

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP)



Minutes of the Ex Situ Conservation Working Group (DRAFT).

22th May 2023

Meeting venue: Castillo de San Servando, Cta. de San Servando, s/n, Toledo, Spain

Chair: F. Tejerina.

Minutes: Fernando Tejerina

Presentations of the meeting can be downloaded from:

<https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/index.php/event/working-groups-meeting-day-1-toledo-spain/>

1. Welcome, introduction and main activities in the last year.

F. Tejerina welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. He thanked Coralie Danchin and Castilla-La Mancha colleagues for the organization of the meeting. The new members of the WG (Dainis Rungis and Katerina Saratsi) were introduced. The list of participants can be found in Annex I. The chair explained the objectives and outlined the program. The participants agreed on the agenda (Annex II).

1.1 Report on the WG activities.

Fernando Tejerina reported the activities of the WG in the last year, the most relevant achievements have been:

- Reporting of the activities in Porto ERFP General Assembly.
- Approval by the General Assembly of the Workplan for 2023 an extra budget of 15.000 euros for the customization of the documentation database for genebanks.
- Development of the task force on documentation software (4 meetings).
- Ending the Ad Hoc Action Strengthening national capacities towards the development of a national Gene Bank strategy.
- Development of the Ad Hoc Action on specific measures for AnGR ex situ conservation in the framework of the animal health legislation (together EURC).
- Collaboration with ERFP Secretariat in the dissemination of information and knowledge in the ERFP Webpage and Social Media.



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- Development of EUGENA.
 - New country on board: Hungary
 - 2 new gene banks on board from Hungary and Serbia.
 - Update of information in the EUGENA webpage.
 - First meeting of EUGENA Steering Boards.
- Collaboration with the Task Force AnGR Strategy-Action Plan.

2. Updating of the EUGENA status and EUGENA Steering Board meeting conclusions.

The Chair presented the current status of EUGENA in relation with:

- Countries members
- Genebanks members
- Species, type of material and amount of material in EUGENA.

The number of samples with information in EUGENA is higher than 1.700.000, which represent a relevant milestone. The vast majority of those samples are semen doses, but the number of blood and DNA samples have increased notably in the last year and two new type of material (Ovarian tissue and Primordial germ cells) have been added to the database. In addition, EUGENA collect information on samples from 337 different breeds, which represents the 8% of all European breeds.

The first Steering Board meeting was celebrated on 20th April, the attendances were discussing on:

- New ideas to enlarge the net, including the addition of Ex situ In vivo facilities.
- The promotion of EUGENA at national and european level.
- Different issues for networking, as QMS, MTA/MAA, Animal Health issues or better integration of Ex situ and In situ activities in breeding programmes.
- Updates in EUGENA webpage.

All members agree in celebrate the next meeting phisically in one of the member countries.



3. Genebanking of AnGR in Spain.

Genebank managers from Castilla-La Mancha (Rafael Garcia), Galicia (Julio Feijóo), Islas Baleares (Agueda Pons), Madrid (Sonsoles Zabala) and Extremadura (Andrés Domingo), explained the development of genebanks in their territories.

4. Task Force on documentation software for genebanks.

Sipke Hiemstra reported on the development of this Task Force, which main objective is find a common solution for the data management in genebanks. The TF have met 4 times (2 with database suppliers and 2 the members alone), and the most remarkable achievement is the decision to select the database Biologics (by Bioware) as the most recommend for genebanks.

Annemieke Rattink reported on the first steps towards migration to Biologics and the experiences of Wageningen Unversity in the costumization of the database.

5. Report of activities Ad Hoc Action on specific measures for AnGR ex situ conservation in the framework of the animal health legislation.

The main objective of the AHA is develop recommendations for the incorporation to the national animal health legal framework exceptions for the collection, transformation and storage of germinal products intended to be kept in a genebanks. The chair reported on the members of the AHA team, conclusions of the kick-off meeting and further steps.

6. Developement of the ERFP MyPOW for ex situ conservation.

The Chair remind the key recomendations on Ex situ conservation in the European Strategy for Animal Genetic Resources and the actions proposed last year in Paris WG meeting. The members discussed on the responsible actors of te actions, scope and on other activities in relation of ex situ conservation with the next agreements to change the current proposal of Action Plan or MYPow:



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1. Action *"Make an inventory of ex situ in vivo collections"* develop in cooperation with ERFP In Situ WG.
2. Action *"Develop guidelines for better integration and complementarity of ex situ and in situ conservation strategies for the conservation of endangered breeds and the genetic diversity within those breeds"*, delete the European spatial dimension.
3. Action *"Design and implement conservation and breeding programmes with the integration of in situ and ex situ activities"*, the In Situ WG, Ex Situ WG and EURC-EAB should not be responsible actors.
4. Action *"Promote collaboration between actors to strengthen the conservation and breeding programmes for transboundary breeds"*, add the ERFP Ex situ WG as responsible actor.
5. Action *"Develop and implement collaborative conservation and breeding programmes for each transboundary breed"*, the Docu and Info WG, In situ WG, Ex situ WG and EURC-EAB should not be responsible actors.
6. The Ex situ WG should be a responsible actor in the actions: *"Define sustainable breeding programs and propose methods and indicators for assessing breeding programs"* and *"Regular assessment of all breeding programs (local and transboundary breeds)"*
7. The Ex situ Conservation WG members propose does no move to MYPOW, the next actions:
 - a. Promote establishment of core collections and regular updates of the material stored in the breeding programmes of all breeds.
 - b. Fund the establishment of core collections for all relevant breeds.
 - c. Implement the derogations in the national animal health regulations.
 - d. Design and implement conservation and breeding programmes with the integration of in situ and ex situ activities.
 - e. Establish multi-stakeholder committee to oversee the implementation of the national strategy
 - f. Develop and implement collaborative conservation and breeding programmes for each transboundary breed
8. The Ex situ Conservation WG members propose include in the MYPOW, the next actions:
 - a. Support the update of the database software for genebanks.
 - b. Develop EUGENA steering board.
 - c. Sharing knowledge and expertise in relation with cryopreservation protocols by species.
 - d. Spread information about Ex situ conservation and EUGENA in collaboration with the communication strategy of the ERFP.

