



European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

Regional platform for the support of management, conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources (AnGR).

Newsletter

December 2022

Our key mission

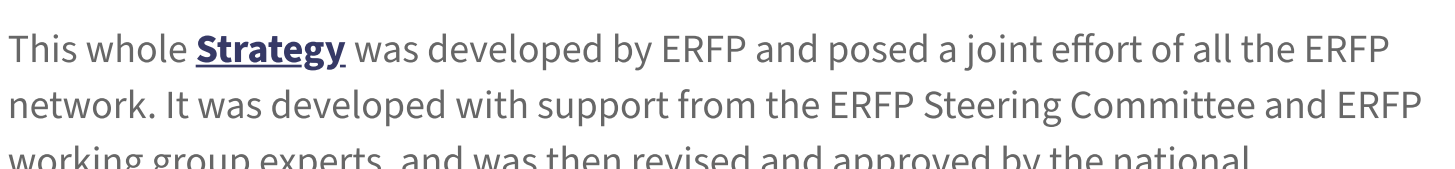
Since 2001, our main goal remains to facilitate the collaboration, coordination of work and exchange of information and experience between different European countries and governmental and non-governmental organizations. With a scientific scope and always dealing with the support of **in situ** and **ex situ** conservation and sustainable use of AnGR, we facilitate and help with the implementation of FAO's Global Plan of Action for AnGR.



What we do

Support FAO in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action

The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources was adopted in 2007 at the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in Switzerland. From ERFP we contribute to the implementation of up to 23 Strategic Priorities contained in this global plan.



Design and implementation of an AnGR Strategy for Europe

This whole **Strategy** was developed by ERFP and posed a joint effort of all the ERFP network. It was developed with support from the ERFP Steering Committee and ERFP working group experts, and was then revised and approved by the national coordinators with the aim of facilitating the implementation of the GPA in the European countries.



AnGR include all livestock species, breeds and strains that are of economic, environmental, scientific and cultural interest. Preserving the diversity of these resources is essential for ensuring sustainable livestock development, rural livelihoods, culture and tradition as well as environmental stewardship and food security.

Furthermore, AnGR are the genetic base for the livestock breeding programs needed to ensure current and future livestock production. The aim of this Strategy is to maintain the wealth and minimize the loss of livestock genetic diversity, to support breeding, diversification and innovation, and build resilience in the livestock sector.

Collaboration with EURC-EAB, the European Reference Centre of Endangered Animal Breeds

EURC-EAB **will provide**, from 2023 on, scientific and technical advice to the European Commission aimed at establishing and harmonizing methods for the conservation of endangered breeds, as well as the preservation of genetic diversity within these breeds.

This includes the breeding of cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and horses. The EURC-EAB will also support governments and breed organizations in the implementation and further development of European breeding regulations (EU 2016/1012).

To this regard, ERFP will work closely with the organization to establish priorities or needs and to disseminate existing guidelines and tools for implementing breeding and conservation strategies of endangered breeds. Most of this collaboration was discussed in our last ERFP General Assembly which took place last September in Porto, Portugal.

