



Ad hoc action

Use of the IMAGE self-diagnostic tool to support the development of a quality management system in European animal gene banks





WG ex situ 24 04 2024 – AHA QMS


1

General information

- Proposition initially made by Michèle Tixier-Boichard (INRAE) and validated by the ERFP SC in 2021 but delayed due to time constraints. EUGENA and now EU Reference Centre on Endangered Animal Breeds are also involved in the approach
- Goal : help standardize the management practices in animal gene banks and guide them towards implementation of a QMS
- How ? Using the self-diagnostic tool prepared during the H2020 IMAGE project to help a gene bank to assess its progress towards a full QMS
- When ? From now till the end of 2024 – beginning of 2025



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2

Schedule of the different steps

Spring 2024

June-Sept 2024

Oct-Dec 2024

Spring 2025

- Identify 3 to 4 voluntary experts among ERFP members, who will assess 2 to 3 gene banks each, to have a comparative basis to make suggestions for actions.
- Identify 10 animal gene banks (max) to participate in the AHA

- Get the feedback from the experts and the gene banks who already used the IMAGE self-diagnostic tool, to validate some improvements

- Organize the **on-line meetings** to discuss the tool and make a first assessment, write a report, identify priority actions and decide for the need of an on-site visit.
- Realize the **on-site visit** by an expert for the 5 chosen gene banks
- Organize a **webinar** under the EURC EAB competence to showcase the value of using a QMS approach to safeguard ex situ collections.

- Present the results of the first assessments to the ex situ WG and discuss whether it should be extended to more gene banks.

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3

Identification of the experts and genebanks involved

- Email sent at the end of March to ask the WG members who are the experts and gene banks would like to be involved in the AHA
- For the moment very few answers:
 - One other expert : Sipke Hiemstra-Joost
 - For the genebanks : the Dutch animal gene bank is interested

Who wants to join ?

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4