

# Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, virtual meeting

## Participants:

**Chair:** Danijela Bojkovski, Slovenia

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

Marcus Bates, UK

Georgia Hadjipavlou, Cyprus

Ante Ivankovic, Croatia

Gita Jansone, Latvia

Ewa Sosin, Poland

## **Secretariat:**

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

**Invited:** Holger Goederz (*in situ* WG chair)

Danijela Bojkovski welcomes the participants and introduces the agenda. The Agenda of the Steering Committee (SC) meeting is approved.

## **1. Follow up of the General Assembly**

At the time of the General Assembly (GA), one Ad hoc Action (AHA) report was missing about the seminar on cryopreservation in small ruminants. The report has been sent since and is uploaded on the website.

The secretariat did a virtual session to welcome the new National Coordinators (Austria, Hungary and Switzerland) and explain them how ERFP was working as well as present them the ERFP website.

The secretariat also sent the invitation to all NCs to postulate for the renewal of the ERFP secretariat, according to the Terms of Reference's calendar.

Experts and NCs were invited to submit new Ad Hoc Actions, quite a few were suggested by the Working Groups and the work on the Action plan (which?). Less AHA were drafted than expected and most of them are connected to *ex situ* work. The SC will review them later according to the agenda schedule (see later).

The secretariat also drafted (after inputs from the AHA leaders) and launched several surveys related to various topics.

The secretariat has contacted the ECPGR secretariat to let them know about ERFP's budget involvement in the GENRES journal for 2026.

It is reminded that one item the SC needs to work on before the next GA is to prepare a projection of the budget spending and to suggestion how to limit expenses.

## 2. Brief information about the budget and bank payments

*Cf. slide presentation.*

Ante Ivankovic has contact with North Macedonia, they might nominate a new NC. Danijela will call Bozidarka about Montenegro's payment situation. As a follow up of information from the previous SC, Danijela was invited to a symposium in October in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are interested to nominate a NC and probably also an alternate one, since the country is split in two governments.

The SC asks the secretariat to include in the minutes a table that includes all the countries for the payment of the country contributions. The table is below.

Table 12: Country contributions

Country	ToR 2024-27 1 <sup>st</sup> year	2024	2025 In process New fees
Albania	600	/	/
Armenia	600	/	/
Austria	2 700	2 700	3 600
Belarus	800	/	/
Belgium	4100	/	/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	600	/	/
Bulgaria	800	/	/
Croatia	1 400	1 400	1 900
Cyprus	800	800	1 050
Czech Republic	2 400	2 400	3 200
Denmark	2 600	2 600	3 400
Estonia	800	800	1 050
Finland	2 600	2 600	3 400
France	11 300	/	/
Georgia	600	/	/
Germany	11 300	11 300	11 300
Greece	2 600	2 600	2 600
Hungary	2 400	2 400	3 200
Iceland	800	800	1 050
Ireland	2 600	2 600	3 400

Country	ToR 2024-27 1 <sup>st</sup> year	2024	2025 In process New fees
Israël	2 400	/	/
Italy	11 300	11 300	11 300
Latvia	800	800	1 050
Lithuania	1 400	1 400	1 900
Luxembourg	1 400	1 400	1 900
Montenegro	600	600	/
Netherlands	4 300	4 300	5 700
North Macedonia	600	/	/
Norway	2 700	2 700	3 600
Poland	2 700	2 700	3 600
Romania	1 600	/	/
Portugal	2 600	2 600	3 400
Russian Federation	4 300	/	/
Serbia	800	800	1 050
Slovakia	1 600	1 600	2 100
Slovenia	1 400	1 400	1 900
Spain	4 800	4 800	6 400
Sweden	4 100	4 100	
Türkiye	2 600	/	/
Switzerland	4 100	10 000	5 400
United Kingdom	11 300	11 300	15 00
Ukraine	1 400	/	/
<b>Total:</b>	<b>124 000</b>	<b>94 800</b>	<b>108 850</b>

The secretariat will send reminder to people who haven't submitted travel expenses as fast as possible. The reimbursement rules do not include time limits for expense submissions; however, it was previously ruled by the SC that it should be done within 6 months after the meetings.

