat **till November 11th**. The new AHAs will be validated during the next SC to be held by the end of this year.

The total budget proposal in the amount of 192 000 € for the year 2023 was presented. The 2023 budget is quite superior to the expected country contributions: the actions will be financed thanks to the budget saved due to the Covid situation. However, this is not sustainable on a midterm basis. The new MYPOW and ToR need to include a change in the country contributions, to be presented at the next General Assembly and implemented in 2024 if possible.

The future plans and 2023 budget were approved by the Assembly.

9. Elections in 2022 - ERFP Secretariat

The Secretariat recalled the election process, which was conducted in accordance with the ERFP ToRs Annex 3. The only application received was from Institut de l'Élevage (IDELE), France. All documents received were forwarded to all NCs.

The assembly elected IDELE as ERFP Secretariat for a second term.

The ERFP secretariat takes the opportunity to remind all NCs that next year will be the end of term for three SC members and two WG chairs and to think already about their renewal. It is also strongly reminded that NCs should nominate topic experts in the WG since these groups are dealing with technical issues, not political ones.

10. Presentation of new AHA

- [Database interoperability](#)

A call is done by Zhivko Ducheve during the GA for members in this AHA. The following names are given during the GA and in the subsequent weeks after the GA:

Dimitrios TSIOKOS, Greece

Tina FLISAR, Slovenia

Italy: dr Roberto Steri (CREA-ZA)

FAO: Roswitha Baumung or Grégoire Leroy.

Nordgen. Mervi HONKATUKIA Nordgen

Connection with IMAGE: Alessandra Stella

- [Network for small native horse breeds in the Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe](#)

The AHA leaders would like to finalize the list of experts to be part of the group to host a meeting late October / beginning of November.

NCs from UK, Poland, Latvia, Ireland, and Germany will give names of experts to the AHA leaders.

- [AHA Genebanks Sanitary rules](#)

The AHA leader is asking for more members for this project. The following persons are showing their interest:

Ewa Sozin (Poland); Sipke Hiemstra (The Netherlands), Beate Berger (Austria), Mervi Honkatukia (Nordgen).

Marcus Bates (UK) needs to confirm.

11. FAO report

[Cf. slide presentation.](#)

Roswitha Baumung briefly presented the follow-up of requests of the 18th session of the CGRFA as well as more DAD-IS/EFABIS development. The NCs are thanking Roswitha Baumung for her efforts to improve DAD IS and make it more useful.

The GA suggests that a side event is organized during the ITWG about the GR strategies; this request should be sent to Paul Boettcher, with copy to Roswitha Baumung and Grégoire Leroy. The event could also be organized during the CGRFA but with less chances of success. Roswitha Baumung recalls the GA that the DAD-NET list includes over 3,500 members and is a great way to disseminate information; the ERFP secretariat will send a reminder in the ERFP network.

12. Discussing the links between FAO and ERFP

[Cf. slide presentation.](#)

Deidre Januarie, chair of the CGRFA is presenting the main achievements and work in process since the last event.

She also takes the opportunity of joining our GA to get ideas for better cooperation between the countries of each African sub-regions. The ERFP network and secretariat is willing to help these subgroups.

13. Preparing the next ITWG

The following countries are the official representatives for the Europe region:

The Netherlands

Poland

Norway

Spain

Switzerland

France (alternate)

Slovenia (alternate)

The goal is to set up a meeting of the ITWG AHA, led by Nina Svartedal, as soon as some of the FAO documents are available- hopefully by the end of November.

14. AnGR strategy: summary of the WG discussion

[Cf. slide presentation.](#)

An action plan needs to be developed with strong connection to the ERFP MYPOW; for instance, the second chapter is strongly linked to our activities in the WG. The work from the TF will now focus mostly on chapter 3. The ERFP chair thanks warmly the WG chairs for their efficient work to collect outputs.

15. Follow-up of the strategies: TF, future MYPOW

[Cf. slide presentation.](#)

One question is raised about countries that already developed their own strategy; this item is clearly considered in the Global strategy (each country should develop an action plan to implement a strategy) and we should make this clear in the AnGR strategy.

A discussion starts about how the AnGR strategy should call for EU and national government to implement an action plan while this document has no legal basis. Roswitha Baumung suggests using the term “Call up on countries” which is used at FAO level. The ERFP chair also strongly recommends that all NCs that are part of the Zootechnical committee push the EU commission into taking the strategy to a further step.

16. EURC - Presentation of the project

[Cf. slide presentation.](#)

The official nomination of the EURC EAB will be voted in October by the Standing Zootechnical Committee of EU DG SANTE. In the work plan it will be necessary to connect with the ERFP network and non-EU countries. The next MYPOW and action plan of the ANGR strategy will also need to be connected to the RC workplan.