GenRes Journal

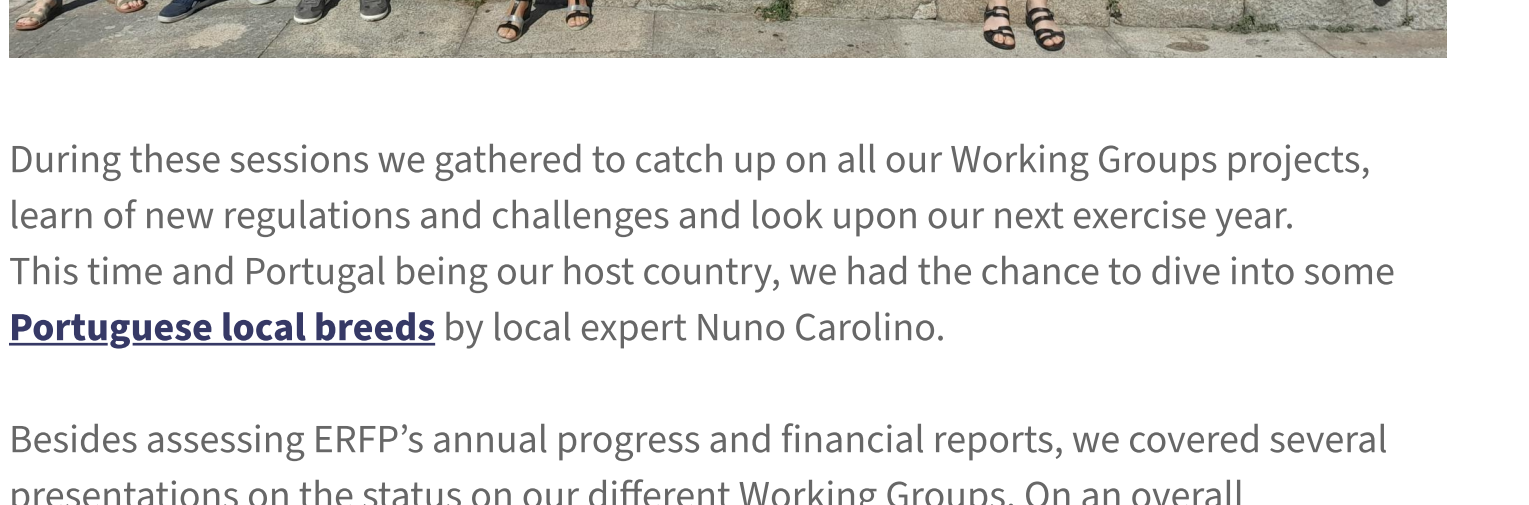
ERFP participated in the **GENRES Bridge project** that launched in 2020, a new open-access peer-reviewed online journal.

The Genetic Resources journal serves as a platform to share global knowledge and tools used within the community of practitioners of plant, animal and forest genetic resources involved in monitoring, collecting, maintaining, characterizing and using in situ or ex situ genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The journal publishes original research as well as methods, strategies, guidelines, case studies or reviews on a variety of topics including documentation, conservation, assessment, characterization and evaluation of genetic resources or biodiversity, socioeconomic practices, policy guidelines or similar. Authors are invited to submit original research, reviews or short communications that cover the scope of the journal. For further details, see About the journal and review our Author Guidelines.



