

Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

December 16th 2021, webconference

Participants:

Chair: Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain

National coordinators, members of the SC:

Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia
Christina Ligda, Greece

Jan Hendrik Schneider, Germany

Invited speaker:

Sandra Goritschnig, ECPGR

Excused:

Nina Svartedal, Norway; Ruta Šveistienė, Lithuania

Secretariat:

Coralie Danchin, Alice Gurbanov (Idele) and Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire (Inrae) (France)

Montserrat Castellanos welcomes the participants and introduces the agenda. Alice Gurbanov presents herself briefly.

1. Brief information about the budget and bank payments

Two countries included in their 2021 participations the contributions of unpaid previous years (Italy and Portugal), and Cyprus paid its contribution for the first time since the new MYPOW. The increasing involvement of the countries to pay their contribution is important since we are working toward the implementation of a permanent secretariat, which will probably lead to limited involvement in the ERFP bodies for the countries that do not contribute.

2. End of the GenRes Bridge project/strategy

Danijela Bojkovski will include the comments from Dominique Planchenault (France) and Ela Martyniuk (Poland) who asked for a delay till the end of the year to respond. The final version of the strategy will be discussed within the TF led by Sipke Hiemstra.

The ECPGR secretariat sent a specific request to create a group with ERFP in order to combine efforts for the establishment of a Coordination and Information Centre on genetic resources. In their opinion, it would be also necessary to involve persons with expertise in related legal issues and administrative structures. On their side, four people were selected to participate in this group (Frank Begemann, Theo van Hintum, Marianne Lefort and Lorenzo Maggioni).

The SC **accepts** the proposal. It is suggested to include it as a sub group of the TF. Danijela Bojokovski will get in touch with Sipke Hiemstra to see when the TF can start and more specifically when the sub group for the EU coordination and Information centre can meet. The nominations of the people involved in this sub group are to be done by the TF.

The cover of the AnGR strategy is discussed. The SC validates the template provided by Alcandora, with the only suggestion to add also a DNA helix and a bee. The ERFP logo could be bigger too. The secretariat will ask Alcandora for the changes.

3. End of the GenRes Bridge project/other items

a. Sustainability of the GenRes Journal

Cf. slides presentation by Sandra Goritschnig.

Some points that remained to be clarified are discussed after the presentation. The Forest domain publishes its own journal, therefore they are not interested in the sustainability of the GenRes journal. The involvement of the network in the review process could lower the overall financial charge, more specifically if language editing is included. ECPGR is working on ways to help the sustainability of the journal, for instance by creating paying special issues and looking for sponsors.

The message sent by the SC to the GenRes editor is that the journal is much needed in our community and that it definitely fills a gap.

A suggestion would be to have a more open ways of communication and that it should be used as a tool of communication for the two networks. Some more definite answers, including how much funding could be devoted to the journal in 2022, will be provided to the GenRes editor beginning of 2022.

b. -Improving the communication about the gateway

The secretariat will send new reminders to the NCs and network so that organizations involved in Genetic Resources register in the gateway. The usefulness of the gateway depends greatly on the participation. The secretariat will send a text that the NCs can translate and disseminate to the AnGR community in their country.

4. Validation of the 2022 *ad hoc* actions

The *Ad hoc* action *Use of the IMAGE self-diagnostic tool* is **approved** by the Steering Committee; the tool was used during the peer review operated for the GenResBridge project and found as insufficient for a whole diagnosis; therefore it is suggested to add the use of the template created for the peer review assessment for the on-site visit. The calendar probably needs to be adapted too.

The Infographics Ad Hoc action is already finalized, and three infographics are available on [the website](#). Any new version of the infographics can be done for about 1 000 € HT, the translation needs to be done beforehand. The SC decides that any country that is interested should pay for the version in its own language, by contacting the secretariat that will transfer the demand to the company who edited the infographics.

Danijela Bojkovski presents a new *Ad Hoc* Action on behalf of the *in situ* WG. The members still needs to be nominated. Two actions are included, one is a survey, in link with the work done by Srdjan Stojanovic, and the other one is about the setting up of a network for in situ organizations. The framework and aim of its network could be included in the survey. The work will be achieved virtually, if any physical meeting is planned, it will be linked to the WG. The Ad Hoc action is **approved** by the SC.

5. Communication:

The three leaflets (EUGENA, ERFP, AnGR strategy) are scattered on two websites (EUGENA and ERFP), it is suggested by Monste Castellanos to include them in the “leaflets” section of the ERFP website.

It seems that more newsletter were published than the ones available on the website; the secretariat will check this point.

Alcandora was provided with several news to be included in a newsletter but no feedback was received, the secretariat will send them a reminder.

Montserrat Castellanos did a meeting with EFFAB and EAAP; both organizations agreed to relay our news. An interesting article to start with would be the peer review announcement.

Regarding the participations in the advisory Board of projects GERONIMO and SCALA MEDI, the Secretariat can attend the first meetings. Coralie Danchin will ask for support from the Steering Committee when necessary. The member will be designated depending on the members' availability and area of expertise, at the view of the board's agenda.

The Ad Hoc action on communication still needs a leader; connexion needs to be done with each WG, with Grazyna Polak who agrees to join as the link for the Documentation and Information Working Group. As long as no leader is found, Coralie Danchin will increase her efforts to write articles and communication items, with the help of IDELE (including Alice Gurbanov and Lauriane Llareus when she is available).

The webinar held last September was a real success; it is suggested to renew the initiative in the fall 2022, which is a time when there are less work at ERFP level, and when most of the 2022 actions are achieved. The SC validates the idea of having a webinar once a year, during fall period. The main lines of the webinar will be discussed in a future SC. Two topics are already suggested, one about genebanks presentation, based on the peer reviews and QMS Ad Hoc action, and one about transboundary breeds.

6. Joint working groups 2022 – new TFs

The SC maintains the idea of having joint sessions for the WGs. A set of date (June 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2022) will be sent to the WG chairs for approval. The venue, virtual or physical, will be decided at the next SC, as well as the place if it is held physically.

Montserrat Castellanos suggest for the future that the WG meet in Toledo, Spain, during or before the ICAR congress in 2023 (from May 22 till May 26). Common sessions could be held between the ERFP WG and some ICAR sessions.

For the two new TFs about cryobank software and transboundary breeds, the calendar for 2022 still need to be set. One of the task of the Transboundary breeds will be to write an article for the GenRes journal.

7. AOB – Date for the next SC

The Secretariat is informing the SC that the French NC will confirm the renewal of France for holding the ERFP secretariat.

The next webmeeting of the SC will be held March 28th 2022

The meeting closed at 16:10.