



# ERFP for Animal Genetic Resources

## Joint Working Groups Annual Meeting



6 - 7 May 2025, Athens, Greece

Institute of Mediterranean and Forest Ecosystems



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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Hellenic Agricultural Organization – DIMITRA





Fisheries Research Institute  
Kavala

**Institute of Animal Husbandry Science**  
Giannitsa, Moudania Chalkidiki

**Institute of Veterinary Research**  
Thermi Thessaloniki, Asomatoi Rethymnos

Institute of Technology of Agricultural Products  
Athens, Ioannina

Agricultural Economics Research Institute  
Athens

Institute of Plant Breeding and Genetic Resources  
Thermi Thessaloniki, Naousa, Vardates Lamia, Drama, Kroussia Kilkis

**Institute of Olive Tree, Subtropical Crops and Viticulture**  
Chania, Iraklio, Athens, Kalamata, Lesvos

**Institute of Industrial and Forage Crops**  
Larisa, Volos, Karditsa, Patra

Soil and Water Resources Institute  
Thermi Thessaloniki, Sindos, Athens

Forest Research Institute  
Vasilika Thessaloniki

**Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems**  
Athens

(ELGO-DIMITRA)

National body (Private Legal Entity) under the supervision of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food with the following main activities:

- ✓ **Agricultural research**
- ✓ Agricultural education and vocational training
- ✓ Certification schemes and controls on quality of agricultural products (organic, designations of origin, geographical indications etc)

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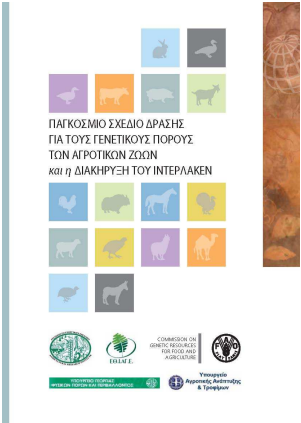


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Monitoring AnGR in Greece / Legislative framework

- The responsibility for the monitoring of the status of AnGR in the country is of the Ministry of RD&F, the Direction of AnGR and livestock holdings and the Regional Centres of Livestock GRs. Responsible for A.I. is the Veterinary Direction (Ministry of RD&F) and Dept of Reproduction and AI
- The legislative framework, in which the breeding / conservation programs are implemented (after the ratification of CBD - Law 2204/1994 (ΦΕΚ Α', 59)
  - The Presidential Decree (434/95 (ΦΕΚ Α', 248) -> criteria for risk status and decisions on measures
  - National Strategy for Biodiversity ((ΦΕΚ 2383 /2014)
- Greece participates in the actions initiated by the EAAP WG AnGR in the frame of FAO Global Strategy towards the ERFP establishment
  - Served as Secretary of ERFP (2006 -2010), as member of the SC (twice), Chair of WG, and coordinating / participating in several ERFP AHA
  - GPA has been translated into Greek language (2011 – cooperation of Greece and Cyprus)
  - DAD IS/ EFABIS regional node (in Greek language)



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Tinos breed



Sykia breed



Katerini breed

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### Current Actions under the Rural Development Plan

#### Action 10.1.09. "Conservation of Endangered Indigenous breeds of farm animals"

Financial support for owners of indigenous breeds of farm animals in order to maintain or increase the number of these animals

Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in the livestock sector

Sustainable development and balance of natural resources

#### Action 10.2.1: Genetic Resources in Livestock

Recording of pedigree data

Performance recording

Genotyping

Sheep	25	Not endangered	5
		endangered	20
Goat	2	Not endangered	1
		endangered	1
Bovine	8	Not endangered	2
		endangered	6
Pig	1	Not endangered	
		endangered	1
Horse	5	Not endangered	
		endangered	5

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Three photographs of indigenous Greek sheep breeds. The first photo on the left shows a flock of white sheep with black faces and legs, identified as the 'Agrinio breed'. The middle photo shows a single ram with thick, light-colored wool and curved horns, identified as 'Katsika'. The third photo on the right shows a flock of sheep with white and black patches, identified as the 'Lesvos breed'. An orange vertical line is positioned between the first and second photos.

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ELGO-DIMITRA, Athens

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**Lesvos breed**


- Lesvos-sheep breeders Association





**Frizarta breed**

- Farmers Cooperative of Western Greece



Currently : RDP - Action 10.2.1: Genetic Resources in Livestock

- Actions: - pedigree data and milk yield (Frizarta, Lesvos)  
- milk contents and udder morphology (Frizarta)
- Genotyping (Action 4) with Ovine SNP array
  - Identifying the scrapie genotype (both breeds)
  - Estimation of GEBVs (Genomic Selection) (both breeds)

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# Implementing GPA (from Country Report)

- The main priorities of GPA are incorporated into the various policy measures
- Efforts **towards the enhancement of coordination and complementarity of the implemented activities** to improve their effectiveness
  - Enhance monitoring of breeding and conservation programs implementation
  - Develop objective indicators to assess the efficiency of breeding and conservation programmes
  - Develop specific policy measures to strengthen the breeders’ organizations
- **Urgent steps** are needed towards the development of **National Cryoconservation Strategy**
- Most of *in situ* conservation activities include actions towards the production of quality products and niche marketing
- **Few actions relate the management of local breeds with the management of landscapes**
  - more efforts could be directed to such activities (ecosystem services, landscape and wildlife management) and better connection with the environment.

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Elissavet Iliopoulou, MRDF  
  
Dimitrios Tsiokos, ELGO-DIMITRA  
Aikaterini Saratsi ELGO-DIMITRA  
  
Georgios Kourousekos, MRDF



Warm thanks for the hosting!  
  
Director and personnel of the Institute of  
Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems



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**EAAP**  
European Federation of Animal Science

WEBINAR SERIES

**Genomic tools in local  
sheep and goat  
breeding programs:  
what would work?**

 **May 13 - 15:00 CET**

<https://meetings.eaap.org/webinar/genomic-tools-in-local-sheep-and-goat-breeding-programs-what-would-work/>