### 3. Decisions on the 2026 AHA

A brief recap is done of AHAs from the previous years that has not been completely finalized yet. Ewa Sosin is informing the SC that an article is in progress for the Simmental AHA.

A short report could probably be drafted for the GENRES journal based on the results from the QMS AHA, by integrating some of the results of the GENRESBRIDGE project.

The AHA leaders for the landscape management AHA and examples of Europe's success story AHA are informing them that they will not need any more budget to finalize their actions.

The output of the In situ / Ex situ AHA will be guidelines that are expected to be finalized in 2026.

Ewa Sosin reported on the recent conference in Poland on animal genetic resources that was coupled with a meeting of the In Situ / Ex situ AHA. The SC thanks her for this innovative way of thinking and will encourage AHA leaders to consider connecting future ad hoc actions with local events to share costs and promote collaboration.

The SC discussed budget allocations for the 2026 AHA, with a total of 30,000 euros approved. They debated prioritizing cryopreservation projects for pigs and horses over sheep, since one workshop on small ruminant semen cryopreservation was already done in June 2025. Eleonore Charvolin suggested organizing virtual meetings for the two groups throughout the year and potentially combining them for a final meeting. The SC asks the secretariat to go back to the proposers to request a better budget assessment. The possibility of conducting some activities online should be explored by AHA leaders to reduce costs and a reminder that AHA must result in publications in the GENRES Journal. Answers are needed by the next SC meeting.

#### **4. Communication**

The SC members did not get the opportunity to read the newsletter; they have till December 11<sup>th</sup> to do so. The new version will be sent to the ERFP network before Christmas.

#### **5. Secretariat election**

The present secretariat recalls the ToR's calendar. Four different countries expressed a motivation for hosting the secretariat this fall, two of them finally withdrew. Two candidates are expected by the end of the year.

One candidate stipulated that they would not have the IT staff to host the website and wondered if it is a mandatory requirement. After discussing, the SC recalled that according to the Terms of Reference, hosting the website is mandatory. However, if this is not feasible for the applicant, alternative solutions may be proposed. Applicants should submit their proposal indicating the solution they recommend, along with the associated costs, for the SC review and decision.

#### **6. Links with the EURC EAB consortium:**

A meeting was held with the EURC EAB consortium November 25<sup>th</sup> that was the occasion to exchange about common on going and future topics.

A topic of collaboration could be the setting up of a webinar about disease outbreak emergency procedures and response systems. Eleonore Charvolin as a Chair of WG Documentation and Information volunteers to organize it and Coralie will inform the EURC EAB consortium about the initiative.

An organisation reached out to EURC EAB to know if the ban on hormones for reproduction (in organic sector) may have negative impact on the conservation of some endangered breeds. The participants at EURC EAB and ERFP SC level have not heard of issues, however NCs and experts from the in situ WG will be asked.

### **7. Working groups 2026: first elements for the organisation**

*Cf. slide presentation.*

Holger Goederz joins the meeting as in situ WG chair.

The group agrees to hold a day-and-a-half meeting in Sardinia, with three rooms available for the working groups to meet separately and then come together for a joint session. The group also discussed the possibility of including transboundary breeds as a topic for the joint session. Georgia clarified that the afternoon of Wednesday is reserved for the EAAP regional meeting, with a session about Animal Genetic Resources. She will ask the local organizer about the possibility of booking rooms Monday (all day) for AHA, and we will get back to them by February if the rooms are not needed.

The SC thanks Georgia for all the help provided to organise the working groups

### **8. AOB**

Enrico Sturaro, as editor of the GENRES journal, informed ERFP that the journal starts to receive submissions related to aquaculture. He asked whether ERFP had any objections. The SC has no objections, and the secretariat will answer Enrico about the decision.

**The next SC will be held virtually March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**