

Meeting


ERFP WG In situ Conservation

and valorization of AnGR

Toledo,22 May 2023

Chair:

Danijela Bojkovski



ERFP

European Regional Focal Point
for Animal Genetic Resources



INSTITUT DE
L'ELEVAGE **idele**

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Members of the WG In situ conservation


Country	Name	Surname
Albania	Kristaq	KUME
Austria	Beate	BERGER
Croatia	Ante	IVANKOVIĆ
Estonia	Sirje	JALAKAS
Finland	Juha	KANTANEN
France	Coralie	DANCHIN-BURGE
Georgia	Tornike	ZHGENTI
Germany	Holger	GÖDERZ
Greece	Dimitrios	TSIOKOS
Hungary	Papp	DOROTTYA
Iceland	Birna K.	BALDURSDÓTTIR
Italy	Fabio	PILLA
Latvia	Anna	ZELTKOVSKA
Lithuania	Ruta	ŠVEISTIENĖ
Montenegro	Milan	MARKOVIC
Nordgen	Mervi	HONKATUKIA
Norway	Peer	BERG
Poland	Agnieszka	CHEŁMIŃSKA
Portugal	Pedro	VIEIRA
ProSpecieRara	Philippe	AMMANN
Rare Breeds International	Juan	VINCENTE
Serbia	Srdjan	STOJANOVIĆ
Slovakia	Jan	TOMKA
Slovenia	Danijela	BOJKOVSKI
Spain	Jesus	FERNANDEZ MARTIN
Sweden	Anna-Karin	GIDLUND
The Netherlands	Jack	WINDIG
United Kingdom	Marcus	BATES

Nomination of experts into
the WG can only be done by
NC

NCs are invited to nominate
experts before and soon after
the GA

If expert is not able to attend,
NC can nominate replacment
jsut for the specific meeting

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<div><div><div>European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources</div></div><div>ERFP</div><div>Agenda of the <i>In situ</i> Conservation meeting</div><div>22nd May 2023; Toledo</div><div>Address: Castillo de San Servando, Cta. de San Servando, s/n, 45001 Toledo, Spain</div><div>Chair: Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia</div><div><table><tr><td>22nd May 2022 Monday</td><td>Meeting of WG <i>In situ</i></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12:00-12:15</td><td>Welcome and Introduction - Objectives of the WG meeting</td><td>Chair</td></tr><tr><td>12:15-12:30</td><td>AnGR Strategy for Europe – Action Plan review</td><td>Chair</td></tr><tr><td>12:30-13:30</td><td>Development of the ERFP MyPOW for <i>in situ</i> conservation (review, preparation of the text)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13:30-13:50</td><td><i>In situ</i> conservation in different countries; conservation programs; goals, priorities, actors and initiatives</td><td>Dimitrios Tsiokos/Srdjan Stojanović</td></tr><tr><td>13:50-14:00</td><td>Conclusions</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14:00-15:00</td><td>Lunch break</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15:00-15:30</td><td>Review of the support measures and definition of native breed</td><td>Chair + all</td></tr><tr><td>15:30-15:50</td><td>Reinforce and support landscape management with native breeds</td><td>Holger Goederz</td></tr><tr><td>15:50-16:10</td><td>Strengthen collaboration/networking with breeders</td><td>Coralie Danchin</td></tr><tr><td>16:10-16:30</td><td>Breed characteristics and traits related to adaptation in specific ecosystems and farming system</td><td>Jesus Fernandez</td></tr><tr><td>16:30-17:00</td><td>Coffee break</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17:00-17:20</td><td>Local breeds and transhumance in the Alps and in the Mediterranean</td><td>Fabio Pilla</td></tr><tr><td>17:20-17:40</td><td>Election of new Chair</td><td>Chair</td></tr><tr><td>17:40-18:00</td><td>Work plan for 2023 (to be approved at Assembly)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>18:00-18:30</td><td>Conclusions; AOB</td><td>Chair</td></tr></table></div></div>			22 nd May 2022 Monday	Meeting of WG <i>In situ</i>		12:00-12:15	Welcome and Introduction - Objectives of the WG meeting	Chair	12:15-12:30	AnGR Strategy for Europe – Action Plan review	Chair	12:30-13:30	Development of the ERFP MyPOW for <i>in situ</i> conservation (review, preparation of the text)		13:30-13:50	<i>In situ</i> conservation in different countries; conservation programs; goals, priorities, actors and initiatives	Dimitrios Tsiokos/Srdjan Stojanović	13:50-14:00	Conclusions		14:00-15:00	Lunch break		15:00-15:30	Review of the support measures and definition of native breed	Chair + all	15:30-15:50	Reinforce and support landscape management with native breeds	Holger Goederz	15:50-16:10	Strengthen collaboration/networking with breeders	Coralie Danchin	16:10-16:30	Breed characteristics and traits related to adaptation in specific ecosystems and farming system	Jesus Fernandez	16:30-17:00	Coffee break		17:00-17:20	Local breeds and transhumance in the Alps and in the Mediterranean	Fabio Pilla	17:20-17:40	Election of new Chair	Chair	17:40-18:00	Work plan for 2023 (to be approved at Assembly)		18:00-18:30	Conclusions; AOB	Chair
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Activities/tasks of WG <i>In situ</i> conservation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities of the WG from the last Assembly - mainly focused on the AnGR action plan development, preparation of the meeting and jump start activities 2023.• Preparation of joint meeting with the other ERFP WGs.• Most important: finalize Action Plan from AnGR strategy; provide input for the ERFP MyPOW, finally jump start activities which we planned.	

