

Minutes of the ERF Assembly of National Coordinators

August 23rd 2025, Innsbruck, Austria

Chair: Danijela Bojkovski, NC, Slovenia

Participants: See list in annex.

All presentations delivered during the ERF Assembly are uploaded on the ERF website.

1. **Welcome and opening**

Danijela Bojkovski (Slovenia), Chair of the ERF Steering Committee, opened the Assembly in Innsbruck and welcomed all participants. She thanks the hosting country and Secretariat for organizing the GA. The Agenda was presented; with no amendments proposed. The agenda was adopted.

2. **Animal Genetic Resources in Austria**

Cf. slide presentations [Presentation of livestock production in Tyrol](#) and [Animal Genetic Resources in Austria](#)

Robert Potyka, alternate NC for Austria, succeeding Beate Berger following her retirement this year, invited local expert Christian Preßlaber, Director of the Animal-Field-Organic Department at Tirol Animal Breeding, to give a brief presentation of the livestock sector in Tyrol. Presentation of the status of AnGR in Austria by Robert Potyka followed, presenting also several breeds seen during the field trip the following day. The ERF secretariat reminded participants that a presentation entitled “One big success: management of endangered livestock breeds in Austria” will be presented during EAAP session No.25.

3. **Report from the ERF Secretariat**

Cf. slide presentation and written report (1_ERFP_Secretariat_WrittenReport_Assembly_2025_V1.pdf) prepared by the Secretariat prior to the GA meeting.

a. ERF Progress report

The presented Annual Progress Report 2024-2025 was approved by the Assembly.

b. ERF Financial report

ERF concluded the 2024 financial year with a balance of +€344,992.10. Clarifications were provided regarding the negative amount recorded under the budget line “EAAP accountant and bank interest”.

The presented final budget for 2024 was approved by the Assembly.

As of August 1st 2025, general expenses amounted to € 37.170,80 and the countries contributions totalled € 81.950. The remaining available funds stand at € 376.371,68

4. Reports from the ERFP Working Groups and Task Force

The Chairs of the Working groups briefly summarized their activities and future plans. Full details are available in the written WGs reports and in slide presentations (cf. table).

| WG | Slide presentation | Written report |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Doc & Info WG | PPT Doc Info | Report Doc Info |
| Ex situ WG | PPT Ex situ | Report Ex situ |
| In situ WG | PPT In situ | Report In situ |

| TF | Slide presentation | Written report |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Transboundary breeds | PPT TB | Report TB |

Particular attention was given to the presentation by Mr. Holger Göderz on the inclusion of AnGR management and conservation in national legislation, which generated significant interest. It was suggested that a consolidated list of such regulations be made available to all countries. The Assembly also noted that, in some cases, relevant provisions may exist at federal as well as national level.

For the Documentation and Information WG and the Transboundary Breeds Task Force, the main highlight was the forthcoming publication of a paper on transboundary breeds in the GENRES journal, approved by the editorial team in July.

In the Ex Situ WG, Ms. Ewa Sosin emphasized that more than 16 countries participated in ranking future plan proposals, which represents double the participation compared to the previous year.

All reports and work plans presented were approved by the General Assembly.

The Chair, Ms. Danijela Bojkovski, expressed her gratitude to the Chairs of the WGs, TFs, and Ad hoc Actions for their dedicated voluntary work.

5. Follow up of the AHA; proposals for 2026

Cf. slide presentation and reports for QMS and EUGENA AHA.

No report has yet been submitted for the Ad Hoc Action on Cryopreservation in Small Ruminants, which has already been concluded.

The list of potential AHAs for 2026 is extensive. The Assembly was reminded that all proposals must be submitted to the ERFP Secretariat by 1 November. The Steering Committee will then decide which actions will receive funding.

Virtual meetings will be the preferred format. Each action is expected to conclude with the preparation of an article to be submitted to the GENRES journal.

