

# Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, webmeeting

## Participants:

**Chair:** Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain

### **National coordinators, members of the SC:**

Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia

Christina Ligda, Greece

Jan Hendrik Schneider, Germany

Ruta Šveistienė, Lithuania

## **Excused:**

Nina Svartedal, Norway

Sipke Hiemstra, TF chair, The Netherlands

## **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.

### **1) Brief information about the budget and bank payments; Final validation of the reimbursement procedure**

*Cf. slides presentation and reimbursement rules pdf.*

As requested by the NCs during the General Assembly in Porto, the secretariat has evaluated the average and maximum amount spent by the NCs and experts for their 2022 trips.

Based on this evaluation, the SC suggests that the **maximum amount to be reimbursed** per trip should be raised to **950 €**. However, it should be constantly reminded to the participants to limit their travel costs, by making early booking for instance.

=> The secretariat will ask the NCs to validate this maximum amount per email.

### **2) Planning of the ITWG AHA - 2022 AHA/TF recap and planning of the 2023 AHA**

Eleonore Charvolin offered to lead the ITWG AHA due to Nina Svartedal's unavailability, the SC thanks her for it. The first meetings will be planned shortly with the Working Group countries members and alternates. Also, Paul Boettcher (FAO) suggested that Coralie Danchin participates to the bureau meeting held the 21/12/22 for the preparation of ITWG, on behalf of the European Region since Nina Svartedal's cannot attend it. The SC agrees provided minutes are sent after the meeting to the ITWG AHA members [minutes sent by email on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December].

It is suggested to host a side event during ITWG which will present briefly the EGRS, the Animal Strategy and the launch of the EURC EAB. The SC validates the idea, the secretariat will send a proposal to the members of the EURC EAB consortium and the SC members as soon as the template for side events candidacy will be made available.

Zhivko Duchevev does a brief presentation of the advancement of two ERFP actions:

- TF genebanks database:

There are now 5 countries involved in the TF. No consensus emerged on the best software to be used since neither solutions are specialized for genebanks collections. The TF leaders suggested to the countries that have a clear idea on which database suits them best to proceed to its implementation.

- AHA database interoperability

The first meeting's goal was to prioritize which system is the most important and therefore should be made the most interoperable. The next step will be to see how it can be done.

*Cf. slides presentation for the recap and planning of the 2023 AHA*

### **3) Communication**

#### **a) Node manager contract**

The node manager contract has been renewed without changes since the election of France as ERFP secretariat in 2018, however Zhivko Ducheve's tasks have changed over the years. It was suggested at the previous SC to invite Z. Ducheve to review his contract and change the terms accordingly.

Zhivko Ducheve details his help nowadays:

- The help for EFABIS is quite sporadic.
- On the other hand, more help is needed for the EUGENA portal and database since the quite often the communication between the genebanks and NCs is not ideal. For instance, the genebanks are not aware of EFABIS and the name of the breeds can be quite different from what is in the FAO database.
- The collaboration with FAO in the development of DAD-IS is quite steady; for instance, Zhivko helped to implement the Russian version of the system. He is also a preferred contact to test new development.
- A major change is the active participation of Zhivko in TF and AHA; it is suggested to add this point in the contract.

Montserrat Castellanos is wondering if it would be possible to include easily in EFABIS the list of breeding organizations that each EU country needs to provide at EU level. She will provide the information about the format needed and the Spanish template so Zhivko can investigate.

#### **b) Newsletter**

All raw material was provided to Alcandora but no template was received yet despite the reminders sent by the Secretariat and the chair. It is still hoped that a draft, to be validated by email by the SC, will be sent before the end of the year and disseminated.

Due to GDPR issues, the dissemination will be limited in a first phase. An add on could be included on the website so people can subscribe to the newsletter; Danijela Bojkovski investigated the issue by asking the designer of the ERFP website and it can be done for a budget of about 1400 €, taxes included. The SC validates the cost to be included in the communication line of the ERFP budget.

#### **c) Update about the GENRES journal.**

Coralie Danchin met Sandra Goritschnig and Lorenzo Maggionni October 21<sup>st</sup>. They informed her that the approximate cost of the Journal is 30k per year and thus 15k per Network would be a half split. Considering that ERFP has only 10k available for 2023, ECPGR will offer the management of the journal in 2022 entirely and we accept 10k as a contribution from ERFP for 2023. They also understood that for future years, they need to wait decisions from our General Assembly on future budgets.

The SC thinks that for future decisions it will be necessary to assess the evolution of interest for the journal in our sector.

#### **4) Update of the work done by the TF strategy; follow-up of the global strategy at EU level; drafting of the MYPOW**

TF strategy: since Sipke Hiemstra is finally unavailable to attend the SC meeting and all the SC members are part of the TF, the issue is not further discussed. The plan of action will be used as a template to draft the new MYPOW.

An informal online meeting on the Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe and possible steps forward was held on 7th November 2022 at the initiative of the Czech representatives. A summary will be sent to the attention of the relevant European Commission DGs as well as to be circulated through the Council Secretariat to the members of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Genetic Resources) of the Council of the EU. In concluding, the Czech Presidency proposed to bring this summary to the attention of the relevant European Commission services and subsequently hold an informal meeting to discuss the matter further also with the European Commission. Moreover, Sweden, the next Presidency to the Council of the EU, expressed its preparedness to address this issue further at the Council of the EU level.

Montserrat has prepared a note for her ministry about the possibility of organizing a workshop during the Spanish presidency. If they don't agree to organize it with a EU label, at least a national event will be organized.

#### **5) Update on the first meeting of the EURC EAB consortium**

*Cf. slides presentation*

Most actions are drafted with strong connections with the ERFP network. The work of the consortium will start officially January 1st, 2023, however the members already met physically in Paris this November and more virtual meetings are scheduled till the end of the year.

#### **6) Working groups 2023**

The SC and the WG chairs are validating the idea of holding the WG meetings the days preceding the ICAR annual Conference in Toledo (Spain) from 24 to May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The organizing committee needs urgently information for logistic issues, such as the number of rooms needed and the room sizes. The SC and WG chairs will also need to think together about issues that could be interesting for ICAR attendees to have an open session.

#### **7) AOB**

Montserrat Castellanos has pushed further the idea of having Sipke Hiemstra as a main speaker for the next EAAP event; unfortunately the idea does seem to catch.

**The next SC will be held virtually March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.**