

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

I have the pleasure to present you the 7th issue of the ERFP Newsletter. Inside you will find, between other topics, information on our 15th ERFP Annual Workshop held last August in Barcelona, Spain. The detailed reports and presentations can be downloaded from ERFP website.

As we are at the end of 2009 and we are all looking forward to the coming holidays, this is the right time to have an overview of the work we have done the previous year. ERFP has been further developed and new countries joined our activities. Our workshops and other events organised are well received with high participation, not only by the National Coordinators, but

also by other interested persons involved in the management of AnGR.

One of the important ongoing issues concerning the future of ERFP is related with the development of the 5 year business plan. In Barcelona the first draft of the business plan was presented and discussed in details. The new document based on these discussions will be circulated for comments and proposals and the final decision will be taken in the next ERFP Annual meeting in Crete.

In parallel the procedure for the election of the new Secretariat is still in progress and the new Secretariat will take over after the 16th Annual Workshop in Crete next August.

For the next year, 2010, apart from our 16th Annual Meeting in Crete, take into consideration the Training Workshop on Gene Banking and Cryopreservation for the European Region, planned from 1-3 June 2010 in Lelystad and the key scientific session "Strategies to add value to local breeds" in the 61st EAAP Annual Meeting in Crete. ERFP is co-organising this session with FAO and EAAP WG_AnGR. You are all welcome to submit contributions.

Closing, I would like with this opportunity, to thank you all for your collaboration, support and contributions in our activities and wish you all to enjoy the Christmas holidays and have a happy and successful New Year 2010!

Andreas Georgoudis
ERFP – Exec. Secretary

15th ERFP Annual Workshop, Barcelona, 22-23 August 2009

The 15th Annual Meeting of the NCs was held in 22-23 August in Barcelona, Spain, with a wide participation, of a total of 55 participants. Information on the projects coordination meeting you will find on page 2. The meeting was opened by the Chair, Asko Maki Tanila, Isabel Garcia, NC of Spain and Montserrat Castellanos who welcome the participants in Barcelona. The Annual Report of the activities of ERFP since the last Workshop was presented by Andreas Georgoudis, ERFP Secretary. Irene Hoffman presented the FAO activities 2008-2009. Before the break, in a special ceremony, Dominique Planchenault and Mike Roper were awarded for their exceptional services regarding the establishment and development of ERFP. The Regional Coordinator of Latin America and Caribbean, Dr. Arthur Mariante, was invited in the annual meeting and

presented a report on the Status of conservation and management of AnGR in the region. Furthermore, the national plans for AnGR of Spain and Portugal, a review of the cattle genome sequencing and its implication in selection and also reports of the different activities held during the previous year and updates on going projects, were presented.

A wide discussion on the issues related with the strategy of ERFP and the development of the business plan, was carried out and the plan of activities for the period of 2007-2008 was decided.

The presentations and the detailed minutes of the Annual Workshop can be downloaded from the ERFP website:
www.rfp-europe.org



Inside this issue:

60th EAAP Session: Practical strategies and tools for the genetic management	2
Projects Coordination meeting	2
Nordic side event -12th CGRFA	3
Sweden's Action Plan	3
International Training Workshop	3
12th Regular Session of CGRFA	4
9th WCGALP	4

Special points of interest:

- *International Gene Banking and Cryopreservation Training Workshop, 1-3 June 2010, the Netherlands*
- *9th WCGALP, 1-6 August 2010, Leipzig, Germany*
- *16th ERFP Annual Workshop 21-22 August 2010, Heraclion, Crete, Greece*
- *61st EAAP Annual Meeting 23-27 August 2010, Heraclion, Crete, Greece*



Practical strategies and tools for the genetic management of farm animal populations organised by EAAP-WG-AnGR, ERFP, EAAP-Animal Genetics Commission, EURECA project - Barcelona, 24 August 2009

The EAAP Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (EAAP-WG-AnGR) and ERFP organized on Monday 24th afternoon (14.00-18.00), August 2009, in Barcelona the S.13 EAAP Session on "Practical strategies and tools for the genetic management of farm animal populations".

The S.13 Session is the third Training Workshop for NCs jointly organized by the EAAP-WG-AGR and ERFP, this year in collaboration with the EAAP Animal Genetics Commission and the EU-EURECA project. The first and the second train-

ing workshops were successfully held in Dublin and in Vilnius for the years 2007 and 2008, respectively, in connection with the annual meetings of ERFP.

The Barcelona session was organised into six main lectures on available strategies and tools for the genetic management of farm animals, three communications and many posters, all of major AnGR conservation interest.