ERFP General Assembly

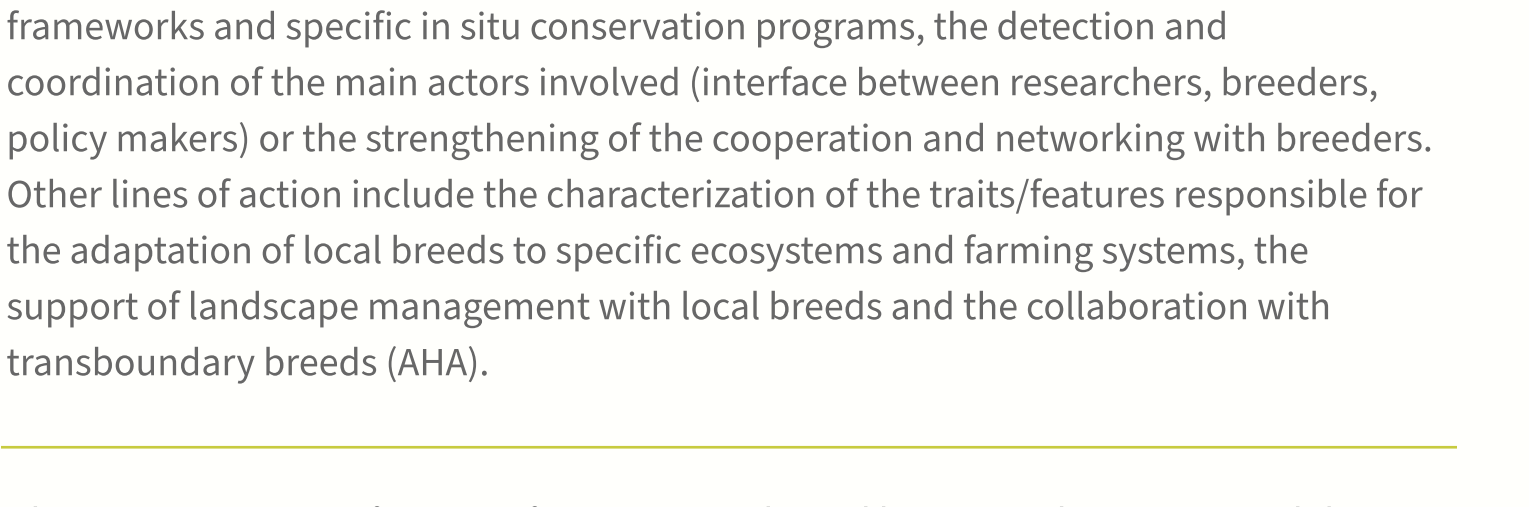


One of our most precious and fruitful events is our annual meeting. Last September 3rd we called in an international meeting which was held in the Legendary Hotel in the city of Porto, Portugal.



During these sessions we gathered to catch up on all our Working Groups projects, learn of new regulations and challenges and look upon our next exercise year. This time and Portugal being our host country, we had the chance to dive into some **Portuguese local breeds** by local expert Nuno Carolino.

Besides assessing ERFP's annual progress and financial reports, we covered several presentations on the status on our different Working Groups. On an overall presentation, ERFP Secretariat Coralie Danchin shared some key and useful points for all attendees and Working Groups, like the idea of developing infographics in English, a type of material that had worked incredibly well before.



A **full report** on the **Information & Documentation Working Group** was shared, covering their achievements and immediate challenges, which include their contribution to and ad hoc action on transboundary breeds, the support on the implementation of AnGR strategy and implementation of new indicators for EFABIS (European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System). The team, chaired by Enrico Sturaro, also raised a proposal to work along with other Working Groups on the **Conservation of Genetic Resources at Landscape Level through Demonstration Cases**.

The *in situ* **Conservation Working Group**, chaired by Danijela Bojkovski, also presented their **annual report** and defined their current working areas. Among their short and medium term challenges, the team face the review of definitions, frameworks and specific in situ conservation programs, the detection and coordination of the main actors involved (interface between researchers, breeders, policy makers) or the strengthening of the cooperation and networking with breeders. Other lines of action include the characterization of the traits/features responsible for the adaptation of local breeds to specific ecosystems and farming systems, the support of landscape management with local breeds and the collaboration with transboundary breeds (AHA).

The *ex situ* **Conservation Working Group** is chaired by Fernando Tejerina and their **annual report** covered the development of the European Genebank Network for Animal Genetic Resources EUGENA, now including Hungary among 12 other countries, with up to 13 gene banks and over 1.300.000 genetic samples. The growth of this network has been exponential. The team is also in charge of providing documentation software for gene banks and has developed an ad hoc action which goal is to help standardize the management practices in animal gene banks and to guide towards the implementation of a Quality Management System QMS.



Walking towards 2023...

Our most immediate challenges for this new year intend to boost our organization and all of our teams to achieve even more successful and impactful results. There are quite a few things planned for this 2023:

Colaboration ICAR Congress in Toledo, Spain, happening late May 2023

Also, we are planning several *ad hoc* actions. We are calling out for participation for a particular action on small native horse breeds in the Baltic Sea region. Contact our team! Also, another *ad hoc* action will deal with specific measures for AnGR **ex situ Conservation Working Group** in the framework of animal health legislation.

Contact and participation

Are you a main player in AnGR? Follow ERFP to know its activities and give your feedback.

Follow our Social Media:



If you are somehow involved in AnGR: JOIN ERFP by asking your National Coordinator your will to take part of the Task Forces (TF) and Ad Hoc Actions (AHA) related to the objectives of each Working Group (WG)

www.animalgeneticresources.net

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