

Report of Documentation and Information ERFP working group – 2025/2026

1. Objectives of the group (Summary)

Over the past number of years, a European information system for animal genetic resources (EFABIS) as a contribution and gateway to transfer data from national information systems (national inventories) to the global information system, DAD-IS at the FAO, has been developed. National Focal Points in charge of the national inventories and nominated by National Coordinators are therefore now requested to upload their national data into EFABIS.

The EFABIS is essential for monitoring and an assessment of the diversity of AnGR in Europe and allows for an informed decision-making by countries from a regional perspective. Both monitoring and assessment as well as user needs might require further functionalities of EFABIS which should be identified and further developed by the ERFP Working Group Documentation and Information

The documentation of AnGR is one of the main targets of the GPA and an important basis for informed decision-making by countries, the ERFP and FAO at the global level. Countries should be supported by the ERFP Working Group Documentation and Information in the establishment of their national inventories for AnGR.

2. Membership of the group (chair in grey)

First Name	Last name	Country /Organisation
Birna K.	BALDURSDÓTTIR	Iceland
Lisa	BALZAR	Germany
Eléonore	CHARVOLIN-LEMAIRE	France
Zhivko	DUCHEV	Bulgaria
Tina	FLISAR	Slovenia
Georgia	HADJIPAVLOU	Cyprus
Irene	HÄFLIGER	Switzerland
Anna	HOLENE	Norway

First Name	Last name	Country /Organisation
Mervi	HONKATUKIA*	Nordgen
Ante	IVANKOVIĆ	Croatia
Martin	JOHNSSON	Sweden
Kristaq	KUME	Albania
Grégoire	LEROY	FAO
Christina	LIGDA	Greece
Božidarka	MARKOVIĆ	Montenegro
Gabor	MESZAROS	Austria
Tomas	NEMECEK	Czech Republic
Razvan	POPA	Romania
Ed	RAMSTEDT	United Kingdom
Nataliia	RIEZNYKOVA ¹	Ukraine
Clara	SANTOS ISCOA	Spain
Beata	SMULSKA	Poland
Anders	SØNDERGAARD LARSEN	Denmark
Mirjam	SPOELSTRA	The Netherlands
Srdjan	STOJANOVIĆ	Serbia
Enrico	STURARO	Italy
Ján	TOMKA	Slovakia
Gediminas	VAGONIS	Lithuania
Leonid V.	VISHNEVSKY	Ukraine
Sharon	WALSHE	Ireland
Mesut	YILDIRIR	Türkiye

* Observer

¹: Alternate

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

The plan for 2025–2026 included the following activities:

Annual meeting of the Working Group on Documentation and Information

The meeting of the WG on Documentation and Information was held on 19–20 May 2026 in Sassari, Italy. The meeting addressed five main topics.

a) Data collection for DAD-IS — country experiences

Tina Flisar (Slovenia) presented the Slovenian approach to data collection and reporting on animal genetic resources (AnGR), using a 1×1 km raster method for geographical distribution data. Group discussions highlighted the diversity of situations across countries and species, and the need for clearer protocols and broader exchange on data collection methodologies.

b) AHA Improve the use of DAD-IS / EFABIS by developing relevant communication tools

Zhivko Duchevev (Bulgaria) presented progress on the AHA action to improve DAD-IS use and communication. A questionnaire was circulated to gather national experiences, 112 responses were received, mainly by research professionals, and more answers are expected.

c) Task Force on Transboundary Breeds

Eléonore Charvolin presented the results of the Task Force on Transboundary Breeds, based on a publication in Genetic Resources (Charvolin, Tsiokos, Leroy & Ligda, 2025). Key figures: 6,460 national breed populations (NBPs) are recorded in 45 European countries via DAD-IS, of which 42% are transboundary. A 5-level gradient has been proposed to characterise the transboundary nature of breeds, integrating social and genetic parameters. Tools available for genomic analysis include FastMeanKinship, the Population Divergence Index (PDI), and WGS data (eurc-eab.eu/tools). Several case studies have been proposed. Christina Ligda (Greece) presented a framework for assessing transboundary breed cases, linked to the EURC-EAB indicator guidelines. Work has to be developed commonly 2026-2027.

d) Guidelines on indicators for assessing the endangerment status of breeds (EURC-EAB)

Coralie Danchin (EURC-EAB) presented the draft guideline developed jointly by the EURC-EAB and the ERFP WG and coordinated by Stephanie Minery (Idele, France). The guideline proposes two levels of indicators: Level 1 (primary) covers demographic data, genetic data, and geographical distribution; Level 2 (secondary) covers breed viability, organisation, social context, cultural value, and environmental risks. The final version will be published on the EURC-EAB and ERFP websites in Summer 2026.

e) Annual national reporting tool

Christina Ligda (Greece) facilitated a working session on developing an annual national reporting tool on AnGR. The session built on a preparatory virtual session held in April 2025, and explored four themes: the purpose of the report, data and DAD-IS, coordination through ERFP, and the future system. The guiding principle agreed was to simplify reporting and make better use of existing DAD-IS data without adding workload. The work continued during Summer 2026.