The presentations can be downloaded from www.eaap.org

ERFP PROJECTS COORDINATION MEETING - 22 August 2009

During the Projects Coordination meeting on Saturday 22 August, the status of implementation of the current ERFP projects was presented by the projects' leaders. From the total of 8 projects that were presented, 1 started on the 2006 ERFP Call, 1 on the 2007 Call, 3 on the 2008 Call and 3 were selected during the last Call (2009).

Tamas Szobolevszki presented the results of the on going project on the *Murinsulaner horse*, and also the outcomes of the first meeting and the work-plan of the new project on *the characterisation of the indigenous and improved podolic cattle breeds*. Ante Ivancovic gave a presentation on the Pramenka sheep project and the expected outputs, which include a report on the status of the Pramenka sheep breeds and the development of collaboration regarding breeding activities that will ensure long-term, economically viable and sustainable conservation of Pramenka sheep breeds. Furthermore, he presented an introduction on the new project on *the development of a regional network in function of sustainable breeding programs for transboundary breeds* and the planned activities that focus on the review of the breeding strategies for the transboundary breeds and the creation of a regional network of experts, services in order to strengthen the cooperation for

establishing a sustainable breeding programs for regional and other native breeds and also to enhance the importance of national Focal Point institutions. Eléonore Charvolin in her presentation on *the status of implementation and the next steps of the project on the development of a common methodology to evaluate and monitor the population-genetic status of farm animal breeds*, presented the indicators on the livestock biodiversity that were developed in the frame of the SEBI 2010 process and proposed the work plan until the end of the year. Following, she presented the status of the project *various aspects and possible evolution of in situ conservation in Europe*, which is based on the idea that the in situ conservation programs are based on pre-existing situations and farmers know and use the best appropriate tools to their region. The project intends to make a survey on the successful (or not) case studies and identify the success factors. Drago Kompan presented and distributed the booklet on *the Brachycerous cattle in the South Eastern European countries*, which is completed and presented the objectives of the project *Proper way of supports for endangered livestock breeds* that focuses on the economical evaluation of local breeds in comparison of "standard" breed and define the method for evalua-

tion of subsidies (support). Sipke Hiemstra gave an overview of the activities carried out in the frame of ERFP related with the cryoconservation, informed the NCs on the Workshop on Gene Banks and cryoconservation held in Tunis last April and proposed to organise a training Workshop in Lelystad in the beginning of December in the frame of the project on *the development of the Cryo-WG*.

After the break, Sipke Hiemstra informed the NCs on the developments of the proposal preparation to be submitted under the FP7 Capacities and Vera Matlova gave a detailed and informative presentation on the status of the negotiations on the International Regime and ABS.

A discussion followed concerning the development of the new ERFP business plan and the possible announcement of a new Call for Action in the beginning of 2010.

The presentations can be downloaded from www.rfp-europe.org

Nordic action plans to fulfill the Global Plan of Action – highlights presented by Sweden and Denmark

The Nordic countries have prepared national action plans to fulfil their obligations according to the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken declaration.

NordGen organised a side event during the 12th session of the CGRFA to present some concrete actions and strategies for its future work. Examples of practical, measurable and realistic

actions from Sweden and Denmark were presented by Eva-Marie Stalhammar and Helle Palme, after a short introduction from the leader for sector farm animals in NordGen, Dr Juha Kantanen.

Sweden's Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources

The purpose of a national programme is to preserve the biological diversity through the conservation and use of animal genetic resources, and, as such, the action plan is the document that will transform the animal genetic programme from a set of ideas into action. The purpose of the Swedish National Action Plan is to guarantee long-term food production through sustainable use. Thus, the purpose is not, first and foremost, to conserve a number of different breeds, even if this was to produce a positive side-effect.

The background material for the action plan is the national programme proposal for the management of animal genetic resources, which the government commissioned the Swedish Board of Agriculture to compile. The parties concerned have developed the proposal further into a national programme and have determined the measures recommended in the action plan. The action plan is, in part, intended for use in practical conservation work and, in part, as a basis for applying for resources for different research assign-

ments.

The action plan will be valid for the next ten-year period, from 2010 to 2020. Each year, the Swedish Board of Agriculture will follow up on whether the results have been achieved through examining information from individual actors pursuing them. After five years, a review ought to be made to see whether we are still following the plan.

