




Follow up of the AHA: proposals for 2026

ERFP Secretariat and AHA leaders
2025 General Assembly



| | Genebank | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Field of the questions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| A- General gene bank management | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| B- General quality management | 5 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 14 | 1 |
| Gene bank equipment | 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Personnel | 7 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Other | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |

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2024/2025 AHA in process

- Special characteristics of native and local breeds for landscape management and ecosystem services- leader: Holger Goderz
- Breeding program – in link with the EURC EAB. Leaders: Mira Schoon / Christina Ligda
- Integration of in situ and ex situ conservation approaches – Leaders: F. Tejerina / H./ Goderz
- Innovative and multifunctional concept for farm animal genetic resource conservation – leader Ante Ivanovic

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Finalized AHA in 2025

- Genebanks Guidelines (2023)
- Genebanks QMS (2022)
- New web tools in EUGENA portal (2025)
- *Cryopreservation in small ruminants (2025)*

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NEW!



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COMMISSION EUROPE
ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES
EUROPEAN UNION
ANIMAL BREEDS

GUIDELINES FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
NATIONAL ANIMAL
HEALTH REGULATIONS
FOR MATERIAL
INTENDED TO BE KEPT IN
GENE BANKS.

... thank you Fernando
for leading this task

July 2025



Funded by
the European Union

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Ad hoc action


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

Leader: Delphine Duclos, France




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AHA objective

- Proposition initially made by Michèle Tixier-Boichard (INRAE) and validated by the ERFP SC in 2021 but delayed due to time constraints.
- Goal : help standardize the management practices in animal gene banks and guide them towards implementation of a QMS
- How ? Using the self-diagnostic tool (H2020 IMAGE project) to help a genebank to assess its progress towards a full QMS

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Results of the 10 on-line meetings –


| Field of the questions | Genebank | | | | | | | | | | Average score | Maximum score |
|--|----------|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|---------------|---------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| A- General gene bank management | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 7,3 | 12 |
| B- General quality management | 5 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 10,7 | 16 |
| C- Gene bank equipment | 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5,1 | 6 |
| D- Gene bank personnel | 7 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6,2 | 8 |
| E- Genetic material database | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5,1 | 6 |
| F- Genetic material acquisition | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1,7 | 2 |
| G- Material collection (if relevant) | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6,0 | 6 |
| H- Introduction of previously processed material (if relevant) | 8 | 3 | | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 4/4 | 5,9 | 8 |
| I- Material storage | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5,7 | 6 |
| J- Material distribution | 2 | 4 | | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3,3 | 4 |
| TOTAL score | 48 | 48 | 37/62 | 59 | 62 | 47 | 62 | 66 | 67 | 65 | 56,1 | 74 |

➤ High total scores for many genebanks

➤ Fields with highest scores: material collection, mat. storage, equipment => genebank's core business

➤ Fields with lowest scores: general management and quality management

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Two on-site visits

- German National genebank - Mélanie Martignon (France) and Sipke-Joost Hiemstra (NLD) – March 2025
- Natural Resources Institute of Finland - Mélanie Martignon and Delphine Duclos – April 2025


➤ Feedbacks

- worthwhile for genebanks interested in the process to develop a QMS (particularly when it is not too advanced),
- two-person team: one person with expertise in QMS and a second with the experience of its own genebank.
- Each bank started a SWOT analysis as a visit outcome



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How to continue the work, some proposals

- The IMAGE self-diagnostic tool seems to be a good way to identify strengths and points to be developed. The total score can indicate whether the process is advanced or not (e.g. : more than 60 points, the process is almost complete)
- Facilitate the exchanges of document templates needed for a QMS (for example: table of relevant stakeholders, PESTEL analysis for external factors, SWOT analysis...).
- ⇒ More generally, what kind of documents/protocols could be shared (translated) between genebanks for inspiration at ERFP level ?
- ERFP Secretariat Organise a peer review/on-site visit system for



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To be continued ?

- Seems interesting to pursue with new genebanks (3 / 2 years ?)
- New ad hoc action needed or part of EUGENA budget ?
- Who will coordinate it ?

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New web tools in EUGENA

Issue: Breeds names in EUGENA and DAD-IS/EFABIS are not synchronized


Goals:

- Use of the FAO persistent identifiers in EUGENA
- Automated exchange of the breeds names from DAD-IS to EUGENA
- Entering data for breeds which are currently not present in DAD-IS
- Option to export genebanks collection data at country level in a format suitable for upload in EFABIS

Led by Z. Ducheve

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New web tools in EUGENA

Objectives and... all done !

- ✓ Extending the database with fields to link DAD-IS data
- ✓ Develop automated loading of breeds and species names in EUGENA
- ✓ Develop automated process for checking for changes and applying the updates
- ✓ Development of additional form for indexing non DAD-IS species and breeds by the administrator
- ✓ Extend EUGENA database with a field indicating implementation of QMS system and including this field in the data entry form and the gene bank contact data

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