

## **Minutes of the ERFP Assembly of National Coordinators**

August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2024, Florence, Italy

**Chair:** Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, NC, Spain

**Participants:** See list in annex.

*All presentations delivered during the ERFP Assembly are uploaded on the ERFP website.*

### **1. Welcome and opening**

Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain, Chair of the ERFP Steering Committee, welcomes the Assembly in Florence and thanks everybody for attending. She thanks the Secretariat for the organization. She presents the agenda; there were no amendments. The agenda is accepted.

### **2. The Italian system of Animal Breeding (including preservation of local breeds)**

*Cf. slide presentation*

### **3. Mining the genome of Italian animal genetic resources provided hints on peculiar genetic features: Examples of successful stories**

*Cf. slide presentation*

### **4. Report from the ERFP Secretariat**

*Cf. slide presentation and written report (1\_ERFP\_Secretariat\_WrittenReport\_Assembly\_2024.pdf) prepared by the Secretariat prior to the GA meeting.*

#### *a. ERFP Annual Progress report*

The presented Annual Progress Report 2023-2024 was approved by the Assembly.

#### *b. ERFP Financial report*

ERFP concluded the 2023 financial year with a balance of + 410 237,53 €.

**The presented final budget for 2023 was approved by the Assembly.**

The general expenses in 2024 amounted to 53 790,94 € and the countries contributions to 65 800,00 €, the remaining funds are equal to 377 843,43 € - all amounts as per August 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

### **5. FAO report**

*Cf. slide presentation.*

## 6. Progress report by EAAP WG-AnGR

*Cf. slide presentation.*

NCs are asked to provide any topic of interest related to AnGR for the next EAAP WG AnGR ERFP FAO session next year in Innsbruck, Austria. The EAAP WG AnGR will meet September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to discuss the proposals.

## 7. Reports from the ERFP Working Groups and Task Force

All chairs briefly summarized the work of the group and future plans. All the details are described in the written WG report and in the slide presentations (cf. table).

WG	Slide presentation	Written report
Doc & Info WG	<a href="#">PPT Doc Info</a>	<a href="#">Report Doc Info</a>
Ex situ WG	<a href="#">PPT Ex situ</a>	<a href="#">Report Ex situ</a>
In situ WG	<a href="#">PPT In situ</a>	<a href="#">Report In situ</a>

TF	Slide presentation	Written report
Genebanks documentation	<a href="#">PPT Genebank</a>	<a href="#">Report Genebank</a>
Transboundary breeds	<a href="#">PPT TB</a>	<a href="#">Report TB</a>

## All presented reports and work plan were approved by the General Assembly.

Montserrat Castellanos takes the opportunity to thanks the chairs for their work. She welcomes the new chair, Ewa Sosin, ex situ WG. She was elected during the last WG held in Nicosia, Cyprus.

## 8. Follow up of the AHA; proposal for 2024 and 2025

*Cf. slide presentation and reports for the Simmental, transhumance, Sanitary issues and Mediterranean workshop.*

The General Assembly urges the AHA leaders to include a publication in the GENRES journal of their work when the topic is appropriate. Articles should be published by the Simmental and Native horses AHA. The secretariat will ask the AHA transhumance leader to draft an article based on the presentations realized during the Avila meeting.

## 9. Task Force Permanent Secretariat

*Cf. slide presentation.*

Sipke Hiemstra as TF Chair presents the latest conclusions drafted by the team. Some NCs regret that a report was not sent before the GA to have a clearer view about the ins and outs. On the other hand, it is reminded that this topic is under process since the 2018 AHA SWOT analysis and most of the information was already presented to the NCs at previous General Assembly.

The TF will continue its work towards facilitating the option of permanent secretariat by preparing all the possible options and next steps. Meanwhile, the call for a new secretariat will be launched during the GA 2025 following the “Annex 3: Procedure for the election of

the ERFP Secretariat” of the ERFP Terms of References. The existing secretariat (IDELE) will in parallel investigate whether they are willing and able to extend their service for another term in case there is no other ERFP NC proposing another body to serve as secretariat. If IDELE can extend their service, an amendment of page 8 of the ERFP TORs will be prepared to be voted in GA 2025, to enable such extension. The TF should also work on countries’ letters of commitment or an equivalent process, following what is done in the ECPGR and EUFORGEN network. The final proposal could be presented during the next General Assembly meeting and in a disconnected way from the secretariat renewal process for now.

## **10. Elections: Chair and Steering Committee**

ERFP Chair - According to the ERFP Terms of Reference, the Chair of the ERFP Steering Committee is elected by the Assembly for a 3-years term and can be renewed once. Therefore, **the term of office for Montserrat Castellanos Moncho will end this summer.**

**Danijela Bojkovski (Slovenia)** is candidate for the election. An email was sent to all NCs and no other proposal was received.

**The General Assembly elects Danijela Bojkovski (Slovenia) as the new Chair of the ERFP.**

It is agreed Montserrat Castellanos Moncho will Chair the 2024 GA meeting until its end.

Since Mrs Danijela Bojkovski is elected, it means that there will be one seat available at the Steering Committee. Also, **Mrs Melissa Raemy (Switzerland) wishes to resign** from her current position in the Steering Committee for personal reasons.

The SC suggested two candidates:

Ante Ivanković (Croatia– East Region)

Rachel Davis (UK – North Region)

The Secretariat sent their CV to all the NCs before the GA and offered to provide more candidates. No additional proposals were received.

