l Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www animalgeneticresources net

ERFP Ad hoc action

Special characteristics of native and local breeds for landscape management and ecosystem services

ERFP General Assembly
5th/6th September 2026
Hamburg, Germany

ERFP
European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

INSTITUT DE L'ELEVAGE idele

1

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www animalgeneticresources net

Organizational structure

Coordinators
Enrico Sturaro (Italy), Jesús Fernández Martín (Spain), Danijela Bojkovski (Slovenia), Holger Göderz (Germany)

Budget
8.550 €

Merging of three different ideas for Ad hoc actions

Proposal approved by the Steering Committee in November 2023

2

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www animalgeneticresources net

Goals

We want to …

- **identify best practice examples** of ecosystem services provided by native and local breeds in the participating countries and publish those
- identify and characterize specific attributes and traits of the breeds for providing landscape management and ecosystem services
- **raise awareness** for the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR in the nature protection community (symbiosis)

3

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www animalgeneticresources net

Members

Jan Tomka	Slovakia
Mervi Honkatukia	Nordgen
Anna-Karin Gidlund	Sweden
Danijela Bojkovski	Slovenia
Srdjan Stojanovic	Serbia
Aldona Kawecka/ Agnieszka Chełmińska	Poland
Pedro Viera	Portugal
Mira Schoon/ Geert Boink	The Netherlands/ SAVE Foundation
Tornike Zhgenti	Georgia
Rūta Šveistienė	Lithuania
Juan Vicente Delgado Bermejo	RBI

4

ERFP European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www.animalgeneticresources.net

Divided into 4 work packages

WP 1: Analysis of data available in EFABIS/DAD-IS + literature review on indicators of ecosystems services and native and local breeds (Jesús Fernández Martín)

WP 2: Collection of best practise examples (Danijela Bojkovski)

WP 3: Survey among breed societies about specific characteristics and traits of the breeds (Holger Göderz)

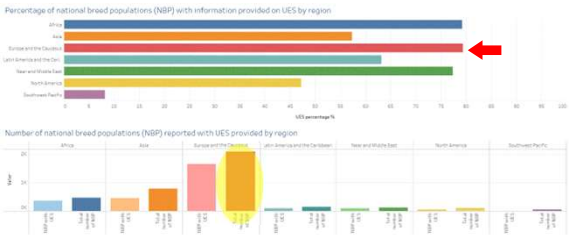
WP 4: Creation of final report (+ Genres Journal article) (NordGen)

5

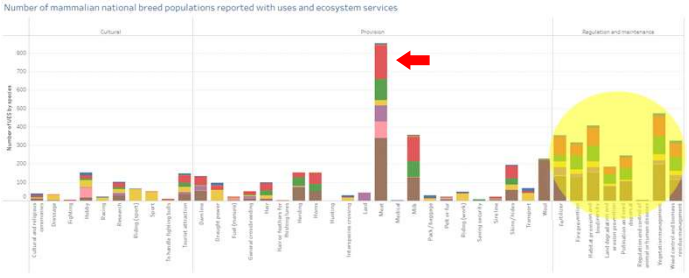
ERFP European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www.animalgeneticresources.net

Work package 1

DAD-IS: Uses and Ecosystem Services



- Large number of local breeds in Europe (> 2000)
- High proportion of breeds reported Ecosystem services (> 80%)



- Large number of non provisioning services
  - ✓ but see meat

6

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

www animalgeneticresources net

Work package 1

Regulation and maintenance

Service	No. breeds
Fertilizer	367
Fire prevention	324
Habitat provision and biodiversity	453
Land degradation and erosion prevention	200
Pollination and seed dispersal	251
Regulation and control of animal or human diseases	5
Vegetation management	490
Waste recycling of non human edible feed	182
Weed control and biomass residue management	368

- Most numerous
- Some redundant categories
  - ✓ fire and vegetation

Cultural

Service	No. breeds
Cultural and religious ceremonies	43
Dressage	38
Fancy	78
Fighting	5
Hobby	182
Racing	25
Research	113
Riding (sport)	70
Sport	60
To handle fighting bulls	11
Tourist attraction	164