The national action plan:

- describes what the national animal genetic resources are,
- presents how Sweden will conserve and utilise the animal genetic resources in a sustainable manner,
- describes the actors involved today in the management of the country's animal genetic resources and suggests which actors may contribute to future work,
- identifies what resources there are for conserving the animal genetic resources as well as what resources are needed for this to be carried out when it comes to both finance and competence.

The action plan comprises five main areas.

International Gene Banking and Cryo-preservation Training Workshop

How to organize and operate a gene bank for farm animal genetic resources

1-3 June 2010, Lelystad, the Netherlands

The aim of the training workshop is to transfer state of the art knowledge in the area of gene banking and to share experiences and knowledge between European countries. The training workshop will bring together a mixture of policy-oriented and more practically involved persons from a variety of countries.

This training workshop is addressed to professionals with strategic and/or operational responsibilities in gene banking in Europe.

The training workshop is organized by the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands of Wageningen University and Research Centre (CGN), in collaboration with the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Applications can be sent to kees.zuidberg@wur.nl. The deadline for applications is 20 January 2010.

There is no participant fee for this training workshop. Travel expenses and board and lodging will be covered by participants. There is limited funding available from FAO and ERFP to support a number of participants. For applications and further information:

kees.zuidberg@wur.nl

sipkejoost.hiemstra@wur.nl

1. characterisation and inventory (FAO Strategic priority area 1: Characterisation inventory and monitoring of trends and risks).
2. conservation and sustainable use (FAO Strategic priority area 2 and 3: Sustainable use and development, conservation).
3. information and education (FAO Strategic priority area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity building).
4. programme for research and development (FAO Strategic priority area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity building), (this section will be an independent publication).
5. international work (FAO Strategic priority area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity building).

For more information:

eva-marie.stalhammar@jordbruksverket.se

EFABIS update

ERFP is working together with FAO and EAAP in coordinating the European Database for AnGR, on the acquiring and updating the information on the European farm animal breeds and on the roles of access to this information.

As, ERFP gives attention to have an updated and well developed database for AnGR at European level, we urge you to continue your efforts on updating and completing your national data in EFABIS database.

ERFP Steering Committee:

Asko Maki-Tanila, FL, Chair
Eleonore Charvolin, FR
Drago Kompan, SLO
Mark Maguire, IE
Oya Akin, TR
Andreas Georgoudis, GR, Exec. Secretary

The Newsletter is published, under the supervision of the Steering Committee, from the ERFP Secretariat, with the contribution of:

Christina Ligda, chligda.arsc@nagref.gr
Evi Danou, ve46u039@minagric.gr
Ekaterini Konsultu, konsultu@agro.auth.gr
Dimitrios Tsiokos, dtsiokos@agro.auth.gr
Mina Kotsaftiki, minakots@agro.auth.gr

The ERFP website is updated regularly.

www.rfp-europe.org



Photos from the award ceremony held during the ERFP Annual Meeting in Barcelona.

Dominique Planchenault and Mike Roper receiving their awards for their significant contribution to the establishment and development of ERFP.



12th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The 12th Regular Session of the CGRFA was held in Rome, 19-23 October. The report of the 12th is available on-line in Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Russian (with Chinese to be uploaded soon) at: <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-meetings/cgrfa-comm/en/>

The report includes the Commission's recommendations regarding reporting on progress in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (GPA) and on status and trends; the funding strategy for the GPA; small-scale livestock keepers; and endorsement of guidelines on breeding strategies and the development of national strategies and action plans. It also includes the resolution on access and benefit sharing adopted by the Commission.

9th WCGALP, 1– 6 August 2010, Leipzig, Germany

The 9th World Congress on Genetics applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP) will be organised from August 1 to 6, 2010 in Leipzig, Germany.

The congresses of the WCGALP series are held every four years. They bring together the global community of animal geneticists and breeders to discuss the major scientific developments in the field and beyond.

The topics include the following:

- Species breeding
- Genetics of trait complexes
- Methods and tools
- Genetic improvement programmes
- Special topics

The state of the art in quantitative and molecular genetics will be presented, and current knowledge on population genetics and genetic improvement strategies will be updated for each species,

in order to discuss future prospects of animal breeding.

For more details and a continuous update of information, please visit

<http://www.wcgalp2010.org>

16th ERFP Annual workshop, 21-22 August 2010, Crete, Greece

Information on hotel accommodation: www.eaap2010.org

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Faculty of Agriculture
Dept. of Animal Production
Animal Genetics and Breeding
Prof. Andreas Georgoudis

Phone: +30 2310 99 86 83 / 87
Fax: +30 2310 99 87 19
E-mail: andgeorg@agro.auth.gr