Mediterranean Workshop — Sassari, 20 May 2026

A dedicated Mediterranean Workshop was held in addition of the ERFP annual meeting in Sassari on 20 May 2026. It was organised as an open session and addressed two main themes:

Theme 1 — Animal Genetic Resources in the Mediterranean (11:00–11:40): Panagiota Koutsouli (Greece) presented the conservation status and genetic background of native cattle breeds from Greece and Cyprus, highlighting their adaptability to Mediterranean agroecosystems and their cultural heritage value. Grégoire Leroy (FAO) presented an overview of geographical distribution mapping tools in DAD-IS and their application to Mediterranean and transboundary breeds.

Theme 2 — Epizootic Emergencies and AnGR Conservation (11:40–13:00): Four country presentations illustrated the impact of recent epizootic events on AnGR conservation. Doytcho Dimov (Bulgaria) presented the impact of the Sheep Pox (SPPV) epidemic on endangered Bulgarian sheep breeds, with 180 outbreaks recorded between May and November 2025 and direct losses in four endangered breeds. Georgia Hadjipavlou (Cyprus) presented the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) situation in Cyprus. Christina Ligda (Greece) shared lessons from recent Greek epizootic events. Pauline Aad (Lebanon) presented the brucellosis situation and its impact on pastoral farming systems. The session concluded that epizootic episodes represent an increasing and sudden threat to localised breeds, and that the complementarity of in situ and ex situ conservation measures is essential in crisis situations.

Joint ERFP/EAAP Session

The main outputs of the WG Doc & Info were presented to the joint ERFP/EAAP session on the afternoon of 20 May 2026, and connections with the EAAP Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources were explored for future collaboration.

Preparation of a web conference on AnGR management in the context of epizootics

Following discussions at the Sassari meeting, the Chair of the WG initiated contacts with the Animal Task Force (ATF), EURC-EAB and other ERFP partners to organise a joint web conference on AnGR management during epizootics. A tentative date of October 2026 has

been identified. A planning meeting with ATF, EURC-EAB and ERFP has been organised in June 2026. ERFP take the lead for first stones of the organisation. Some proposal have been made for having a Parallel Session during ITWG for sharing outputs.

4. Plans and priorities for the next year (to be formally approved by Assembly)

The plan for 2026–2027 includes the following activities, pending formal approval by the ERFP Assembly:

In the frame of the WG activities

- National Reporting Tool (leads: M. Castellanos Iscoa, C. Ligda, E. Charvolin): a reporting template has been discussed in July 2026 and will be presented to the ERFP General Assembly in 2026.
- Raise Awareness on European AnGR: production of an annual report with key figures using DAD-IS and EUGENA data (proposed for 2026 budget), linked with national reporting Tool and with AHA communication Tool
- Emergencies and AnGR: joint ERFP–EURC-EAB–ATF web conference planned for Autumn 2026; possible side event at the ITWG.

AHA Actions (Ad Hoc Actions)

- AHA — DAD-IS Communication Tool (leads: Z. Ducheve, Bulgaria; C. Ligda, Greece): continuation of the AHA action in 2027.
- AHA — Data collection for DAD-IS (lead: T. Flisar): mapping of how countries organise their data collection for DAD-IS, with best practice sharing.
- AHA — Breeding programmes (leads: WG Doc & Info in collaboration with Ex situ and In situ WGs): adapting the EURC tool to species and countries outside the EURC scope.
- AHA — External risks to AnGR (lead: E. Sturaro): addressing climate change, socio-economic factors, diseases and predation; a workshop is envisaged.

Task Forces

- Task Force on Transboundary Breeds — Phase I (lead: E. Charvolin): launch of the questionnaire in Autumn-Winter 2026-2027 based on the 5-level gradient framework with case studies identified by the AHA; follow-up meetings in October and November 2026; monthly meetings from January 2027.

Other actions

WG Doc & Info

- Improve the quality and frequency of EFABIS updates.
- Organise virtual events on best practices for using DAD-IS.
- Virtual meeting on geographical data in DAD-IS.
- Collect information on breeds included in genomic projects via AHA.
- Support the Secretariat in collecting country information for AnGR networks (Chair and Vice-Chair).
- Synthesis of the various ad hoc actions, Task Forces and projects within ERFP.
- Follow-up on EURC-EAB developments and broaden testing of tools among WG members.

5. Other

Elections 2026–2029

The following nominations were agreed at the meeting in Sassari and submitted to the ERFP Steering Committee for endorsement:

- Chair: Eléonore Charvolin-Lemaire (France, INRAE) — re-elected
- Vice-Chair: Tina Flisar (Slovenia) — newly elected