

Meeting Report ERFP-Assembly 27th to 28th August 2011 in Stavanger, Norway

Chair: Asko Mäki-Tanila, Finland

Rapporteur: Jan Hendrik Schneider, Germany

All presentations held during the 2-day Assembly can be found on the [ERFP website](#).

Elections

Election of the Rapporteur

Dr. Jan Hendrik Schneider was elected as rapporteur without dissenting votes for the Assembly meeting in 2011.

Election of two new Steering Committee members

This year the term of one Steering Committee member ends and the representative for the eastern sub-region is still missing, so that two new members had to be elected. New elected members are:

- Dr. Nina Sæther, Norway for the Northern Sub-Region
- Dr. Elzbieta Martyniuk, Poland for the Eastern Sub-Region

Both new members were elected without dissenting votes and declared, that they are willing to act as Steering Committee members.

Forthcoming Assembly Meetings

The Assembly of National Coordinators of the ERFP is currently linked to the annual conference of the EAAP. The ERFP Secretariat raised the question whether or not it could be advantageous to separate these meetings for financial and timely reasons. However many national coordinators also attend the EAAP Conference and use the linkage for reasons of efficiency.

An enquiry among the participants of the current Assembly showed that about 80% are also participating the EAAP annual conference in the following week. The Assembly decided to hold the next Assembly meeting in the established manner at the weekend before the EAAP annual conference from August 25th to 26th in Bratislava, Slovakia. There, the linkage between the two conferences will be reviewed again. Additional arguments for the remaining linkage between ERFP and EAAP meetings are that the link between ERFP and EAAP facilitates getting national contributions and the cooperation especially in scientific matters.

ERFP Activity report

In reviewing the activities of the past twelve months, Frank Begemann reported about the Steering Committee Meeting in Bonn, the actions of the newly formed ERFP Secretariat, especially the redesign of the ERFP Website and publications such as the ERFP-Poster at the Intergovernmental Working Group Meeting of Animal Genetic Resources in Rome (November 2010) and the Newsletter.

In the last year, two Working Groups were founded: "Ex situ Conservation" and "Documentation and Information". Both Working Groups met for their first time in April 2011 at BLE, Bonn. The list of members and reports of the Working Group activities can be found on the ERFP Website. Also three ERFP Task Forces were founded: "Access & Benefit Sharing" (1st meeting was held 14-18 June 2011 in Wageningen), "Agri-Environmental Measures" (1st meeting will be held in 19-20 September 2011 in Madrid) and "Risk Status and Indicators" (1st meeting will be held October 2011 in France). Furthermore, the ERFP-projects which were started in the last years are continued as ERFP ad hoc actions. It was recommended to investigate, if some projects were to be finalized or integrated with the work of the new Working Groups or Task Forces, as e.g. there is overlapping with existing Task Forces (i.e. SUBSIBREED and Agri-Environmental Measures or

“Development of models assessing the breeds risk status by utilization of population and relevant geo-referenced data” and “Risk status and indicators”).

ERFP widely collaborates with other organisations. In the Assembly, the following observers are invited: FAO, EAAP, NordGen and some NGOs (DAGENE, EFFAB, RBI, SAVE). Also in the Working Groups observers are permitted. An information exchange with FAO takes place annually.

For 2012 the following actions are planned:

- Budget consolidation
- Implementation of the work plans of the ERFP Working Groups
- Establishment of output-orientated work plans for the ERFP Task-Forces
- Preparations for the Regional Progress Report with regard to FAO/CGRFA
- Implementation of reimbursement procedure
- Enhance feedback and communication between ERFP bodies
- Maintain and further develop information exchange
- Review need and develop Rules and Procedure for Ad Hoc Actions

The Activity report in written form can be downloaded from the ERFP Intranet.

Reimbursement of travel costs

One of the actions for 2012 is the implementation for the reimbursement procedure, so that travel costs for members of e.g. Working Groups could be reimbursed in a fixed and transparent manner. Therefore, reimbursement rules were adopted by the Assembly. The final state of these reimbursement rules are published on the ERFP website.

Two points of these rules had to be discussed more intensively:

- Especially for Working Groups and Task Forces the Assembly provided flexibility in cost planning. So the budget of a Working Group or Task Force can be extended by 25 % on request of the chair of the group by decision of the Steering Committee. The corresponding text in item 2 of the reimbursement rules reads as follows:
“Expenses in Working Groups, Task Forces and Ad hoc actions need the approval by the chairs or coordinators within the agreed budget before the approval by the Secretariat in order to be paid by the EAAP. At the request of a chair or coordinator, the Steering Committee may decide to spend more funds in a particular budget line up to a limit of 25% of this budget line, within the overall ERFP budget as approved by the Assembly.”
- The Assembly further decided upon the possibility for the reimbursement of travel costs to the ERFP-Assembly for some member states. Accordingly, the travel costs of national coordinators of the countries in category A and B as given in Annex 2 of the ERFP Terms of Reference can be reimbursed up to a maximum of 850€ upon their request. Travel costs of other persons from the country cannot be reimbursed. The Assembly will review these rules after two years in 2013 with regard to the selection of countries and the amount paid to NCs. The text in item 7 of the reimbursement rules read as follows:
“ERFP will support the participation of National Coordinators at the ERFP Assembly of the country categories A and B, upon their request. Costs will be reimbursed according to the rules laid down here against reimbursement claim and original receipts only. The reimbursement cannot exceed € 850 per person.
The National Coordinator may be accompanied to the ERFP Assembly by technical advisors. These advisors will participate at their own expenses.
This rule is applied for the next two years and will be reviewed by the Assembly in 2013.”

