

Mr Holger Göderz

Chair of the In situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR working group

Report of In situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR ERFP working group – 2025/2026

1. Objectives of the group (Summary)

The overall goal of this WG is the improvement of the in situ conservation (on-farm conservation) and valorisation of AnGR to provide a base for their sustainable use. Experiences on different initiatives with sharing of information among countries about implemented and planned activities related to on-farm conservation, success stories and projects need to be exchanged. The group will review legal conditions and financial support measures in order to optimize their implementation in on-farm conservation strategies. The WG will also support the on-farm conservation efforts for transboundary breeds as well as the promotion of the utilization of rare breeds and respective R&D activities to relevant stakeholders, for value chains and landscape management, the identification of “added value”-arguments (e. g. cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, ecosystem services, local marketing, organic agriculture). Approaches for a better integration of in situ and ex situ conservation activities in Europe need to be elaborated and promoted together with the WG “Ex situ conservation”.

2. Membership of the group (chair in grey)

Last Name	First name	Country / Organisation
Philippe	AMMANN*	ProSpecieRara
Birna K.	BALDURSDÓTTIR	Iceland
Peer	BERG	Norway
Danijela	BOJKOVSKI	Slovenia
Nuno	CAROLINO	Portugal
Agnieszka	CHEŁMIŃSKA	Poland
Coralie	DANCHIN	France
Juan Vicente	DELGADO BERMEJO*	Rare Breeds International (RBI)
Jesus	FERNANDEZ MARTIN	Spain
Holger	GÖDERZ	Germany

Last Name	First name	Country / Organisation
Mervi	HONKATUKIA*	Nordgen
Juha	KANTANEN	Finland
Kristaq	KUME	Albania
Milan	MARKOVIC	Montenegro
David	MIDDLETON	United Kingdom
Markus	NEUDITSCHKO	Switzerland
Fabio	PILLA	Italy
Mira	SCHOON	The Netherlands
Johann	SÖLKNER	Austria
Srdjan	STOJANOVIĆ	Serbia
Edmondo	ŠURAN	Croatia
Ruta	ŠVEISTIENĖ	Lithuania
Ján	TOMKA	Slovakia
Dimitrios	TSIOKOS	Greece
Anna	ZELTKOVSKA	Latvia
Tornike	ZHGENTI	Georgia

*Observer

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

Working Group activities in the period 2025/2026:

- **Organization of the annual WG meeting and joined meetings with the other WGs in May 2026 in Sassari, Italy**
- **How is AnGR management and conservation included in the national legislation?**

(lead: Danijela Bojkovski, Holger Göderz)

A questionnaire was drawn up and sent to the ERFP network via an online tool to explore the situation in the ERFP member countries. It was highlighted that the aim of this action is to concentrate on regulations on legislative level and to exclude national programs/strategies without legislative status. In the questionnaire, a differentiation has been made between regulations for monitoring, conservation and sustainable use.

So far, 21 counties have answered. First results have been presented to the Working Group and at the General Assembly 2025 in Innsbruck.

Further reminders will be sent out to increase the number of submissions.

A final report about the findings will be written. Depending on the results, it will be decided whether an article on the subject will also be submitted to Genres Journal.

- **How is *In situ* conservation understood in different countries?**

(lead: Srdjan Stojanović)

After a first questionnaire on this topic was sent out to the ERFP community some time ago, it was decided to include information about the implementation of the GPA in the countries, without duplication of questions that are already included in the SoW.

A draft of this extended questionnaire has been presented to the Working Group in the meeting 2026. The expected output and initial aims of this task were discussed. The draft questionnaire will be revised according to the discussion and will be shared with the group again.

- **Proceeding with (semi) feral livestock herds**

Since there was a great interest in this topic following the presentation on the Norwegian semi feral goat herd of Nina Svartedal at the General Assembly 2025 in Innsbruck, it was also added to the agenda of the Working Group *In situ* conservation. Following the presentation given by Nina, the group identified the following aspects as important in the management of such herds:

- Animal breeding
 - management of population
 - knowledge about genetic diversity
 - specific traits?
 - valuable genetic resources to conserve?
- Veterinary/sanitary issues
 - animal welfare
 - risk of introduction of animal diseases into economically important livestock herds
- Public awareness/opinions (support or protest)

It will be reviewed whether there will be an application for an ERFP Ad hoc action to work on this issue.

- **Joint meeting with WG *Ex situ* conservation** about integration of *ex situ* and *in situ* approaches in the conservation of AnGR (→Ad hoc action)
- **Input to and exchange with EURC-EAB for further work on *in situ* related topics** (inter alia Working Group for the assessment of breed risk status, transboundary breeds, integration of in situ/ex situ approaches)
- **Work on related Ad hoc actions**
 - Special characteristics of native and local breeds for landscape management and ecosystem services (Danijela Bojkovski/Jesus Fernandez/Holger Göderz)
 - Innovative and multifunctional concept for farm animal genetic resource conservation: Europe's success story (Ante Ivanković)
 - Integration of in situ and ex situ conservation approaches (Ewa Sosin/Fernando Tejerina Ampudia/Holger Göderz)

Detailed information can be found in the Ad hoc action reports.

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

- Work on ongoing Ad hoc actions
 - Landscape management and ecosystem services
 - Integration of in situ and ex situ conservation approaches
 - Innovative and multifunctional concept for farm animal genetic resource conservation: Europe's success story
- Application for an Ad hoc action on the topic of (semi) feral flocks?
- Protection of products of endangered livestock breeds

- Examples for support of local breeds in Rural Development Plans (to learn from each other)
- How is in situ conservation understood in different countries?
- Cooperation with the other ERFP WGs in the topic of emergencies in endangered livestock breeds
- Inclusion of AnGR management and conservation in the national legislations
- Further collaboration with EURC-EAB in the implementation of the tool for self-assessment of breeding programmes

5. Other

Since Holger Göderz (Germany) has been elected/nominated as Chair of the Working Group in 2023, his 3-years term of office ends in 2026. A reelection would be possible according to the ERFP Terms of Reference (ToR), but he decided to not candidate again. The Working Group recommends to the Steering Committee to approve Srdjan Stojanović (Serbia) as Chair for the next period.