In the event that the total budget required for all AHAs exceeds the amount approved, priority will be given to those actions most closely aligned with the Action Plan and the objectives of the Working Groups.

6. Communication activities

Cf. slide presentation and report provided to NCs prior the General Assembly.

IDELE is now in responsible for the ERFP communication, including management of the social media (which?) and the preparation of the newsletter. The community manager, Sandrine Beaubert, works in close collaboration with Coralie Danchin, which facilitates the process.

7. FAO report

Cf. slide presentation [Report by FAO - Roswitha Baumung](#).

This General Assembly marked the last participation of Ms. Roswitha Baumung, who will leave the position in January 2026. On behalf of the Assembly, the Chair expressed gratitude for her many years of fruitful collaboration in the field of AnGR and presented her with a small token of appreciation, while extending best wishes for this new chapter of her life.

8. Progress report by EAAP WG-AnGR

Cf. slide presentation [Progress report by EAAP WG-AnGR](#).

The EAAP WG met before the ERFP GA, which enables Peer Berg to present several topics selected for the upcoming EAAP meeting in 2026. It was recalled that FAO and the ERFP secretariat are a permanent members of this WG.

9. Network for Nordic Landrace Sheep wool (NordWool)

Cf. slide presentation.

10. Elections: Steering Committee and Secretariat

Cf. slide presentation.

In accordance with the ERFP Terms of Reference, members of the ERFP Steering Committee are elected by the Assembly for a 4-years term. Nina Svartedal (Norway) ends her term in August 2025. Also, Mrs. Rachel Davis (United Kingdom) will resign from her current position in the Steering Committee for personal reasons.

The SC proposed two candidates:

Ewa Sosin (Poland – North Region)

Marcus Bates (UK – West Region)

The Secretariat circulated their CV to all the NCs prior to the GA and invited additional nominations. No further proposals were received.

After the presentation of candidates, the General Assembly elected Ewa Sosin and Marcus Bates as new members of the SC.

The Chair takes the opportunity to thank Nina Svartedal and Rachel Davis for their active and friendly coordination all these years and wishes Rachel Davis a successful new chapter in her life.

In accordance with the ERFP Terms of Reference, the election of the Secretariat will be conducted in 2026, with the new mandate commencing on January 1st 2027. The current secretariat invites any interested organisation to establish informal contact prior to the official application deadline (December 31th 2025).

11. ToR modifications: Secretariat

In the event that no organisation submits a candidacy for the Secretariat election next year, an amendment is proposed to allow IDELE to apply for a third term. The amendment was circulated to all NCs prior to the General Assembly.

The amendment is approved by the General Assembly.

12. ERFP future plans and 2026 budget approval

Cf. secretariat report and slide presentations.

Luca Buttazzoni (Italy) recalled that, according to the ToR “*the minimum reserve for the annual budget, in case of unforeseen circumstances, should be two times the annual budget.*” He emphasized the need for close monitoring of expenditures. The Assembly discussed the use of the ERFP reserve. It was acknowledged that funds have been managed prudently and that reducing the reserve after the COVID-19 period had been necessary. Nevertheless, the Assembly requested the long-term projection should be prepared by the secretariat and based on this information that the SC suggests possible savings and solutions.

The Assembly expects concrete suggestions at the next meeting regarding actions to limit expenses and achieve a balanced budget, noting that actual country contributions are consistently below the expected level.

As an initial measure, it was decided to include in the AHA template the principle that virtual meetings should be the standard practice.

The 2026 budget was approved, with one country (Sweden) that abstains.

The budget includes a partial funding of the GENRES journal; the secretariat will contact the ECPGR secretariat to let them know about our budget involvement for 2026.

13. EURC follow up

Cf. slide presentation.

The issue of breeds present in several countries under different name was raised, such as Fleckvieh / Simmental cited as an example. Such discrepancies may cause complications in the issuance of EU zootechnical certificate.

It was recommended to adopt approach similar to the German concept of “equirazen” of the use of “alternative breed name” as practiced in Italy.