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Activities/tasks of WG *In situ* according to work plan

- *Task within WG* - How is *in situ* conservation **understood** in different countries??? Do countries have **specific conservation programs**? What are conservation goals, priorities and main actors?
- *Task within WG* - **explore support measures**, initiatives and networking activities for *in situ* conservation (niche markets for products of local breeds, establishment of ark farms , initiatives for the management of landscapes and wildlife habitats, as well as touristic activities).
- *Task within WG* - **Definition of a native breed**/national race in different countries
- *Task within WG* - Strengthen and support of **landscape management with local breeds**
- *Task within WG* - Strengthen cooperation / networking with breeders (workshops, Ad hoc action?, Refrence centre?)
- Support and collaboration of *Ad hoc* action on transboundary breed 
- *Task within WG* - **Breed characteristics and features** in particular **adaptation to specific ecosystems** and farming system.....
- **Local breeds and transhumance** in the Alps and in the Mediterranean regions (Ad hoc action? -> Task Force?)


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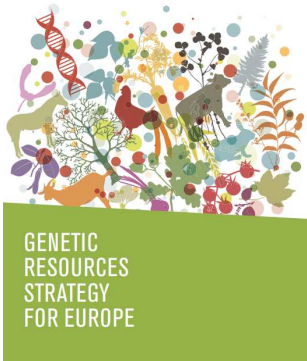
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Animal Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe – Action Plan



GenRes Bridge
Genetic resources for a food-secure and forested Europe



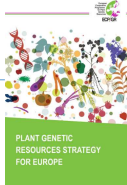
GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGY FOR EUROPE




EC DG GR ERMER ERFP



ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGY FOR EUROPE



PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGY FOR EUROPE



FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGY FOR EUROPE

ACTION PLAN

↕

ERFP MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM OF ACTION
2024 - 2028

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MyPOW for *in situ* conservation – current state of the draft

6.1.-In-situ-Conservation¶

¶

Due to the importance of the *in-situ* conservation of AnGR within the GPA and efforts towards improvement of the *in-situ* conservation of AnGR in Europe, the Working Group *in-situ* conservation and valorisation of AnGR was established in 2018.¶

This Working Group will take up the recommendations of the AnGR strategy and other available outcomes (i.e. EU Preparatory Actions on plant and animal genetic resources in agriculture) to support countries in the implementation of *in-situ* measures and strategies related to AnGR conservation. Successful *in-situ* conservation requires a well-designed breeding program with emphasis on maintaining genetic diversity within the breed.¶


The collaboration with the ERC will be crucial and necessary to implement some activities such as the:¶

¶

-Review of the definitions, frameworks and *In-situ* conservation programs to explore support measures and initiatives related to niche markets, ark farms, management of landscapes and wildlife habitats, touristic activities and ecosystem services.¶

-Networking activities to identify, coordinate the main actors involved and strengthen cooperation and valorisation of AnGR and their products with steps for an European network of *in-situ* conservation in specific ecosystems¶

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Action Plan is developed and final approval is need from your side!!

Ad hoc group collect any comments, proposals today and 1 week after the end of this meeting!!