- Hobby and tourism stand out

Provision

Service	No. breeds
Carting	51
Dam line	143
Draught power	103
Feathers	31
Fuel (manure)	21
General crossbreeding	69
Guard	40
Hair	105
Hair or feathers for fishing lures	2
Herding	190
Horns	155
Hunting	38
Interspecies crossing	30
Lard	44
Meat	900
Medical	4
Milk	368
Pack / baggage	30
Pelt or fur	23
Riding (work)	50
Saving security	9
Sire line	29
Skins / hides	195
Transport	71
Wool	237

- Draught power still relevant
- Be careful with classification
  - ✓ herding includes cattle and horses

7

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

www animalgeneticresources net

Work package 1

Survey among the ERFP network

- Sent to National Coordinators
  - ✓ distribution to other stakeholders
- Two rounds / two questionnaires
  - ✓ only 25 and 12 responses
  - ✓ only 11 countries (hugely skewed)
- Regulating and supporting services most prevalent
- Cultural services linked to transhumance, traditions, heritage and rural identity
- Most frequent keywords:
  - ✓ biodiversity (18)
  - ✓ fire/fire prevention (8)
  - ✓ production/food/biomass (12)
  - ✓ soil/fertility carbon capture (9)
  - ✓ open landscape (10)

Service	Species involved	Short examples
Maintaining open habitats	Cattle, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys	Pasture maintenance, ski slopes
Scrub reduction	(implied) sheep, goats, cattle	Grazing inaccessible scrubland
Transhumance	Sheep, goats, cattle, horses	Seasonal movement, corridor maintenance
Fire prevention	Pigs, cattle, sheep	Biomass removal, reducing fire hazards
Mountain/coastal stewardship	Sheep, goats, cattle, horses, donkeys	Mountain grazing, biodiversity maintenance
Nature reserve grazing	Cattle, sheep, goats, horses	Protected-area management
Cultural/traditional roles	Cattle, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys	Heritage breeds, traditional systems

8

ERFP European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www.animalgeneticresources.net

Work package 2

Collection of case studies

Objective: practical examples of how local breeds are used for landscape management and nature conservation

- Common case-study structure developed
- Examples collected from Working Group members
- Additional potential examples developed with the support of AI
- Information complemented with available sources, maps and photographs
- Draft cases organised in a common format for comparison

Current status: draft collection almost completed – validation and revision by WG members still needed

9

ERFP European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www.animalgeneticresources.net

Work package 2

What has been collected so far?

WP1: What ecosystem services are reported? → WP2: What does this look like in practice?

LANDSCAPES

- Mountain & alpine pastures
- Mediterranean scrublands
- Heathlands & grasslands
- Wetlands & floodplains
- Protected areas

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Maintain open habitats
- Control shrub encroachment
- Biodiversity conservation
- Wildfire prevention
- Habitat restoration

LOCAL BREEDS

- Cattle
- Sheep
- Goats
- Horses
- Pigs, buffalo & others

Draft examples show a broad diversity of landscapes, breeds and management approaches across Europe

ERFP Secretariat

10

ERFP European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www.animalgeneticresources.net

Work package 2

Next steps

1. Share draft cases with WG members
2. Verify examples, information & sources
3. Revise / replace where necessary
4. Select strongest best-practice cases
5. Identify common lessons

Expected outcome

A validated collection of European best-practice examples linking AnGR conservation + landscape management + biodiversity + rural livelihoods

The collection is not final yet – expert validation by the Working Group is the next essential step.

ERFP Secretariat

11

ERFP European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www.animalgeneticresources.net

Work package 3

Survey among breed societies

Objective: Analysis of breeding programmes concerning specific traits an characteristics of the breeds

- Breeds used in landscape management or for other nature protective matters?
- Is this use mentioned in some way in the breeding programmes?
- Special characteristics of those breeds for the use in the above mentioned fields?
- (Scientific) evidence for these special characteristics?

ERFP Secretariat

12

ERFP European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www.animalgeneticresources.net

Work package 3

Survey among breed societies

Objective: Analysis of breeding programmes concerning specific traits an characteristics of the breeds

- Do you try to keep these traits present in your population (breeding programmes/breeding schemes/conservation programmes)?
- Are there any systemic mechanisms (support, national programmes etc.) to promote the use of native/local breeds in ecosystem services?"

Current status: analysis of data; continued search for significant examples

13

ERFP European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources www.animalgeneticresources.net

Work package 4

Coordination of the preparation of the final report

Expected outcomes

- Final report (presentation and analysis of all collected information)
- Article for Genres Journal (with selected information

Current status: final report is in preparation

14