17. Linking EURC and ERFP: priorities and needs linked to the Animal Breeding Regulation.

If the consortium is elected, the three bodies that are part of it are closely linked to ERFP.

One of the main challenges will be the proper identification of the “third parties”, at national and international level. A key target group are the national competent authorities that were never approached at ERFP level. It is also a great opportunity to have better connection with EU and it might help the coordination between competent authority and NCs.

Roswitha Baumung wonders if it makes sense that the EURC is invited as an observer at ITWG and CGRFA. An issue is that the EU commits itself to fund the centre on a very short period (2 years).

18. AOB

For the Football World Cup, the Uruguayan national football team will dress in jerseys made of superfine wool from Uruguayan producers. The idea was suggested during the Uruguayan H2020 SMARTER Round Table.

Nordgen created a game that can be downloaded on a smartphone to learn better about the conservation of Nordic cattle breeds. The aim of the game is to keep alive a cow over a 200-year period. All the information about the game and how to download it can be found [on this webpage](#).

Jan Hendrik Schneider gave the information through ERFPP about their national congress for rare breeds September 26th / 28th, in Bonn. The congress will be held only physically but English translation will be provided for all speakers during the event.

Technical information about the dinner (Saturday) and the technical tour (Sunday) were given. The farm to be visited is situated in the North of Porto and is raising [Barrosa cow](#), a breed that is famous for the length of its horns.

The chair ends the meeting by thanking everybody for their participation and Nuno Carolino as well as the Secretariat for the organisation.

The meeting ended at noon, Sunday 4th, 2022.

The next GA will be held in Lyon, France

ERFP General Assembly - List of Participants – Porto, September 3/4th 2022

Country	Name Member	Surname	Presence	Category
Iceland	Birna K.	BALDURSDÓTTIR	Physical attendance	NC
UK	Marcus	BATES	Physical attendance	Technical advisor
FAO	Roswitha	BAUMUNG	Physical attendance	FAO rep.
Austria	Beate	BERGER	Virtual attendance	NC
Slovenia	Danijela	BOJKOVSKI	Physical attendance	NC
The Netherlands	Gerbrich	BONEKAMP	Physical attendance	Technical advisor
Luxembourg	Jeanne	BORMANN	Physical attendance	NC
Italy	Luca	BUTTAZZONI	Virtual attendance	NC
Portugal	Nuno	CAROLINO	Physical attendance	NC
Spain	Montserrat	CASTELLANOS MONCHO	Physical attendance	NC
France	Eléonore	CHARVOLIN-LEMAIRE	Physical attendance	ERFP Secretariat
France	Pierre	CHEREL	Physical attendance	NC
France	Coralie	DANCHIN	Physical attendance	ERFP Secretariat
Alcandora	Alvaro	DOMIGUEZ	Physical attendance	Journalist
Bulgaria	Zhivko	DUCHEV	Physical attendance	Node manager
Spain	Jesus	FERNANDEZ	Physical attendance	EAAP WG rep.
Slovenia	Tina	FLISAR	Physical attendance	Technical advisor
Germany	Holger	Göderz	Physical attendance	Technical advisor
Nordgen	Mervi	Honkatukia	Physical attendance	NGO
The Netherlands	Sipke-Joost	HIEMSTRA	Physical attendance	NC
Croatia	Ante	IVANKOVIĆ	Virtual attendance	NC
Namibia	Deidre	JANUARIE	Physical attendance	CGRFA chair
Latvia	Gita	JANSONE	Physical attendance	NC
Albania	Kristaq	KUME	Physical attendance	NC
Montenegro	Božidarka	MARKOVIĆ	Physical attendance	NC
RBI	Francisco	NAVAS GONZALES	Physical attendance	ngo
Czech Republic	Tomas	NEMECEK	Physical attendance	NC
Poland	Grazyna	POLAK	Physical attendance	NC
Switzerland	Melissa	RAEMY	Physical attendance	NC
The Netherlands	Annemieke	RATTINK	Physical attendance	Technical advisor
Germany	Jan Hendrik	SCHNEIDER	Physical attendance	NC
The Netherlands	Mira	SCHOON	Physical attendance	Technical advisor
Poland	Ewa	Sosin	Physical attendance	Technical advisor
Serbia	Srdjan	STOJANOVIĆ	Physical attendance	NC
Italy	Enrico	STURARO	Physical attendance	WG chair
Lithuania	Ruta	ŠVEISTIENĖ	Physical attendance	NC
Spain	Fernando	TEJERINA	Physical attendance	WG chair
Slovakia	Ján	TOMKA	Physical attendance	NC
Greece	Dimitrios	Tsiokos	Physical attendance	Technical advisor
Ireland	Sharon	WALSHE	Physical attendance	NC