**The General Assembly elected Ante Ivanković and Rachel Davis as a new members of the SC.**

The Secretariat takes the opportunity to thank Montserrat Castellanos Moncho for her active and friendly coordination all these years and wishes Melissa Raemy a successful new chapter in her life.

## **11. Communication activities**

*Cf. slide presentation and Alcandora report provided to NCs prior the General Assembly.*

The SC has assessed the work carried out with Alcandora and the necessity of ERFP's presence on social media. The overall conclusion was that it is the secretariat who is actively seeking relevant information. The SC recommended that IDELE take over communication activities once the Alcandora contract expires. It seems logical for IDELE to present an

integrated proposal for both secretariat and communication tasks, similar to the approach taken by EUFORGEN and ECPGR. In response, IDELE drafted a proposal to support ERFP communication, which was sent to SC members in June. The current annual budget allocated to Alcandora is €14,000, while IDELE's proposal amounts to €8,000.

**The General Assembly votes for IDELE to perform the communication activities for the next 2024/2025 period, for a total amount of 8,000 €.**

The same assessment needs to be done for the GENRES journal for the next GA period (2025/2025).

Geena Cartick (EFFAB) offers her contributions for writing clear and understandable messages to our community. The chair welcomes this help and thanks Geena for it.

## **12. ERFP future plans and 2025 budget approval**

*Cf. secretariat report and slide presentations.*

An Ad Hoc Action will start this fall to coordinate the statements for the Europe Region at the next FAO's ITWG. Expected participants are the ITWG official members (see recap below), however all NCs are welcome to be part of the AHA. Nina Svartedal (Norway) will lead the AHA, with the help of Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire (France).

ITWG Members :

France

Germany

Poland

Spain

Switzerland

First substitute: The Netherlands

Second substitute: Norway

The budget is adapted during the assembly following the decision of change of communication agency from Alcandora to IDELE.

A discussion follows on the AHA budget. It is reminded that AHA should follow the ERFP key recommendations and action plan. The assembly agrees for a 41 000 € budget for the AHA.

The 2025 budget was approved, with Italy's abstention.

The budget includes a partial funding of the GENRES journal; the secretariat will contact the ECPG secretariat to let them know about our budget involvement for 2025. The first agreement with ECPGR was that ERFP would help with the journal sustainability at least for a two-year period. With the voting of the 2025 budget, the ERFP network commits itself for a third year.

## **13. EURC follow up**

*Cf. slide presentation.*

#### **14. Regional Report for FAO**

*Cf. slide presentation.*

Roswitha Baumung suggested a to change the item “How is in situ conservation understood in different countries” from SP2 to SP3 (conservation).

#### **15. Presentations by NCs/NGOs**

*Cf. slide presentation.*

The secretariat thanks all the contributors, this year there were numerous proposals for the agenda which show the growing actions countries are setting up around AnGR.

#### **16. AOB**

The chair ends the meeting by thanking everybody for their participation and intensive discussion, as well as all the task leaders and WG chairs for their reports, and the local organisers and Secretariat for the logistic.

The ERFP secretariat has a specific word for Montserrat Castellanos for all her dedication throughout the years as a chair.

The meeting ended at 17h15, Friday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

<b>The next GA will be held in Austria</b>
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## ERFP General Assembly - List of Participants

### August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Florence, Italy

#### Physical attendance

First name:	Last name:	Country or International Organization:	Function
Beate	Berger	Austria	National Coordinator
Ante	Ivanković	Croatia	National Coordinator
Georgia	Hadjipavlou	Cyprus	National Coordinator
Tomas	Nemecek	Czech Republic	National Coordinator
Peer	Berg	EAAP	Observer
Geena	Cartick	EFFAB	Observer
Roswitha	Baumung	FAO	Other
Eleonore	Charvolin-Lemaire	France	National Coordinator
Pierre	Cherel	France	National Coordinator
Coralie	Danchin	France	Secretariat
Holger	Göderz	Germany	Other
Jan Hendrik	Schneider	Germany	National Coordinator representative
Christina	Ligda	Greece	National Coordinator
Birna Kristin	Baldursdottir	Iceland	National Coordinator
Luca	Buttazzoni	Italy	National Coordinator
Luca	Fontanesi	Italy	Invited speaker
Gita	Jansone	Latvia	National Coordinator
Rūta	Šveistienė	Lithuania	National Coordinator
Jeanne	Bormann	Luxembourg	National Coordinator
Božidarka	Marković	Montenegro	National Coordinator
Mervi	Honkatukia	Nordgen	Observer
Nina	Svartedal	Norway	National Coordinator
Ewa	Sosin	Poland	National Coordinator representative
Agnieszka	Chełmińska	Poland	National Coordinator representative
Nuno	Carolino	Portugal	National Coordinator
Srdjan	Stojanović	Serbia	National Coordinator
Jan	Tomka	Slovakia	National Coordinator
Danijela	Bojkovski	Slovenia	National Coordinator
Montserrat	Castellanos Moncho	Spain	National Coordinator
Juan Vicente	Delgado Bermejo	Spain	Observer
Fernando	Tejerina	Spain	Other
Christian	Stricker	Switzerland	National Coordinator representative
Bettina	Müller	Switzerland	Other
Sipke Joost	Hiemstra	The Netherlands	National Coordinator
Rachel	Davis	United Kingdom	National Coordinator

#### Virtual attendance

Karin	Olsson	Sweden	National Coordinator
Clara	Nyegaard-Signoril	Denmark	National Coordinator
Charlotte	Ælkær Meinert	Denmark	Observer

**Excused:** Sharon Walshe, Ireland, National Coordinator