
**Minutes of the Meeting of the ERFP Working Group *In situ* Conservation and
Valorisation of AnGR**

23rd /24th April 2024

Meeting venue: Agricultural Research Institute P.O.Box 22016 1516 Lefkosia Cyprus

Chair: Holger Göderz (Germany)

All presentation can be found on ERFP website

Welcome and Introduction - Objectives of the WG meeting

As Holger Göderz (Chair) was not able to arrive in time because of travel problems, Danijela Bojkovski and Coralie Danchin represented him. They welcomed all participants and thanked them for their cooperation.

Ongoing Ad hoc actions - Current state and discussion

Ruta Sveistine presented the current of the Ad hoc action concerning the Native horse network. The next contact meeting is scheduled after the General Assembly in the fall, during which it is planned to reconcile and confirm the obtained survey results on local horse populations and discuss the structure of the intended article. Since we have received a request from other countries to join the Native Horse Ad hoc Action, the possibility of expanding and extending the project is being considered.

Fabio Pilla reported about the Ad hoc action that deals with Transhumance in connection with local breeds.

Jesus Fernandez presented the plans for the Ad hoc action “Special characteristics of native and local breeds for landscape management and ecosystem services”. Three similar ideas have been merged in this project. Fortunately, a lot of people have confirmed to contribute. The next step shall be a physical meeting with a core group to define the detailed work programme and to distribute the tasks. *(Remark: Meeting held on 31st May 2024 at NordGen headquarter in Alnarp, Sweden).*

How is in situ conservation understood in different countries?

Srdjan Stojanović presented the activities of the task "How is in situ conservation of Animal Genetic Resources is understood in different European countries". A further online questionnaire was sent out to the members of the WG and the National Coordinators by the

ERFP Secretariat on 5th April. Srđan Stojanović presented the results of the analysis of this questionnaire. Main conclusions are: In the survey participated members of the WG`s and NC`s, that's why there is a possibility that we have overlapping answers if there were several participants from one country in the survey. Some countries have National Strategy for AnGR, in some countries the lack of a strategy did not prevent the conservation of AnGR and most often these other documents are Rural Development measures, conservation programs or animal breeding plans and programs. Some countries still do not have a definition for the term in situ conservation and usually, locally adapted breeds are included in the in situ conservation programme. Landscape management activities with local breeds are very important.

How is AnGR management and conservation included in the national legislation?

Danijela Bojkovski (Slovenia) and Holger Göderz (Germany) presented the situation in their countries. In Slovenia AnGR management and conservation is included in the national legislation through the Livestock Farming Act, Rules on the conservation of livestock biodiversity and and National program for AnGR conservation. The main content of all three documents was presented (available at: https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/6a_ERFP_Insitu_Legislation_Slovenia.pdf). She concluded that legislation is sometimes too detailed and thus bringing some drawbacks while being implemented. The Ministry is also aware of the problem and preparation of new legislation was planned many times, but unfortunately never finished.

In Germany the conservation of the genetic diversity of native livestock breeds and the monitoring of those breeds is strongly included in the national animal breeding legislation. The subsidies for breeders of endangered native breeds are even laid down in the German basic law (most important law in Germany) which foresees measures for the protection of the Improvement of Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection.

The WG discussed how it could further work on this. Danijela Bojkovski, Srđan Stojanović and Holger Göderz will prepare a survey about the inclusion of in situ conservation (monitoring, conservation and sustainable use) that will be sent to all ERFP countries.

Inputs from the WG on topics related to the EURC-EAB

The European Union Reference Centre for Endangered Animal Breeds (EURC-EAB) presented its work in the joint session for all three WGs at the beginning of the Cyprus meeting. Coralie Danchin collected the In situ related topics and the WG discusses about input to the further work of the EURC-EAB and possible connecting points for future

cooperation. After the meeting, the members had the possibility to comment on the results. The final list of possible topics is attached to the minutes and will be considered by the EURC-EAB.

Work plan for 2024-2025 (to be approved at Assembly).

Holger Göderz presented a draft work plan for the next year. The WG discussed this draft and some topics have been added.

All members were asked to send their comments after the meeting.

Conclusion of the first day – Logistic issues.

Holger Göderz thanked all participants for their work. He gave special thanks to Danijela Bojkovski and Coralie Danchin, who represented him on the first day. Afterwards he closed the meeting.

Joint meeting with WG Documentation and Information on 23rd April

The joint meeting focussed on the topic of transboundary breeds.

As coordinator of the Ad hoc action concerning different European populations of Simmental cattle, Jan Tomka presented the already achieved results and the further work plan. A physical meeting will be held on 21st/22nd May in Slovakia. Additional questions have been sent to the members of ad hoc action. Questionnaire will be also circulated to the members of World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation, who has not been contacted so far by the members of ad hoc action. Report will be prepared for the ERFP General Assembly meeting in August and article for GENRES journal will be prepared by the end of the year.

Further agenda items have been a report from the ERFP Task Force Transboundary breeds and discussions about genetic relatedness between breeds.

Joint meeting with WG Ex situ conservation on 24th April

As the integration of ex situ and situ conservation is one task of the action plan for AnGR to achieve the goals of the European Strategy for Genetic Resources, it was decided to start to work on this topic in a common meeting of both groups.

Interesting approaches from 7 countries have been presented by the participants and there has been an discussion about this topic afterwards.

Fernando Tejerina (former Chair WG Ex situ) mentioned the idea to work on this topic in a new ERFP Ad hoc action. He will further discuss this with Ewa Sosin (newly elected Chair of WG Ex situ) and Holger Göderz after the meeting. *(Remark: The idea shall be presented to the General Assembly in Florence for discussion and further input).*