Number	Recommendation of AnGR Strategy	Chapter of AnGR Strategy	Action	Related Actions	Indicator	Spatial dimension	Responsible actors
2.1.1.1	Improve the quality and frequency of existing EFABIS through close collaboration between National Coordinators, breeding organisations and gene banks.	Monitoring / Characterisation	Regular updating and storage of breed related data in EFABIS/DAD-IS according to the FAIR principles		Annual updates of EFABIS and data completeness / EFABIS is fully compliant with FAIR principles	National/ European	National Coordinator/ ERFP WG Docu
2.1.2.1	Increase the proportion of inventoried AnGR that are characterised and evaluated using genomic and phenotypic techniques, and if appropriate, make characterisation data publicly available.	Monitoring / Characterisation	Initiate scientific research and collaboration that contributes to better characterization of genetic resources in Europe	2.1.2.2 & 2.1.5.1	Number of national/ EU funded research projects that include characterization of AnGR	National/ European	Governments/ National Coordinators/ Science/ EC
2.1.2.2	Increase the proportion of inventoried AnGR that are characterised and evaluated using genomic and phenotypic techniques, and if appropriate, make characterisation data publicly available.	Monitoring / Characterisation	Promote genomic and phenotypic characterization, genetic evaluation, data exchange and facilitate stakeholder access	2.1.2.1 & 2.1.5.1	Validated methods and guidelines / Proportion of inventoried AnGR that are characterized and evaluated / Weblinks publicly accessible data	National/ European	EURC-EAB / Interbull/ Governments/ National Coordinators/ ERFP WG Docu/ Science
2.1.3.1	Further develop and implement initiatives to monitor the status of breeds in and outside the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR.	Monitoring / Characterisation	Implement SDG Indicators 2.5.1 and 2.5.2		FAO indicators 2.5.1 and 2.5.2	National/ European/ Global	Governments/ National Coordinators/ ERFP WG Docu/ Science
2.1.3.2	Further develop and implement initiatives to monitor the status of breeds in and outside the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR.	Monitoring / Characterisation	Review existing indicators, harmonise and implement relevant breed risk status indicators at European level		Report on relevant indicators to assess breed status, trends and threats	National/ European	EURC-EAB/ ERFP WG Docu/ National Coordinators/ Governments
2.1.4.1	Improve interoperability of breeder and gene bank data with other relevant databases	Monitoring / Characterisation	Assess needs, user perspectives, and develop APIs for data exchange		Report on needs and perspectives to improve interoperability	National/ European	ERFP WG Docu/ ERFP WG In Situ Governments/ Science
2.1.5.1	Increase the number of studied breeds to strengthen the representation of livestock breeds, particularly small breeds, in their production environments.	Monitoring / Characterisation	Gather relevant information on breed characteristics through interaction with breeders, and initiate scientific research to increase phenotyping efforts of traits less commonly assessed (adaptation, resilience, robustness).	2.1.2.1 & 2.1.2.2	Number of traits and completeness/quality of data collected from breeders / Published results of research on breed specific traits	National/ European	ERFP WG Docu/ ERFP WG In Situ Governments/ Science
2.2.1.1	Boost the development and implementation of sustainable breeding programs, including recording, genetic evaluation and breeding of selected genetic variation for safe phenotypic and trait breeds.	Sustainable use and genetic improvement	Define sustainable breeding programs and propose methods and indicators for assessing breeding programs	2.2.1.2 & 2.3.4.2	Indicators and guidelines for implementing and assessing breeding programs	National / European	EURC-EAB/ Governments/ National Coordinators/ ERFP WG In Situ Governments/ Science

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Action plan – transform into the MyPOW for *In situ* (1)


In situ conservation

- Strengthen the European network for in situ conservation and management of local breeds at risk.
- Support breeders’ associations and farmers to implement breeding programs for local breeds at risk.
- Strengthen and promote the valorisation of AnGR-related ecosystem services (e.g. landscape conservation) and livestock products.
- Increase the breeders’ awareness of their role as key actors in the conservation of AnGR.
- Develop research towards better understanding of breed characteristics and features, in particular adaptation to specific ecosystems and farming systems.

Integrated Key recommendations (in situ & ex situ)

- Develop and implement national strategies and action plans for integrated and complementary in situ and ex situ long term conservation strategies for AnGR, engaging all relevant public and private stakeholders in the process.
- Promote and support initiatives and collaboration for in situ and ex situ conservation of transboundary breeds.

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Key recommendation 1:

- Strengthen the European network for in situ conservation and management of local breeds at risk.