Sipke Hiemstra reminded the Assembly that addressing questions related to transboundary breeds was the rationale for initiating the work on the population differentiation index.

14. Advancement of the Action Plan at ERFP level

Cf. slide presentation.

The Action Plan was finalised as an outcome of the Animal Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe. With support of the Working Groups, the Steering Committee carried out an initial assessment of the achievement of indicators.

This first evaluation demonstrated that the AHAs are effective instruments for advancing several ERFP objectives.

However, funding remains the weakest area of achievement, which is closely linked to the non-permanent status of the ERFP secretariat. As a reference, ECPGR is integrated into an ESFRI initiative (GRACE-RI).

Potential solutions for the co-funding of ERFP at EU level still need to be explored.

15. The ARETI project: adding value to indigenous Cyprus cattle breed

Cf. slide presentation.

16. Culling of a feral flock of goats in Norway

Cf. slide presentation.

17. AOB

Jan Hendrik Schneider (Germany) presented a few slides about the organisation of next year's GA, which will be held in Hamburg. The logistics for the venue have already been arranged at the congress centre, where EAAP will take place. The meeting has also been moved to September 2026 and will not fall in August. The Chair warmly thanked Jan Hendrik for all the efforts already made.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and active discussion, as well as all the task leaders and WG chairs for their reports, and the local organisers and Secretariat for their support with logistics.

The meeting ended at 18h30, Saturday August 23rd, 2025.

The next GA will be held in Hamburg, Germany, September 5th/6th 2026

ERFP General Assembly - List of Participants

August 23rd 2025, Innsbruck, Austria

Physical attendance

| First name: | Last name: | Country or International Organization: | Function |
|---------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Birna Kristin | Baldursdottir | Iceland | National Coordinator |
| Roswitha | Baumung | FAO | Observer |
| Peer | Berg | EAAP GR Commission | Observer |
| Danijela | Bojkovski | Slovenia | National Coordinator |
| Jeanne | Bormann | Luxembourg | National Coordinator |
| Luca | Buttazzoni | Italy | National Coordinator |
| Nuno | Carolino | Portugal | National Coordinator |
| Montserrat | Castellano Moncho | Spain | National Coordinator representative |
| Eleonore | Charvolin | ERFP | ERFP Secretariat |
| Pierre | Cherel | France | National Coordinator |
| Coralie | Danchin | ERFP | ERFP Secretariat |
| Rachel | Davis | United Kingdom | National Coordinator |
| Juan Vicente | Delgado Bermajo | RBI | Observer |
| Holger | Göderz | Germany | Technical Adviser |
| Georgia | Hadjipavlou | Cyprus | National Coordinator |
| Sipke Joost | Hiemstra | The Netherlands | National Coordinator |
| Mervi | Honkatukia | NORDGEN | Observer |
| Ante | Ivanković | Croatia | National Coordinator |
| Gita | Jansone | Latvia | National Coordinator |
| Jenny | Lejonberg | Sweden | National Coordinator |
| Tomas | Nemecek | Czech Republic | National Coordinator |
| Robert | Potyka | Austria | National Coordinator representative |
| Edward | Ramstedt | United Kingdom | National Coordinator representative |
| Hajnalka | Rozsár | Hungary | National Coordinator |
| Jan Hendrik | Schneider | Germany | National Coordinator representative |
| Mira | Schoon | The Netherlands | Technical advisor |
| Ewa | Sosin | Poland | National Coordinator |
| Srdan | Stojanović | Serbia | National Coordinator |
| Christian | Stricker | Switzerland | National Coordinator |
| Nina | Svartedal | Norway | National Coordinator |
| Rūta | Šveistienė | Lithuania | National Coordinator |
| Jan | Tomka | Slovakia | National Coordinator |

Excused: Bozidarka Markovic, Montenegro, National Coordinator and Milan Marković, Montenegro, Technical Advisor- Sharon Walshe, Ireland, National Coordinator