

Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

September 2nd, 2022, Porto, Portugal

Participants:

Chair: Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain

National coordinators, members of the SC:

Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia

Jan Hendrik Schneider, Germany

Invited participants:

Roswitha Baumung, FAO

Enrico Sturaro, Doc & Info Chair, Italy

Sipke Hiemstra, TF chair, The Netherlands

Fernando Tejerina, *Ex Situ* Chair, Spain

Excused:

Christina Ligda, Greece

Nina Svartedal, Norway

Ruta Šveistienė, Lithuania

Secretariat:

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

Montserrat Castellanos welcomes the participants and introduces the agenda. The Agenda of the SC meeting is approved.

Most of the slides presented by the secretariat are to be validated and/or changed by the Steering Committee before their presentation to the General Assembly (GA) the next day. Therefore, the slides presentations are posted in the GA webpage.

1. Annual and financial progress

The secretariat presents the main items of the annual progress as well as the final financial report and current financial situation (as for August 1st, 2022). The closing budget for the previous financial year (2021) was presented to the SC, which accepted it.

2. Communication issues

a. Node manager contract

This contract has been renewed without changes since the election of France as ERFP secretariat, however Zhivko Ducheve's tasks have changed over the years. The SC suggests inviting Z. Ducheve to review his contract with him at the next SC, to be held virtually by the end of the year.

b. Communication contract with Alcandora

Most of the communication work focussed on social media with the help of Alcandora, but some concerns are raised about the audience reached through these means. Danijela Bojkovski reminds the SC that a lot of work had been done by the communication AHA, including the definition of our target audience etc. There is a strong need to have a leader on a communication TF, however no one stepped up to take over the leadership so far.

After a brief discussion, the SC agrees that immediate efforts should be done to write a newsletter. One issue raised is how to disseminate the letters due to GDPR issues. Danijela Bojkovski will contact the agency that created the ERFP website to see if it is possible to create a function to subscribe to the newsletter.

A draft newsletter will be realized by Montserrat Castellanos and the secretariat, with the help of the WG chairs, and sent to Alcandora to be released before the end of the year. The newsletter will focus on outputs of the Working Groups and General Assembly.

The webinar held last year has been a great opportunity to widen our audience. Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire offers to organise a new session based on scientific topics relevant for our community, in order to better connect political decision-makers and researchers.

3. New reimbursement rules

The secretariat suggested to make some changes since the amount reimbursed on different items (maximum amount per trip, rooms, meals etc.) have not been changed in the reimbursement policy since 2014. Some paragraphs also needed clarifications. The modifications will be presented during the GA for approval.

4. Meeting with the WG/TF Chairs

Written reports were prepared by all WG/TF Chairs, prior to the Assembly meeting, and sent to all NCs and Secretariat. All the Chairs attended the meeting of the SC to discuss future plans.

As a general comment, WG chairs are strongly pushing NC to nominate experts in the WG. The message will be pass on once again during the GA. The ambition is to have active people in the WG.

Sipke Hiemstra is presenting the work of the Strategy TF. The purpose of this TF has evolved within a year since the EU DG SANTE launched a call for a EU Reference Centre for Endangered Animal Breeds (EURC EAB). The work of this TF needs to be closely linked to the work of the future center. On this matter, Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire informs the audience that a seminar about the definition of “hardy breeds” -a term used in the European breeding

regulation – will be organized in France in 2023, and the creation of the EUR EAB could be opportunity to have an international seminar.

The future plans for next year are discussed in the lights of the events and actions presented by the WG / TF chairs and the future AHA. The budget prepared is higher than for 2022 to consider the higher cost of the ERFP secretariat, the co-founding of the GENRES journal and the implementation of the new AHA. The budget is quite superior to the expected country contributions: the idea is to finance actions 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.

In 2023 one of the common threads of the EAAP congress will be conservation and biodiversity. It seems a great opportunity to ask to have Sipke Hiemstra as a main speaker in the plenary session, where he could present the GR strategies and the EURC EAB.

The next SC will be held virtually by the end of the year 2022.

5. Bilateral meeting of the ERFP SC and the FAO

Roswitha Baumung presents a detail version of her GA slides.

The dates for the next ITWG had to be moved due to conflicting agenda with another international main event. The documents should be available two months in advance. At ERFP level, Nina Svartedal informed the ERFP secretariat that she agrees to lead the ITWG AHA, the SC thanks her for doing so.

To improve our communications about AnGR at ERFP and FAO level, it was decided last year that the ERFP secretariat would meet the new FAO communication officer, however the person did not stay. Another meeting should be organized this fall since another person could take care of this task.

The bilateral meeting closed at 18:05.