ACTION	INDICATOR	SPATIAL DIMENSION	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR	MYPOW (YES/NOT)
Review the current status of the Arca-Net network and further development of Arca-Net website portal	Number of Ark farms or other entities connected to the Arca-Net network	National/ European	National Coordinators / ERFP WG In Situ/ National NGOs / SAVE Foundation	??YES??
Identify relevant public and private actors and strengthen their roles to support the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR, in particular local breeds at risk	List of national actors	National	Governments / National Coordinators / ERFP WG In Situ / EURC-EAB	??YES??

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Key recommendation 2:

- Support breeders' associations and farmers to implement breeding programs for local breeds at risk.

ACTION	INDICATOR	SPATIAL DIMENSION	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR	MYPow (YES/NOT)
Define sustainable breeding programs and propose methods and indicators for assessing breeding programs of local breeds at risk.	Guidelines	National/ European	EURC-EAB / ERFP WG In Situ / ERFP WG Ex Situ	??YES??
Provide subsidies for conservation and breeding programmes, to promote the integration of in situ and ex situ conservation, for local breeds at risk	Number of local breeds at risk that receive subsidies for their conservation and breeding programme, and information about the subsidies provided	National	Governments	??NO??

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Key recommendation 3:

- Strengthen and promote the valorisation of AnGR-related ecosystem services (e.g. landscape conservation) and livestock products.

ACTION	INDICATOR	SPATIAL DIMENSION	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR	MYPow (YES/NOT)
Develop initiatives with PGR and FGR community on ecosystem services and cross-links between domains and other connected policies	Number of initiatives (projects, common actions, papers)	European / national	ERFP WG In Situ / Governments / ECPGR / EUFORGEN	??YES??
Promote (labelling of) local products from breeds in extensive/traditional production systems and associated ecosystem services	Number of labels or quality schemes linked to specific breeds	European / national	ERFP WG In Situ / National Coordinators/ Governments	??YES??

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Key recommendation 4:

- Increase the breeders' awareness of their role as key actors in the conservation of AnGR.

ACTION	INDICATOR	SPATIAL DIMENSION	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR	MYPOW (YES/NOT)
Empower breed societies and promote farmer and breeder participation in conservation and breeding programs	Number of initiatives that strengthen breed societies and breeders role in the conservation of AnGR	European / national	Governments / National Coordinators/ ERFP WG In Situ	??YES??

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Key recommendation 5:

- Develop research towards better understanding of breed characteristics and features, in particular adaptation to specific ecosystems and farming systems.

ACTION	INDICATOR	SPATIAL DIMENSION	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR	MYPOW (YES/NOT)
Initiate research calls, specific research projects and other projects related to in situ conservation	Number of national and international research projects	European / national	Governments / National Coordinators/ Science/ ERFP	??YES??

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Key recommendation 1 for integrated *in situ* and ex situ:

- Develop and implement national strategies and action plans for integrated and complementary in situ and ex situ long term conservation strategies for AnGR, engaging all relevant public and private stakeholders in the process.

ACTION	INDICATOR	SPATIAL DIMENSION	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR	MYPOW (YES/NOT)
Design and implement conservation and breeding programmes with the integration of in situ and ex situ activities.	Number of conservation and breeding programmes approved with both in situ and ex situ conservation activities	National	Governments/ National Coordinators/ National actors/ ERFP WG In Situ / ERFP WG Ex Situ/ EURC-EAB	??YES??
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	Guidelines for national strategies and action plans	National	National Coordinators/ ERFP WG In Situ / ERFP WG Ex Situ	??YES??
Design and implement conservation and breeding programmes with the integration of in situ and ex situ activities.	Number of conservation and breeding programmes approved with both in situ and ex situ conservation activities	National	Governments/ National Coordinators/ National actors/ ERFP WG In Situ / ERFP WG Ex Situ/ EURC-EAB	??YES??

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Key recommendation 2 for integrated *in situ* and ex situ:

- Promote and support initiatives and collaboration for in situ and ex situ conservation of transboundary breeds.

ACTION	INDICATOR	SPATIAL DIMENSION	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR	MYPOW (YES/NOT)
Promote collaboration between actors to strengthen the conservation and breeding programs for transboundary breeds	List of actors and stakeholders for transboundary breeds / Number of coordination meetings	National/ European	ERFP WG In Situ/ ERFP WG Ex Situ/ ERFP WG Docu/ National Coordinators/ EURC-EAB/ National actors	??YES??
Develop and implement collaborative conservation and breeding programmes for each transboundary breed	Number of collaborative transboundary breed conservation and breeding programmes	National/ Transboundary	ERFP WG In Situ/ ERFP WG Ex Situ/ ERFP WG Docu/ National Coordinators/ EURC-EAB/ National actors	??YES??

