

Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

November 23rd 2023, webmeeting

Participants:

Chair: Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain

National coordinators, members of the SC:

Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia
Georgia Hadjipavlou, Cyprus

Gita Jansone, Latvia
Melissa Raemy, Switzerland

Excused:

Nina Svartedal, Norway

Secretariat:

Coralie Danchin, and Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire (Inrae) (France)

Montserrat Castellanos welcomes the participants, with special attention to the new members of the SC and introduces the agenda. The Agenda of the SC meeting is approved.

1) Brief information about the budget and bank payments

Cf. slides presentation

Last October, the EAAP bank wrongly withdrew fundings (about 5,000 € in three different wires) from our account by confusing our ERFP EAAP account with the “regular” EAAP account. The secretariat contacted the EAAP accountant and informed the EAAP chair about the issue, the funding returned on the ERFP account two days later.

In comparison with the provisional data shown during the General Assembly, Bulgaria still has not paid its contribution but Croatia, which was not counted, did.

2) Decisions on the 2024 AHA

All the AHA proposals for 2024 are approved, if they respect the budget limit of 10,000 € (cf. first version of the transhumance AHA). The total expected budget needed is more than was voted during the General Assembly, however some expenses are expected to happen in 2025. As for the breeding program AHA led by Christina Ligda, the SC wants a strong connection between this AHA and the work led by the EURC EAB.

The secretariat will contact each AHA leader about the decision.

More discussions about the Mediterranean workshop in the WG agenda item.

3) Communication

a) Newsletter

The SC’s opinion is that the letter needs to be issued within the first two weeks of December or in January 2024, since it will not be noticed if it is published during Christmas season.

One or two newsletters could be published depending on the length of the content.

b) Social media impact on ERFP

Cf. slides presentation

One of the constant issues is the lack of information provided by NCs and WG experts despite constant reminder. Therefore, the SC will ask the WG chairs to include in their agenda a dedicated

time where the WG members will have to draft communication items to be relayed on the social network. It is also suggested that the secretariat keeps asking for information each month.

The global assessment is that the secretariat is doing the work to find relevant information. The SC asks Coralie Danchin if IDELE has communication experts, which is the case. A suggestion is that IDELE takes over the communication activities when the Alcandora contract expires next year. A final decision will need to be taken before the contract renewal with Alcandora, with a presentation by IDELE of the budget needed and communication actions to be pursued.

Some issues are raised about the relevance of keeping our X (ex-Twitter) account. According to Alcandora, X is a very useful network for official accounts of organizations, scientists, opinion leaders... The communication style is more institutional than the one for Meta group (Facebook and Instagram) so they recommend to maintain activity.

4) Future of ERFPs

a) Follow-up of the EGRS

This item was included in the 16-17th October council:

« 5. Continuation of work on the Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe.

The Presidency will provide an overview of the work conducted by previous Presidencies on this topic. Thereafter, special attention will be given to the section on 'Enhancing awareness of the roles and values of genetic resources' of the Strategy, with the objective to set the scene for further discussion during the following Working Party meeting. »

A summary of the situation and the work of the three previous presidencies was presented. Unfortunately, DG SANTE has other priorities, Moreover some countries don't agree with some recommendations such as the implementation of an EU Doc & Info centre. The commission does not want now a binding document but might agree with guidelines or recommendations. It also reminded that it does not have an appropriate organization to cover the entire strategy. It seems that the only thing that can be done is to keep the topic live in the various Commission bodies so the topic can be accepted when the time is right.

b) AnGR: implementation of the action plan

After our General Assembly, a delay of 5 weeks has been left to all countries to review the action plan. It was also decided that the final version of the action plan will be voted by email, after the TF strategy reviews the amendments. France and Italy amended the version presented during the General Assembly. The text was reviewed one last time by the TF strategy then sent to all NCs by emails, for a final validation. NCs had two weeks to send their comments. None were received by the secretariat, therefore the first ERFP action plan is now validated and available [on our website](#).

5) Brief report of the ABS meeting

Danijela Bojkovski participated to the last meeting on behalf of the ERFP network. She commented the summary made available by the ABS meeting organizer that was transmitted to all NCs. The general comment is that progresses are very slow.

6) Links with the EURC EAB consortium: last updates; collaborations

Cf. slides

Further discussions will come from our hybrid meeting December 7th.

7) Working groups 2024

Georgia Hadjipavlou presents the organisation suggested for the ERFP WG, AHA mediterranean workshop and EAAP regional congress. She reminds Roswitha Baumung's suggestion that NENA NCs

from Mediterranean countries could participate to our WG meetings. The SC suggests asking the WG chairs their opinion before answering Roswitha.

Proposed timetable

22 April	<i>Arrival ERFP members and possibly NENA participants from Mediterranean countries (if approval by the ERFP WG chairs)</i>	
23 April	ERFP WG meetings	
	<i>Arrival of NENA participants from non-Mediterranean countries</i>	
24 April		
8:30 – 10:30	FAO training session + WG docu info	WG <i>in situ, ex situ</i>
10:30-11:45	Coffee break	
11:45 – 12:30	FAO training session	WG <i>in situ, ex situ</i>
12:30 – 13:30	ERFP WG Docu Info – EAAP Med WG session	WG <i>in situ, ex situ</i>
13:30-15:00	Lunch	
15:00 – 18:00	EAAP Scientific Session (Med Workshop Session)	EAAP Scientific Session (other parallel sessions)
25 April (morning)	EAAP Plenary Session	
25 April (morning / afternoon)	EAAP Scientific Sessions	
26 April (morning)	EAAP Scientific Sessions	

The ERFP secretariat will ask EAAP about the possibility of a reduced fee for attending only the afternoon session, April 24th. A possibility would be to direct the AHA mediterranean budget to the payment for the attendance of ERFP participants to the EAAP congress. The fee for the whole congress before March 1st, for EAAP members, is 200 €.

Georgia Hadjipavlou also reminds the SC that EAAP is willing to contract with the catering company by including the ERFP WG needs then asks for separate invoices. The SC thanks Andrea Rosati and agrees with the proposal, the secretariat will reach out to him to accept the proposal.

Montserrat Castellanos will get back to Fernando Tejerina, the ex situ chair, to see if he has some serious leads for his replacement as chair.

8) AOB

The SC will ask Nina Svaterdal if she wants to draft a quick bio after the passing of a Norwegian farmer who participated tremendously in the safeguarding of endangered breeds in Norway. The article will be posted on the ERFP website, social media does not seem appropriate.

The next SC will be held virtually March 5th, 2024