

# Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, virtual meeting

## Participants:

**Chair:** Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia

## **National coordinators, members of the SC:**

Rachel Davis, UK

Georgia Hadjipavlou, Cyprus

Ante Ivankovic, Croatia

Gita Jansone, Latvia

Nina Svartedal, Norway

## **Secretariat:**

Coralie Danchin, and Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire (Inrae) (France)

Danijela Bojkovski welcomes the participants and introduces the Agenda. The Agenda of the SC meeting is approved.

## **1. Brief information about the budget and bank payments**

*Cf. slide presentation.*

The 2024 country contributions should be equivalent to previous years. The NC from Georgia asked for a official agreement between the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and ERFP, however ERFP does not have a juridical status. The secretariat will look for a solution based on solutions provided to other countries.

An amendment is suggested to be included in the ToR and reimbursement rules to be clearer about the fact that travel expenses related to the General Assembly are eligible for SC members and WG chairs, provided they follow the reimbursement rules.

## **2. Decisions on the 2025 AHA**

- Transhumance AHA

The secretariat will get back toward the AHA leader by telling him that the AHA is not approved as today for two reasons:

- no budget is provided on the AHA;
- several requests were made by the Secretariat to valorise the work of the 2024 AHA by writing articles in the GENRES journal, which is not the case so far.

The SC will examine the AHA again, provided the request is fulfilled completely.

The AHA “Integration of in situ and ex situ conservation approaches” is approved.

The SC suggests couple ideas to Ante Ivankovic for his AHA “Innovative and multifunctional concept for farm animal genetic resource conservation: Europe's success story”:

- These success stories could be good examples for the third report of the State of the World. Roswitha Baumung should be contacted to see if it is possible given the SoW timeline. Nina Svartedal will contact and discuss with Roswitha.
- AHA are approved by the SC, not GA, so the AHA can start earlier than planned in the proposal.
- This AHA would be useful for ERFP dissemination activities, and an article in the GENRES journal should be included. SC asked for the amendment.

The AHA “New web tool in EUGENA” is also approved, it will be suggested to Zhivko Ducheve to move up the calendar.

The AHA on cryopreservation in small ruminants needs to be examined by the Ex situ WG chair and the WG experts since the SC lacks expertise in this domain. It is suggested that if the proposal is approved, the seminar might be held during the EUGENA SC.

### **3. Communication**

The newsletter draft was sent to the SC prior the meeting, minor editorial comments are made, the secretariat will send them to Idele's communication manager so the newsletter can be disseminated the week before Christmas.

### **4. Follow-up of the AnGR Strategy for Europe: implementation of the Action Plan**

Due to lack of time, a specific two-hour virtual meeting will be organized to go through the action plan. The secretariat prepared an Excel file that will help to comment on the progress made, action by action. The secretariat will send a poll to all SC members for a meeting next January, 2025. Interaction will be needed with the WG chairs after this meeting.

### **5. Follow up of the GA/ Secretariat elections**

There is a consensus within the SC that the GA minutes are now clear.

The task force's next steps were also discussed, with some uncertainty about their mandate after the General Assembly. The conclusion is that the task force is left to rest, with the understanding that it would be needed if a crisis arose.

## **6. Follow up of the ITWG AnGR: brief recap. Cf. slide reports**

Eleonore presents the key points from the recent Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on animal genetic resources (ITWG AnGR) meeting.

It is reminded that Europe will chair the next ITWG AnGR and it will involve a review of the Global Plan of Action. It is important to prepare for this challenge. Therefore, Coralie will discuss with Sipke Hiemstra about leading an ad hoc action to review the Global Plan of Action. Nina Svartedal agrees to be part of the AHA.

The Steering committee will have to prepare for reviewing the draft of the 3rd State of the World report when it becomes available. A specific AHA should be started when the draft is ready.

How to motivate countries to send out their report?

Ante will help reach out nearby countries (Bosnia, Macedonia) that have not responded to the State of the World questionnaire. The secretariat will write countries that have not responded to the State of the World questionnaire.

## **7. Links with the EURC EAB consortium: last updates; preparation of the December meeting**

The Steering committee is invited to attend a virtual meeting with the reference center next week. The secretariat forwarded information about the achievements done and the 25/27 work program for reactions during the meeting.

## **8. Working groups meeting in 2025: first elements of the organisation**

The SC brainstorm ideas for a possible common topics for the joint session at the meeting, considering involvement the working groups in reviewing the Global Plan of Action. This idea will be discussed with Sipke Hiemstra, if he agrees to lead the AHA, and the ERFP WG chairs.

## **9. AOB**

No any AOB.

The chair ends the meeting by thanking Nina for the great coordination process done for last ITWG AnGR and the secretariat for all the preparation and its work.

**The next SC will be held virtually March 13<sup>th</sup> 2025**