

2024

news letter



Welcome to the June 2024 edition of the ERFP newsletter!

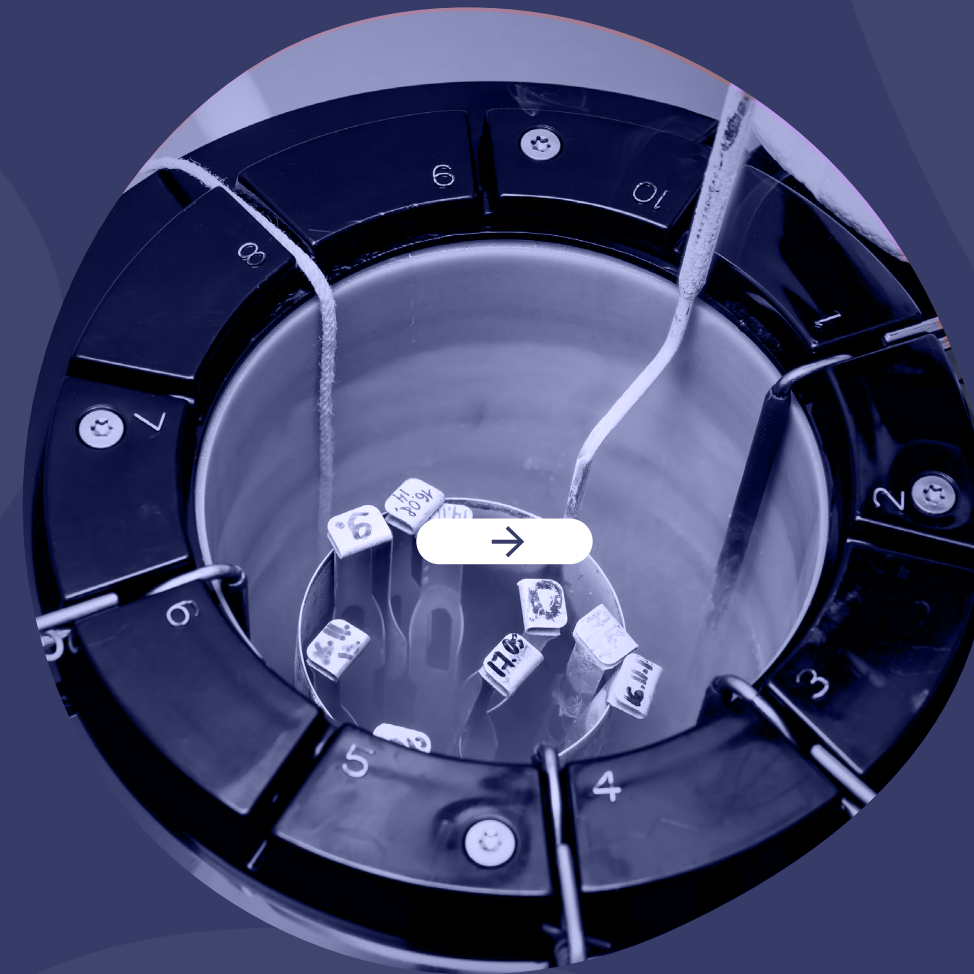
As we reach the mid-year mark, we reflect on the significant milestones achieved and look forward to upcoming events and initiatives.

This issue highlights outcomes from our recent meetings in Cyprus, updates from various Ad-Hoc Actions and further collaborations, such as the work carried out with the European Union Reference Centre for Endangered Animal Breeds (EURC EAB).

We also provide details about our next General Assembly in Florence and several more important inputs.



**Cyprus
Meeting**



**On going
Ad-Hoc Actions**



**Upcoming Events
in 2024**

*General Assembly
August 29-31th,
Florence, Italy*

Cyprus meeting

*Joint Meeting and
Mediterranean Symposium*

Working Group Meetings



Cyprus meeting

CYPRUS PRESENTATIONS →

Joint Meeting and Mediterranean Symposium

In April 2024, ERFP held a joint meeting in Cyprus, bringing together three Working Groups and participating in the Mediterranean Symposium alongside EAAP and ERFP members.

The meetings facilitated in-depth discussions on AnGR conservation, sustainable use and the integration of Mediterranean-specific strategies into broader European initiatives.

Key outcomes included:



Enhanced collaboration between Mediterranean countries and European partners.



Development of region-specific action plans for AnGR conservation.



Sharing of best practices and innovative approaches to livestock management in Mediterranean climates.



Sharing examples and practices of in situ/ex situ integration for breeding programs



Cyprus meeting



Working Group Meetings

The three Working Groups convened to discuss their ongoing projects and future plans aligned with the ERFP approved strategy. Each group provided valuable insights and updates:

Information & Documentation WG:

focused on improving data interoperability and updating the European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System (EFABIS).

