

Minutes of the ERFP Steering Committee meeting

June 9th, 2026, 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, Idele, France

Apologies

Eleonore Charvolin-Lemaire, INRAe, France

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

1. Presentation of the Agenda and follow-up of the previous SC

Secretariat election: The application documents and the evaluation have been sent by email to all National Coordinators.

As the General Assembly (GA) agenda will be discussed in this meeting, it is reminded that agenda should include an item on the projected budget spending, together with proposals for measures to limit expenses.

2. Follow-up of the Working Groups: main outcomes of the meetings

Cf. pdf 1_ERFP_SC_June2026_SecretariatReportV1

The secretariat presented the results of the evaluation survey. Unfortunately, the response rate was very low. The survey indicated that there is still a challenge between organizing individual WG agendas with the joint event agenda. Overall, participants expressed satisfaction with the meetings and founded them useful for their work. The lowest rate was recorded for joint sessions, indicating that there is still room for improvement in organizing joint meetings.

The SC added that the afternoon session held during the EAAP conference related to AnGR was also a success. It was suggested that this type of collaboration should continue in the long term, as it appears to be beneficial for both EAAP and ERFP.

3. Preparation of the General Assembly: draft agenda and logistics

A draft version of the agenda has been prepared and is available on the [ERFP website](#).

A short agenda item should be included on the renewal of MYPOW and ToR, which will need to be approved by the GA in 2027. A discussion followed, noting that the new secretariat will take over in January and will therefore continue the work on these documents. When France took over the secretariat in 2018, it built on the initial discussions on these documents. The current secretariat will contact AZRRI to determine whether they would be willing to begin join the SC and any working group on the topic before the start of their mandate.

Further discussions focused on additional topics to include in the GA agenda. Ewa and Georgia will send the Secretariat their proposals related to disease management (what different countries have in place in the critical occasions, such as disease outbreaks). Topic will then be forwarded to the NCs, which can present case studies from their countries during GA (5 presentations; 15' min + 5' min discussion). This topic should be discussed during the GA to support the organisation of the dedicated webinar led by Eleonore. Marcus reiterated his offer to assist with the webinar.

It was suggested to organise a social dinner at the GA meeting, with participants covering the cost themselves. To estimate attendance, a question will be included in the registration form.

Coralie informed the SC about the joint EAAP/ERFP challenge session, which will take place on Monday following GA. The session is linked to the preparation of the Third State of the World Report on Animal Genetic Resources. She will include this information in her communication to the NCs.

4. 2026 elections

AZRRI will be invited to present their candidacy to host the ERFP secretariat during the GA meeting in Hamburg. At the next SC meeting, new chairs for the in situ WG (Srdjan Stojanovic) and the new chair / vice chair for the Documentation and Information WG (Eleonore Charvolin / Tina Flisar) will have to be validated by SC

5. Links with the EURC EAB consortium

Cf. pdf 1_ERFP_SC_June2026_SecretariatReportV1

The slides presented during the ERFP WG are commented briefly.

6. AOB

Montse Castellanos informed the SC that the European Commission is expected to present a strategy for the livestock sector during the second half of 2026.

This represents an opportunity to remind EU of the importance of the AnGR strategy. A meeting will be held 17th June to discuss specifically the breeding and genetic matters and Montse Castellanos will attend.

Danijela drafted a position paper to be submitted to the EU, Gita will identify appropriate contact person within the Commission. The SC will have till Friday, 12th to provide comments, after which the paper will be circulated to all NCs for immediate final comments (by 15th June). They will also be advised to include the strategy in the questionnaire if they are their country's representative on that matter. The secretariat will submit the final position paper to EC on 16th June. Coralie will also consult with EURC EAB to determine whether it should be appropriate for them to issue a support letter as well.

The next SC will be held physically, September 4th, 2026