

Leader of the *Ad Hoc* action: Fernando Tejerina, Spain, co-chairs: Coralie Danchin, France and Sipke Hiemstra, The Netherlands, link with the EURC EAB

Report of the ERFP *Ad Hoc* action on specific measures for AnGR ex situ conservation in the framework of the animal health legislation.

1. Objectives (Summary)

The main goal of the present Ad Hoc Action is developing recommendations for:

- The incorporation to the national animal health legal framework of specific exceptions (derogations) for the collection, processing and storage of germinal products intended to be kept in a genebank
- The suitable application of the derogation provided in Regulation (EU) 2020/686 on the movement of germinal products between genebanks located in different EU countries.

2. Membership

- Coordination: Fernando Tejerina, Coralie Danchin and Sipke Hiemstra.
- Members of the team developing the AHA:
 - Nikica Prvanovic, Croatia
 - Mario Ostovic, Croatia
 - Ewa Camara, European Commission.
 - Ana Granados, European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders.
 - Jaana Peippo, Finland
 - Isabelle Guerry, France
 - Laurence Guilbert, France
 - Delphine Duclos, France
 - Claudia Klein, Germany
 - Ewa Sosin, Poland
 - Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia
 - Rosa María Diez, Spain
 - Annemieke Rattink, The Netherlands
 - Wim van der Poel, The Netherlands
 - Marcus Bates, UK

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

On 9th October 2023 the workshop of the AHA was held in The Netherlands (The Ruwenberg in Sint Michielsgestel), back to back with the AI Vets annual meeting. 10 members of the AHA team attended physically and other 9 experts from the team or externals to the AHA attended by videoconference.

The objectives of the workshop, were:

- Highlight the relevance of genebanks in breeding programmes.
- Report on the European regulation on genebanks.
- Report on existing derogations for genebanks in the national animal health regulations of European countries.
- Share experiences on new techniques for the analyses of the health status of the ejaculates or semen doses.
- Design the outline for Guidelines to develop animal health derogations for germinal products intended to be stored in genebanks.

To reach the previous objectives the next agenda was developed in the workshop:

9th October	Meeting of the AHA.	
13:00 – 13:15	Welcome and Introduction. Objectives of the meeting. Objectives and Deliverable of the AHA, Conclusion of the kick-off Meeting.	Fernando Tejerina
13:15-13:35	The relevance of genebanks in breeding and conservation programmes.	Coralie Danchin
13:35-13:40	Genebank references in the European Union Animal Health Regulation.	Fernando Tejerina
13:50-15:20	Examples of specific animal health derogations to support genebanks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National genebank derogation for cattle in The Netherlands and situation for other species. • National derogation for cattle in United Kingdom. • Animal Health Regulation on genebanking in Spain. • Regulation on the storage of old material in Poland. • Regulation on the storage of old material in Germany. 	Sipke Joost Hiemstra Marcus Bates. Rosa María Diez. Ewa Sossin. Claudia Klein.
15:20-15:50	Coffe Break	
15:50 – 16:35	Animal health testings on ejaculates or semen doses.	Laurence Guilbert-Julien
16:35-18:00	Proposal for outline of the Guidelines and further steps	All physical attendances

The presentations by the AHA experts are available in: <https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/index.php/event/aha-animal-health-regulation-genebanks-physical-meeting/>

The main output of the workshop was an agreement of the experts the outline of the Guidelines; (in bold the proposed author for each chapter):

1. Background. **Coralie Danchin.**
2. Objectives of the Guidelines. **Sipke Hiemstra.**
3. Legal framework, regulations, recommendations, and guidelines on sanitary aspects of storage, use and trade of germinal products. **Fernando Tejerina.**
4. Formal recognition of genebanks at national level and requirements. **Sipke Hiemstra and Fernando Tejerina.**
5. Recommended animal health requirements for the collection, processing, storage and use of germinal products (semen, embryos and oocytes, ovarian tissue, PGC) intended to be kept in and managed by genebanks. **Rosa Diez and Fernando Tejerina.**
6. Derogations/conditions for the use of old material (in particular semen). **Ewa Sossin.**
7. Animal health requirements for the genebanking and use of non-reproductive material. **Fernando Tejerina.**
8. Implementation of the derogation foreseen in the Article 45 Regulation 2020/686. **Ewa Camara and Fernando Tejerina.**

The total cost of the organization of the workshop were 2 676,25 €

The authors wrote a first draft of the Guidelines, which was sent for comments to the AHA expert team and to the members of the Ex situ conservation WG. This first draft was presented in the Ex situ conservation WG meeting in Cyprus and to the EUGENA steering board members. After those meetings, the comments received were analysed and amendments were added to the document. The latest version of the Guidelines document is available in: https://idelefr-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/coralie_danchin_idele_fr/EQIx0sGoDN5HhpwJeyLPs2EBIKgY_JtHFWFpFvKpiU_KSQ?rtime=l3ctQ4LG3Eg

4. Plans and priorities for the rest of the year.

A meeting of the expert group has been convened on 22nd August to discuss the comments received and to develop the final version of the Guidelines, which has to be finished by October 2024.

5. Other.

The AHA is going to finish this year and no other expenses are foreseen. However, the ERFP and EURC-EAB should disseminate and promote the use of the Guidelines among animal health competent authorities.