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Key recommendation 1 for sustainable use and genetic improvement:

- Boost the development and implementation of sustainable breeding programs, including pedigree and performance recording, genetic evaluation and maintenance of within-breed genetic variation for both transboundary and local breeds.

ACTION	INDICATOR	SPATIAL DIMENSION	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR	MYPOW (YES/NOT)
Define sustainable breeding programs and propose methods and indicators for assessing breeding programs	Indicators and guidelines for implementing and assessing breeding programs	National /European	EURC-EAB/ Governments/ National Coordinators/ ERFP WG In Situ/ ERFP WG Docu / Interbull / EFFAB/EX SITU?	¿YES?
Regular assessment of all breeding programs (local and transboundary breeds)	Number of officially recognized breeding programs assessed.	National / European	EURC-EAB/ Governments/ ERFP WG In Situ/ ERFP WG Docu Info/ Interbull/ EFFAB/EX SITU?	¿YES?

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Activities/tasks of WG In situ conservation (1)


Task: How is in situ conservation understood in different countries???

Do countries have specific conservation programs? What are conservation goals, priorities and main actors?

Leader: Srdjan Stojanović (support Danijela Bojkovski)

- Problem: what is meaning of the in situ conservation? How countries are dealing with in situ? What does that mean and which animals are included in the in situ?
- Questionnaire prepared in May 2023
- Review of the questionnaire – at the spot
- Next steps:
 - 1 week to send comments
 - Collected response in June
 - Analysis and report at the Assembly

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Activities/tasks of WG *In situ* conservation (2)

Task: ~~Explore support measures initiatives and networking activities for in situ conservation (niche markets for products of local breeds, establishment of ark farms, initiatives for the management of landscapes and wildlife habitats, as well as touristic activities).~~

Leader: Danijela Bojkovski (support: Tina Flisar)

- Problem: at the last Q countries were in the process of new CAP period; transition from previous period to the new. Some information were still sensitive.
- Review Questions
- Discussion and collection of data from each country (online?)
- **Next steps:**
 - Updated Q
 - Step by step collection of responses and data
 - Report at the Assembly

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Activities/tasks of WG *In situ* conservation (3)

Task: ~~Breed definition and recognition of new breed~~

- Goal: review what is the term used in countries for a native breed and what is definition of native breed; inquires if countries recently recognized any new native breed and what is the procedure
- Questionnaire prepared in May 2022, review 2023
- Results collected and compared = do we need update? Will the task be done by Reference Centre?
- **Next steps:**
 - Call to the countries not responded?
 - New separated Task?

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Activities/tasks of WG *In situ* conservation (4)

Task: Strengthen and support of landscape management with local breeds
Leader: Holger Goederz

Goal:

- strengthen the use of domestic livestock breeds in landscape management
- address it to the responsible associations and municipalities
- raise awareness for the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR
- show possible synergies between nature protection and agriculture

Next steps:

- Statement?
- Conservation of Genetic Resources at Landscape Level through **Demonstration Cases**

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Activities/tasks of WG *In situ* conservation (5)

Task: Breed characteristics and features in particular adaptation to specific ecosystems and farming system
Leader: Jesus Fernandez

Statements:

- original distribution is driven by environmental factors, which is in agreement with the classical claim that local breeds are better adapted to natural conditions; the most influential factor is different for each species.
- domestic animals diversity runs in parallel with wild animal diversity. Thus, local breeds are not in conflict with nature and joint actions can be proposed for the conservation of both terms of biodiversity.
- human activities and changes in the land use are somehow ‘decoupling’ breeds distribution and environment.

Next steps:

- ? *excellent opportunity for further development of the EU project*

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Activities/tasks of WG *In situ* conservation (6)

Task: Local breed and transhumance in the Alps and in the Mediterranean regions
(task leader: Fabio Pilla, IT)

- *Ad hoc action – excellent opportunity for further development of the EU project?*
- Goal:
 - Joint monitoring and promotion of
 - Collection of valuable information on the current status, constrains and possible valorization opportunities
- Next steps:
 - WG will support the work of the Ad Hoc action

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Work plan 2023-2024

To be approved by the ERFP Assembly

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