

Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

March 5th, 2024, web meeting

Participants:

Chair: Montserrat Castellanos Moncho, Spain

National coordinators, members of the SC:

Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia
Georgia Hadjipavlou, Cyprus

Gita Jansone, Latvia
Melissa Raemy, Switzerland
Nina Svartedal, Norway

Secretariat:

Coralie Danchin, and Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire (Inrae, Doc & Info WG Chair) (France)

Invited:

Holger Goederz (In situ WG Chair); Fernando Tejerina (Ex situ WG Chair).

Montserrat Castellanos welcomes the participants and introduces the agenda. The Agenda of the SC meeting is approved.

1) Brief information

Cf. slides presentation

a. Follow-up of the decisions taken at the previous SC:

- Newsletter: the final version was published mid-December; it was sent to the ERFP network, and a link was provided in a EAAP newsletter.
- Possibility of having the ERFP social medias established by IDELE: a contact was made by the secretariat with the head of communication at IDELE, who agrees with the idea and would have someone that could do the work. IDELE needs to finalize its proposal in terms of organization and costs. The goal is to present it to the next SC so it can be presented for validation during our next GA.
- Budget: due to a new EU policy, some countries need a formal invoice which cannot be provided by ERFP. EAAP does not have an intracommunity VAT number either. IDELE's financial controller is doing an expertise of the elements that have to be provided to see how the country contribution can be called by ERFP.

The 2023 budget is negative, as planned, however some expenses are less than expected; ERFP can afford to have a negative budget for couple years; hopefully the new contributions voted during our last GA, that will be asked starting 2025, will help to have a balance budget. The secretariat will prepare a letter to be sent to all NCs that will explain why a change of amount is to be foreseen in 2025. The SC members urge the secretariat to send the information before July, since most countries are preparing their next year budget at the end of the first semester.

2) Follow-up of the work by the EURC EAB

Cf. slide presentation

Feedback of the analysis of the survey will be provided to the ERFP WG in Cyprus and webinars will be organised. The specific issues of the derogations will be presented at the next EAAP congress in Italy with a focus on case studies.

The AHA on sanitary issues for genebanks co-led by ERFP and the EURC EAB does not have an official support from EU since the commission analysed the topic as going further than its competency.

Effective population size: the idea of the guidelines is to help breeding organisations on how to use this parameter since there are numerous ways to calculate it; in the end, trends are more important to monitor than values.

AHA breeding programs with the EURC EAB: the action plan needs to be clarified with Christina Ligda; the group composition needs to be set up, followed by a kick off meeting with specific objectives.

Lisa Balzar will also present the following talk: “Status of implementation of (EU) 2016/1012 for endangered breeds: Status quo and challenges in Mediterranean countries” to the regional EAAP congress in Cyprus in the afternoon of the 24th.

3) AnGR: implementation of the action plan

This point is briefly discussed to suggest that this item should be included in the WG agenda.

4) Planning of the further ERFP activities in 2023

i) Working groups in Cyprus

The ERFP chairs welcomes the two WG ERFP chairs that are joining the meeting – Eleonore Charvolin, the doc and info WG chair already participates to the meeting. The secretariat will send a reminder to register both for the ERFP WG and the EAAP congress. The chairs agree on a timing for the first day: the meeting will start at 9 am, with a coffee break from 10:30 till 11:00, a lunch break from 12:30 till 14:00 and the final coffee break from 15:30 till 16:00. The ERFP WG chairs are waiting for the agenda of the Mediterranean workshop to avoid repetitions.

A suggestion is to start the WG with the joint session, so that the topic related to the EURC EAB can be discussed individually in each WG after the global presentation. The agenda is to be finalized by March 22nd.

ii) Ad hoc actions and TF

- AHA:

Transhumance: first web meeting was held, a physical meeting will be held in June in Spain.

QMS: Delphine Duclos (France) will lead the AHA instead of Michèle Tixier-Boichard.

Mediterranean workshop: this AHA that was first planned in 2019 will finally take place during the EAAP regional session.

Breeding programs => a start was made by the EURC EAB; a meeting needs to be held with Christina Ligda to discuss the AHA representatives.

Small horse breeds => a physical meeting is planned for this fall.

Simmental => the first webmeeting was held in January. Eleonore Charvolin will contact Jan Tomka to see the possible connections with the Transboundary breeds TF.

EUGENA Steering Board Meeting: the yearly meeting is planned in Poland in May.

Special characteristics of native and local breeds for landscape management and ecosystem services => a call for experts was just launched.
ore will contact him.

- TF

Strategy: next meeting April 9th. Montserrat Caballos will contact Sipke Hiemstra to know if he needs help to produce the material needed for the next meeting.

TB: Virtual meeting to be held March 7th. An abstract was drafted for the regional EAAP congress. The article to publish in the GENRES journal still needs to be finalized.

Genebank database: a virtual meeting was held March 4th where the experiences of 2 countries was shared.

5) Organisation of the General Assembly

Our next General Assembly will be held on Thursday / Friday instead of Saturday / Sunday, since EAAP starts this year on a Sunday. The General Assembly will start Thursday afternoon, and the Steering Committee will meet only for half a day instead of an entire day before the General Assembly. It is suggested to hold a steering committee in July to hasten the process; for instance, FAO's representative could be invited virtually to this meeting. Also, the WG chairs will directly present their work during the GA instead of presenting it first to the SC then to the GA.

The secretariat will contact Lucca Buttazoni soon to start planning the logistic of the meeting.

6) 2024 elections

Montserrat Castellanos Moncho as a chair ends her first mandate this year. Due to professional reasons, she might not be able to candidate for a second term.

The next SC will be held virtually June 11th, 2024.