In Situ Conservation WG:

presented progress on various **in situ conservation programs** and discussed strategies to enhance cooperation among stakeholders.

[IN SITU CONSERVATION PROGRAMS →](#)

Ex Situ Conservation WG:

highlighted the expansion of the European Genebank Network for Animal Genetic Resources (**EUGENA**) and the integration of new member countries.

[ERFP EX SITU WORKING GROUP →](#)

Highlight - ERFP Ex Situ Working Group:

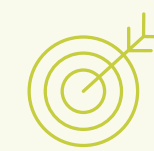
*Ad hoc Action on Quality
Management System.*

Highlight - ERFP Ex Situ Working Group: Ad hoc Action on Quality Management System.

The ERFP Ex Situ Working Group has initiated a crucial Ad-Hoc Action aimed at supporting the development of a Quality Management System (QMS) in European animal gene banks.

Initially proposed by Michèle Tixier-Boichard (INRAE) and validated by the ERFP Steering Committee in 2021, the project faced delays but has now commenced with involvement from EUGENA and the EU Reference Centre on Endangered Animal Breeds.

General Information:



Goal: to standardize management practices in animal gene banks and guide them towards implementing a QMS.



Method: utilizing the self-diagnostic tool developed during the H2020 IMAGE project to help gene banks assess their progress towards a full QMS.



Timeline: from now until the end of 2024 – beginning of 2025.

On going Ad-Hoc Actions

EUGENA Board Meeting in Poland

Native Horse Network

Transhumance



EUGENA

EUGENA Board Meeting in Poland

The EUGENA Board met in Balice, Poland, to discuss the strategic direction of the network.

Key topics **included the standardization of genebank protocols, integration of new species, and strengthening collaboration among member countries.**

Native Horse Network

Chaired by Rūta Šveistienė from the Animal Science Institute, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, this network focuses on small native horse breeds in the Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe.

The network aims to share knowledge and strategies to preserve these unique breeds and enhance their role in local ecosystems.



FEAGAS NEWS →

Transhumance

The Ad-Hoc Action on Transhumance continues to make strides in promoting traditional grazing practices to maintain biodiversity and prevent land degradation.

A **recent meeting** emphasized the role of transhumance in ecosystem services and cultural heritage preservation with a practical visit to Avileña negra Iberica breed transhumance in the Spanish Gredos Mountains after the technical discussion.



Simmental

Experts on the Simmental breed convened in Slovakia to develop a detailed work plan.

This initiative aims to identify and preserve isolated groups of animals closely related to the original Swiss Simmental population, ensuring genetic diversity and resilience.



Landscape Management and Ecosystem Services

chaired by Danijela Bojkovski (Slovenia), Jesús Fernández Martín (Spain), and Holger Göderz (Germany) as first chair, this Ad-Hoc Action explores the special characteristics of local native breeds for landscape management and ecosystem services.

The initiative aims to utilize these breeds to enhance biodiversity, improve land use practices, and provide ecosystem services.

PAPER ERFP-EURC EAB →

Collaboration with EURC EAB

According to EU Regulation 2016/1012, when designating the EURC-EAB, the Commission should duly consider the activities of the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP), which has been established under the FAO's Global Plan of Action for AnGR in Europe.

ERFP supports the in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use of AnGR and facilitates the implementation of FAO's Global Plan of Action for AnGR. Operating since 2001, ERFP promotes collaboration, coordination, and information exchange among European countries and organizations. With EURC-EAB's specific mandate within the EU legal framework, ERFP and EURC-EAB **will closely collaborate** to ensure the effective conservation and management of animal genetic resources.





Upcoming General Assembly

*August 29-31th,
Florence, Italy*

We are excited to announce that the next ERFPA General Assembly will be held in Florence, Italy, from August 29th till August 31st 2024.

This event will provide an opportunity to review our progress, set future priorities, and strengthen our network's commitment to AnGR conservation.

The field trip on Saturday will include the visit of pig farm breeding of the local "Cinta Senese" breed, followed by a tour of the Regional Farm "Alberese", near the sea in Grosseto province, where the local "Maremmana cattle" is kept on range. In the afternoon the NC will visit to the in-nucleus selection centre in Asciano, Siena Province, where two flocks of dairy sheep: the widespread "Comisana" breed and the local "Massese" breed are raised.

Conclusion

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to our mission of conserving animal genetic resources and supporting sustainable practices.

We encourage all members to stay engaged and contribute to our ongoing efforts. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Contact and participation

Are you a key player in AnGR? Follow ERFP to stay updated on our activities and provide your feedback. Join our task forces and Ad-Hoc Actions by contacting your National Coordinator. Stay connected with us on social media and participate in our upcoming events.

We look forward to your continued support and collaboration for a productive and impactful year ahead!

For more details and to get involved, visit our website:
<https://www.animalgeneticresources.net>





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