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## **Minutes of the Working Group *In situ* Conservation and Valorisation of AnGR**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

**Meeting venue: Castillo de San Servando, Cta. De San Servando**

### **Welcome and Introduction - Objectives of the WG meeting**

Danijela Bojkovski (Chair) welcomed the members of WG to the meeting. She thanked the organizers for the organization and the wonderful venue. Since a few new members were present for the first time, a short introduction of all participants was made. The Chair went through the agenda of the meeting ([https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/ERFP\\_WG\\_InSitu\\_2023\\_Agenda\\_final.pdf](https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/ERFP_WG_InSitu_2023_Agenda_final.pdf)) and explained the objectives.

### **AnGR Strategy for Europe – review of the action plan related to *in situ* conservation and development of the ERFP MyPOW.**

The Action Plan presented is the result of the previous work of WG and the work of the ERFP Task Force. The Chair presented all key recommendations (KR) related to the Strategy and *in situ* WG, as well as measures to achieve KR, indicators, spatial dimensions and responsible actors. The Chair directed questions to each member about their opinion on Action Plan. Since not all members had the time to have detailed review of the Action plan in depth, they agreed to send their opinions and comments to the Chair by the end of next week (June 2, 2023).

In reviewing all KR and actions, it was also agreed which actions need to be included in the MyPOW. Finally, WG agreed on actions that need to be moved and some of them are too specific, so they need to be rewritten.

The current Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) ends in 2023 and a new programme must be approved for the period 2024 to 2028. The group was working on the proposal. There was agreement in the group that some activities were not within the competence of the ERFP and suggested their deletion and some need to be reworded or merged. WG experts were asked to send further comments or amendments after the meeting - until 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The results of work were presented in the joint meeting of all ERFP Working Groups on 23<sup>rd</sup> May by the chair.

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**In situ conservation in different countries; conservation programs; goals, priorities, actors and initiatives.**

Srdjan Stojanović presented the activity plan for the task "How is in situ conservation of Animal Genetic Resources is understood in different European countries". With this survey, we want to find out what is meant by in situ conservation. How do countries deal with in situ conservation? What does it mean and which animals are included in in situ conservation? The questionnaire was created in May 2023 and sent to all members prior to the WG meeting. We expect all members of WG to review the questionnaire and send us comments by the end of next week (June 6, 2023).

**Review of the support measures and definition of native breed.**

The Chair presented the activities under this task. Preliminary results were presented at the last meeting, but only a few countries responded. The problem was that countries were in the process of adjusting the new CAP period and strategic plans. Some information was still sensitive at that time. However, all RDPs have now been approved/accepted by the EU Commission and are available on the website. There was a consensus in the group that this information is useful for all members and that we should continue the work to collect all measures from different countries. Since the conclusion is in favour of continuing the activities, first all available RDP plans will be reviewed, the questionnaire will be revised and sent to the members again. The countries that have already responded will only need to review previous information or update information already given.

The Chair also asked Holger Göderz if survey prepared by the European Reference Centre for Endangered Animal Breeds (EURC-EAB) contains a question about the definition of native breed / endangered breeds and the recognition of new breed and he confirmed concerning the definitions of native and endangered breeds; he also added that it is planned to send that survey of EURC-EAB next week.

**Reinforce and support landscape management with native breeds.**

Holger Göderz introduced the initiative in Germany, where the aim is to strengthen the use of native livestock breeds in landscape management. He presented German breeds highly adapted to different environmental conditions and very suitable for all-year outdoor landscape management. He underlined the lack of awareness for the importance of conservation and sustainable use of AnGR within nature conservation associations. In Germany, the National Advisory Council for AnGR has therefore agreed to draft a statement and address it to the relevant associations and municipalities to raise awareness of the importance of conservation and sustainable use of AnGR. This opinion needs to show how

synergies between nature conservation and agriculture can be achieved. WG could set up a TF/AdHoc and join this initiative where we could organize workshops with different landscape conservation initiatives in Europe and produce an ERFP brochure with demonstration cases and recommendations.

### **Strengthen collaboration /networking with breeders.**

Coralie Danchin presented ideas on how to strengthen collaboration with breeders of native breeds. She underlined that international collaboration with breeders is sometimes difficult or even impossible because they do not speak English. So that we need to collaborate with some federations or organisations. The Rare Breeds International offered help and participation. Workshops with breeders organisations were proposed and also some other ideas such as establishing a European award, publishing stories about farmers of native breeds at risk and improving the connection between non-governmental organisations and the breed associations.

### **Breed characteristics and traits related to adaptation in specific ecosystems and farming system.**

Jesus Fernandez presented general facts that we hear often in our community regarding the native breeds: "They are better adapted to natural conditions, to a poor and harsh environment," yet there is little (if any) scientific evidence to support these statements. The goal of the task would be to research the differences from "high-input high-output breeds" breeds and to study the traits related to adaptation. At the end, an action plan was presented to accomplish the task. After WG discussion, Holger Göderz and Jesus Fernandez agreed to combine their two proposals into 1 *ad hoc* action.

### **Local breeds and transhumance in the Alps and in the Mediterranean.**

Fabio Pilla presented the proposal to establish new Ad hoc action dealing with transhumance and local breeds. One of the main outcomes of this action would be networking and presentation of best practices through a report and a workshop.

### **Election of the new Chair.**

According to the ERFP Terms of Reference, WG Chair is proposed by the WG and approved by the SC for 3 years. The term ends in August for the current chair Danijela Bojkovski. WG received a call for nominations of a new candidate. The proposed candidate Holger Göderz was elected as a chair by the present WG members.

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**Work plan for 2022-2023 (to be approved at Assembly).**

The Chair presented a draft work plan for the next year. She emphasised that draft plan needs to be result of the WG brainstorming.

The group proposed to continue or start work on the following subjects:

1. Support and collaboration in *ad hoc* transboundary breed
2. Start *ad hoc*: Local breed and transhumance in the Alps and in the Mediterranean regions, (leader: Fabio Pilla)
3. Joined in one *ad hoc* proposition of Holger Göderz and Jesus Fernandez
4. Continue work on *ad hoc* action about native horse network (leader: Ruta Sveistene)
5. Prepare two workshops on case studies for breeders, breeders associations and nature protection organisations.

All members were asked to send their comments after the meeting until 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Conclusion of the first day – Logistic issues.**

Danijela Bojkovski thanked all participants for their work and explained some logistic issues for the joint meeting with the other Working Groups on the next day. Afterwards she closed the meeting.

**23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

WG *in situ* participate at the joined meeting of the three ERFP WGs.