The members of the WG could send new comments until the 30th of may



7. Guidelines on practical recommendations for the development of genebanks for animal genetic resources.

The guidelines are the final output of the AHA to strengthening national capacities towards the development of a national Gene Bank strategy. The main AHA objective is strengthen the national capacities for the management of the ex situ conservation of AnGR.

Christina Ligda presented the structure of the Guidelines on practical recommendations for the development of genebanks for animal genetic resources, and the next topics from guidelines were introduced to the WG members:

- Involvement of private and public actors in the genebank development in Norway, by Anna Caroline Holene
- Funding genebanks in the RDP in Portugal, by Rosa Lino
- Organization and coordination in France in the field of ex situ conservation to enrich the French National Cryobank collections and How to become an inseminator in France?, by Delphine Duclos.

8. What´s new in the production and cryoconservation of porcine embryos?

Cristina Cuello, Profesor in the Veterinary Faculty of Murcia University and member of the Research Group “Animal preproduction” delivered an interesting presentation on the last advances on the In vivo and In vitro embryo production in porcine.

9. Workplan for 2024. (To be approved by the General Assembly).

The chair presented a proposal of workplan for 2023-2024. After the meeting a consultation period will be opened to send comments to the proposal (by 15th June), and also for a prioritization of the tasks (with the exception of EUGENA development, which is the highest priority for the WG).

11. AOB.

The Chair report on the further steps of the AHA use of the IMAGE self-diagnostic tool to support the development of a quality management system in European animal gene banks, lead by Michele Tixier-Boichard.



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The Chair acknowledges the collaboration and willingness of all members, encourages all of them to continue supporting the tasks of the WG in all the year and closes the meeting of the ex situ conservation working group.

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ANNEX I ATTENDANCES.




European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP)








2023 ERFP Working Groups
Toledo, May 22nd and 23rd
List of attending people

Country / Organization	Name	Observer / Signature
ANIA	Luisa	PAPA
ATIA	Jelena	RAMLIK
	Ava	GRIVAKOS CHAMPATTE
NCE	Dolphine	DUCLOS
ECE	Nicoletti	SARATSI
IA	gestivo	GANDRE
VIA	Anno	ZELTKOVSKA
VIA	Doris	BUNGIS
HERLANDS	Sipke Joost	HEHSTRA
IRAY	Jelena	PEPPO
AND	Ewa	SOSIN
ITUGAL	Iteso Lindo Neto	PEREIRA
IN	Fernando	TEJERBA
ITZERLAND	Marlisa	NEUBITSCHHO
IFRAIA	Boris	BOCCIA
TOO KIV-DOR	Milica	BATEZ
EECE	Katerina	SARABI
ZYANY	Steffen	WEGARD
AIN	Rafael	GONCALVES CANO
HERLANDS	Anemieke	RATTINK
VIN	José	Fajóspica
IN	Andri	Damen Rares



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Country / Organization	Name	Observer	Signature
GIN	ÁGUEDA LAURA	PONS BARRO	Yes 
GIN	Alvaro	DOMINGUEZ	Yes
GIN	Andres	DOMINGO MONTES	Yes 
GIN	Eva	HERRERO	Yes
GIN	Javier	FOUZ UGUET	Yes
GIN	Jesús	GONZÁLEZ	Yes 
GIN	JOSE MANUEL	ALANZOR PUENTE	Yes 
GIN	JULIO	FEIJÓO MERA	Yes 
GIN	RAFAEL	GONZÁLEZ CANO	Yes 
GIN	RAFAEL	GARCÍA-PLATA	Yes
GIN	SONSOLES	ZABALA	Yes 



ANNEX II AGENDA

Agenda of the ERFP Ex Situ Conservation WG meeting

22st May.

22nd May 2022 Monday	Meeting of WG ex situ	
12:00-12:20	Welcome and Introduction. Objectives of the meeting - Report on the WG activities.	Chair.
12:20-12:40	Updating of the EUGENA status and EUGENA Steering Board meeting conclusions.	Chair.
12:40-13:30	Genebanking of AnGR in Spain.	Genebank managers
13:30-13:50	Report of activities Task Force on documentation software for genebanks.	Sipke Hiemstra.
13:50-14:00	Report of activities Ad Hoc Action on specific measures for AnGR ex situ conservation in the framework of the animal health legislation.	Chair.
14:00-15:00	Lunch Break	
15:00-16:00	Development of the ERFP MyPOW for ex situ conservation.	Chair + all.
16:00-16:20	Guidelines on practical recommendations for the development of genebanks for animal genetic resources.	Christina Ligda.
16:20-16:40	Coffee Break.	
16:40-17:30	Guidelines on practical recommendations for the development of genebanks for animal genetic resources. Practical examples. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Involvement of private and public actors in the genebank development in Norway</i> <i>Funding genebanks in the RDP in Portugal.</i> <i>Organization and coordination in France in the field of ex situ conservation to enrich the French National Cryobank collections and How to become an inseminator in France?</i> 	Anna Holene. Rosa Lino. Delphine Duclos.
17:30-18:10	What's new in the production and cryoconservation of porcine embryos?	Cristina Cuello.
18:10-18:25	Work plan for 2024 (to be approved at Assembly)	Chair.
18:25-18:30	AOB - Conclusions.	Chair.