

# Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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

Nina Svartedal, Norway

## **Secretariat:**

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

### **1. Presentation of the Agenda and follow-up of the previous SC**

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

The secretariat still needs to prepare a letter to be sent before July to all NCs that will explain why a change of country contribution is to be foreseen in 2025.

### **2. Follow-up of the Working Groups: main outcomes of the Cyprus meetings**

The recent meeting, organized in collaboration with regional EAAP organization and FAO provided a valuable opportunity for comprehensive training and dialogue among representatives from various states and non-ERFP countries.

Eleonore Charvolin, Doc & Info chair, focused on the Key Highlights of the WG meeting:

- Positive exchanges occurred with non-ERFP countries, focusing on collaborative efforts and mutual understanding. Several non-ERFP National Coordinators (NCs) participated online, with seven or eight actively contributing.
- The exchange of views and work practices was highly beneficial, helping to identify the needs of these countries.
- Feedback was very positive, and Gregoire Leroy (FAO) expressed great satisfaction with the training session's effectiveness.
- Some non-ERFP NCs attended the entire EAAP meeting, demonstrating their commitment and interest.

On a different note, François Casabianca (INRAe) led discussions that raised important questions about the relationship between breeds and the environment, broadening participants' perspectives.

Globally participants agree to say that the meeting was very well organized by the team led by Georgia Hadjipavlou. A noted challenge is maintaining ongoing communication and ensuring follow-up on decisions throughout the year.

The Secretariat updated the composition of the WG members after the meeting with the resignation of the in situ Swedish representative and the add up of a Swedish representative to the ex situ WG.

The EAAP posters and presentations linked to AnGR were gathered by the secretariat and will be used as inputs by the ERFP secretariat for our social media.

The next Working Group meeting could be held in Athens in 2025, subject to confirmation with Christina Ligda.

### **3. Preparation of the General Assembly**

The field trip is to last an entire day, leaving few possibilities to NCs to leave Saturday night. The registration link will be sent by June 14<sup>th</sup>.

The SC and GA global agenda are discussed based on a proposal sent by the secretariat. Some time is needed to present, discuss and vote of the TF permanent secretariat. A dedicated slot will be allotted to discuss the progress report for Regional Focal Point on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action that will be sent by FAO, based on previous questionnaire. The idea is to decide together the main ideas that need to be enlighten. The chair suggests using some of the material collected during the GENRES Bridge project to build the strategy. The secretariat will also ask NCs if they want to present projects related to AnGR in their country, including the summary that was drafted for their country SoW report.

Before the GA, the secretariat will also ask AHA, WG and TF to send their reports. It will also be reminded to both NCs and WG experts that 2025 AHA templates need to be sent before the GA for budget planning.

### **4. Communication: Alcandora contract and IDELE proposal**

As agreed in previous SC, IDELE drafted a proposal to support ERFP communication which was sent to SC members before the meeting. The total budget devoted to Alcandora per year is equal to 14,000 €, the IDELE proposal is equal to 8,000 €.

Some questions are asked by the chair about the social media used and the need to make the most of the work already done. A good balance needs to be set between research and policy news to be advertised.

The SC thinks that the proposal is interesting and should be presented to the General Assembly. It would make sense to have an integrated proposal from IDELE for secretariat and communication; this approach is done by EUFORGEN and ECPGR.

The secretariat warned on previous occasion of the little use of the GENRES journal by the AnGR community. A reminder will be sent to all AHA leader to use the journal to report their actions once their project is over. The secretariat advertised the journal in the French AnGR scientific community so they could take the lead for a specific AnGR issue; no answer was given so far.

Both the contract with Alcandora and funding of the GENRES journal are fairly heavy budget for the ERFP network. An in-depth evaluation will need to be done by next year to assess the interest of keeping both fundings since ERFP activities are peaking again after two years of low expenses due to Covid, and the budget spent by the network is superior to the country contributions.

The Zoom subscription will need to be renewed by Coralie Danchin by using her own debit card since ERFP does not own one, therefore she asks the SC if the subscription should be renewed and if so, to be reimbursed by ERFP. The SC approved the renewal of the Zoom subscription to encourage ERFP virtual meetings and its reimbursement to Coralie Danchin.

## 5. 2024 elections

Two new SC members (resignation of Melissa Raemy and possible change of Danijela) and one chair will need to be elected at the next General Assembly. Active research of new SC members and chair are underway.

A mail will be sent to all NCs before the GA with the list of nominees. It will be reminded to all NCs that other candidacies are accepted and that the final elections will be done during the GA.

## 6. Follow up of the work of the EURC centre



European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

[www.animalgeneticresources.net](http://www.animalgeneticresources.net)

# EURC EAB – program of work

- Survey: final report. Cyprus WG. GA ?
- AHA sanitary genebank => guidelines presented Cyprus
- Genetic relatedness factsheet => draft presented to the in situ WG
- Effective population size => final version to be shown to the WG to see how to implement it at country level
- Guidelines assessment breeding programs Cyprus
- Guidelines for the definition of endangered breeds=> started

ERFP Secretariat

Breeding program assessment: who is in it? The secretariat will ask the AHA leader, Christina Ligda. Standing Zootechnical Committee, need to show interest for future work. Strategical to align the interest members states in the next reference centre activities. The SZC is a good way to channel such interest.

## 7. 2024 AHA follow up - AOB

In May and June, a total of 4 AHA are organised:

21 June 2024

AHA Transhumance - live meeting - Avila, Spain

Collaboration between Fabio Pilla and Montse Castellanos for the logistic issue. Important experts on the topic are attending as speakers.

31 May 2024

Ad hoc action landscape management and ecosystem services

Hosted by NORDGEN.

The core group agreed on how to work and divided the tasks in WP while assigning the WP leaders as well as deciding on the timeline and deliverables. The first virtual meeting with the entire group is expected at the end of June / beginning of July.

28 May 2024

EUGENA Steering Board meeting. 28th-29th May. Balice. Poland.

The connection of EUGENA and EUROFAANG were discussed in Cyprus. Some doubts were raised by the WG and EUGENA members, which were answered by Ana Granados. The exchanges will be transferred to SC for email approval by the end of the month.

21 May 2024

AHA Simmental breed, Physical meeting, Slovakia. A short report was sent by Jan Tomka to the secretariat to be disseminated on the social media.

- AOB

TF transboundary breeds:

New meetings are organized to finalize the paper which should be submitted before the GA.

Melissa Raemy expressed some words to the SC members since it is her last meeting due to her pregnancy and change of work. The chair thanks her for her time and she will be missed. We are hoping that we'll get to visit her farm in future ERFP work.

**The next SC will be held physically, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**