Financial Budget 2012

According to the decisions for the reimbursement of travel costs the draft financial plan was amended to meet the conditions for 2012. For the reimbursement of travel costs for national coordinators of category A and B countries, the budget of the Assembly in 2012 was increased from 10.000 € to 30.000 €. So the travel costs of all national coordinators from the 23 category A and B countries could principally be reimbursed to the maximum of 850 €.

The financial plan for 2012 looks as follows:

budget year	2010		2011			2012
	planned	spent	planned	Spent*	Additional costs	planned
Assembly	9.000,00	-8.670,85	10.000,00		-10.000,00	30.000,00
Steering Committee	5.000,00	-3.353,00	5.000,00	-1.928,64	-3.071,36	5.000,00
Development of Strategies	15.000,00	-4.865,90				
Secretariat incl. working funds + website	15.000,00	-10.000,00	10.000,00	-10.000,00		10.000,00
ERFP Working Group Documentation	10.000,00	0,00	20.000,00	-4.579,51		20.000,00
ERFP Working Group Ex Situ	10.000,00	0,00	20.000,00	-4.160,16		20.000,00
Task Forces			15.000,00		-6.000,00	15.000,00
Workshops	15.000,00	-7.353,42				
EFABIS	10.000,00	-10.000,00	6.000,00		-6.000,00	6.000,00
EAAP overhead	5.000,00	-5.000,00	5.000,00		-5.000,00	5.000,00
subtotal ERFP general expenses:	94.000,00	-49.243,17	91.000,00	-20.668,31	-30.071,36	121.000,00
Ad hoc Actions / ERFP Projects	50.000,00	-45.522,54	32.500,00	-8.892,52	-5.000,00	12.500,00
subtotal ERFP projects sub-account:	50.000,00	-45.522,54	32.500,00	-8.892,52	-5.000,00	12.500,00
total:	144.000,00	-94.765,71	123.500,00	-29.560,83	-35.071,36	123.500,00
contributions:		86.000,00		50.100,00		
balance total expenses / contributions:		-8.765,71			-14.532,19	
as received per financial year ; incl. existing stocks		Costs 2010			Costs 2011 expected	
remaining funds ERFP general expenses:		133.744,65			127.104,98	
remaining funds ERFP projects sub-account:		137.691,31			123.798,79	
remaining funds total:		271.435,96			250.903,77	

*until July 31st, 2011

For 2011 not all country contributions have been accounted. Italy paid a contribution of 10.000 € after July 31st, Germany announced, that a contribution of 10.000 € will be paid at the end of the year.

The financial report is accessible at the internal area of the ERFP Website.

Cooperation with FAO

Projects Implementation of the GPA

Irene Hoffmann reported that in the 13th session of the CGRFA the Commission started the Call for Projects under the FAO Trust Account which is part of the Funding Strategy for the Global plan of action for animal genetic resources (GPA). The volume for each project is limited to 50.000 US\$ for projects carried out by one single country and 100.000 US\$ for bilateral/multilateral projects. The project duration is limited to two years. In total more than 1.000.000 US\$ are available for project funding, so that presumably 10 to 20 projects could be funded. Only developing countries and countries with economies in transition are eligible for projects. In collaborative projects the benefiting country has to be eligible.

FAO plans the Call for project concept notes from 15th September until 15th November 2011. The final approval for projects is foreseen in August 2012.

ERFP will be integrated in the Call for concept notes in three steps.

1. The Secretariat will send out a note with the Call for projects and its conditions will be described and the Secretariat offers assistance to eligible countries if so requested.
2. Additionally an ad hoc group with Russian and Slavic language speaking members was founded, who make eligible countries aware of the call and encourage and assist them in preparing the concept notes. The members of the ad hoc group are:
 - Arunas Svitojus (Lithuania),
 - Juha Kantanen (NordGen/Finland),
 - Drago Kompan (Slovenia),
 - Kristaq Kume (Albania),
 - Haldja Viinalass (Estonia).
3. The Assembly delegated the pre-screening of the concept notes to the Steering Committee.

Preparation of the Progress Report on implementing the Global Plan of Action

The Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) of the CGRFA foresees a progress report on the implementation of the GPA for the 14th session of the Commission in 2013. Therefore a questionnaire was prepared which will be sent after a testing in October to the national coordinators in December 2011. The national coordinators will have two month time (Jan/Feb 2012) to fill out the questionnaire and submit it to FAO. In March 2012 ERFP will prepare a regional report. The regional report covers the actions by ERFP and the various collaborative actions within the European region and does not summarize the national actions. FAO will then compile the reports at global level. The compiled progress report will be reviewed by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group of Animal Genetic Resources at its meeting from 22-26 October 2012 and by the Commission in 2013.

For the preparation of the regional report the Secretariat will receive a draft format from FAO to be commented in autumn 2011. The Secretariat will then prepare a first draft regional report to be reviewed by the Steering Committee and submitted to the national coordinators for their final approval.

EFABIS

The EFABIS project has come to an end and hence the future of EFABIS has to be transferred into a permanent information infrastructure. Therefore, ERFP, EAAP and FAO have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure the long-term maintenance and development of the network of European Farm Animal Information Systems (EFABISnet) and DAD-IS, to allow for the continued automatic transfer of European animal genetic resources data to DAD-IS, through EFABIS.

The details of the sharing of responsibilities towards the EFABIS system and data submission through national nodes will be outlined and agreed in a separate Letter of Agreement (LoA) between ERFP and EAAP. The ERFP Assembly has approved a budget line for this EFABIS support up to 6.000 € annually.