

## **Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> ERFP Assembly of National Coordinators - 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark**

**Chair:** Catherine Marguerat-König

All presentations delivered during the ERFP Assembly Meeting are uploaded on the ERFP website.

### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **Welcome and opening by the host country**

Kim Holm Boesen, National Coordinator (NC) for AnGR of Denmark, welcomed all participants and presented some interesting facts about agriculture and animal production in Denmark.

#### **Welcome**

Catherine Marguerat-König, Chair of the ERFP Steering Committee, welcomed the Assembly to Copenhagen and presented the agenda of the meeting. She thanked the Danish colleagues for the hosting of the ERFP Assembly Meeting and the sponsoring of the social dinner and the technical visit. Furthermore she thanked the ERFP Secretariat for the preparation and organization of the meeting.

#### **Report from the ERFP Secretariat**

In the "Annual Progress Report 2014", Frank Begemann, Head of the ERFP Secretariat, gave an overview of the structure of ERFP and the activities of the several units. He presented the plans for 2015 and reported about the achievements in the period of the outgoing Secretariat.

After that Mr Begemann presented the "Financial Report 2014" and described the financial situation of ERFP. As per 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 the remaining funds were 311.868,20 €. He highlighted, that this amount has been confirmed by EAAP.

The expenses in 2014 summed up to 29.574,37 € and the incomes through country contributions were 61.200 € (all amounts as per 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014).

Frank Begemann explained, that the remaining funds of the project subaccount had been transferred into the general expenses budget line, so that there will be only one budget line in the ERFP account in future.

Additional costs of closed projects and further *Ad hoc* actions will be covered by the *Ad hoc* action budget.

The new country contribution categories, that had been adopted by the ERFP Assembly Meeting 2013 in Nantes and will be used as from 2015 onwards, were presented again. The ERFP Secretariat had prepared a budget proposal for the year 2015. The fee for hosting the ERFP Secretariat from 2014 to 2018, that would be required in the only application, was already reflected in this proposal. This budget plan was approved by the Assembly, provided that the applicant for the ERFP Secretariat would be elected.

#### **Revision of ERFP Rules for Reimbursement**

The amendments to the ERFP Rules for Reimbursement which were proposed by the Steering Committee were approved by the Assembly provided that the correct address of the ERFP Secretariat would be included as per the election of the Secretariat later during the Assembly meeting. [Note by the Secretariat after the meeting: On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 the address of the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food will be replaced by the address of the new ERFP Secretariat.]

### **Election of the host of the ERFP Secretariat 2014 - 2018**

Sebastian Winkel gave an overview of the tender procedure for the hosting of the ERFP Secretariat in the period 2014 – 2018. After that, Catherine Marguerat-König presented the only application, that had been applied by the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana. She asked the Assembly for voting. The Assembly agreed to the applicant without dissenting vote. The Head of the Secretariat will be Danijela Bojkovski. For practical reasons the financial transactions will still be coordinated by the BLE until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and then handed over to the full responsibility of the new Secretariat. The ERFP website will continue to be hosted by the BLE throughout the entire phase from 2014 until 2018.

Through the election of the Secretariat, the budget proposal for 2015 was finally approved.

### **Election for ERFP Steering Committee**

According to the ERFP Terms of Reference, the members of the ERFP Steering Committee are elected by the Assembly for 4 years. As the term of Tamas Szobolevszki, NC of Hungary, ended in 2014, the Assembly had to elect a new representative for the Central Region. Ms Marguerat-König thanked Mr Szobolevszki for his cooperation and wished him all the best for the future. Jeanne Bormann, NC of Luxembourg, was suggested to be his successor. The Assembly elected her to the Steering Committee without dissenting vote.

### **Further proceeding regarding the ERFP account holder and the generated interests**

Frank Begemann described the current situation with the EAAP as account holder for the ERFP money. He reported from a bilateral meeting of the ERFP Steering Committee and ERFP Secretariat with the EAAP Secretariat on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014 in Copenhagen. He highlighted again, that EAAP had confirmed the ERFP funds in the amount of 311.868,20 € per 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

Furthermore, EAAP confirmed, that there is the possibility of opening a separate account with the functionality of online banking for the ERFP money, under the name of EAAP, either at the bank where EAAP has its accounts or at another bank that is located in Italy. The advantages of separate accounts would be improved transparency for both, ERFP and EAAP, and an increased efficiency in the ERFP transactions.

However, for reasons of responsibility for money that is kept at accounts under the name of EAAP, EAAP wants to have the last saying for all transactions. The solution could be a contract between EAAP Secretariat and ERFP Secretariat that frees EAAP from all responsibility for the money on the account. EAAP promised to investigate the possibilities with several banks and will come back with the results to ERFP not later than 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Frank Begemann encouraged the Assembly to send other proposals for the solution of this matter to the ERFP Secretariat.

### **Presentation of the final draft for the MYPOW 2015 – 2018 for discussion and adoption**

The first draft of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2015 – 2018 had been sent to the National Coordinators for annotation in January 2014. In the Steering Committee Meeting in Bonn in April 2014 this draft had been revised and the new version had been sent to all National Coordinators prior to the Assembly Meeting.

Frank Begemann explained that this should be the new guiding document for the activities of ERFP. The Assembly adopted the MYPOW 2015 – 2018.

### **Presentation of the new Task Force “Collaboration with EU”**

Catherine Marguerat-König presented the new ERFP Task Force “Collaboration with EU”, that has been established by the ERFP Steering Committee. She clarified, that this Task Force should not act as a player to discuss about EU matters in Brussels. The main mission of the Task Force will be to draft a concept note with proposals for the improvement of the communication between ERFP and the EU and timely information of National Coordinators about important developments.

As nominated members of the Task Force were presented: Didier Bouchel (NC of France), Tamas Szobolevszki (NC of Hungary), Maija Pontaga (Latvia), Jeanne Bormann (NC of Luxembourg), Filomena Afonso (Portugal), Montserrat Castellanos Moncho (Spain) and Göte Frid (Sweden). The Assembly approved the composition of the Task Force and elected Jeanne Bormann as Chair.

### **Reports from the Working Groups**

#### Documentation and information

Christina Ligda presented the work of the Working Group. There was a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Thessaloniki, Greece. Some of the main items on this meeting have been the preparation process of the 2<sup>nd</sup> State of the World Report, the new breed classification system, population data rules in EFABIS and the EFABIS upload workshops. The presentation is uploaded on the ERFP homepage.

#### Ex situ conservation

Sipke-Joost Hiemstra gave the report of the Working Group on “Ex situ Conservation”. The main topic was the European Genebank Network for AnGR (EUGENA) that has been further developed on a joint meeting with the Task Force on Access and Benefit Sharing held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 at Schiphol Airport near Amsterdam. One result of this workshop is a draft for the EUGENA Terms of Reference, that had been sent to all National Coordinators prior to the Assembly Meeting. The Assembly adopted these Terms of Reference with small amendments in the understanding that the annexes therein still need to be drafted and presented to the Assembly for approval at its next meeting.

### **Reports from Task Forces**

#### Access and Benefit Sharing

Elzbieta Martyniuk gave the report on this Task Force (TF). At the beginning she informed the Assembly that Slovenia has suggested to replace Metka Zan Lotric by Danijela Bojkovski in the TF. The Assembly approved this. Elzbieta Martyniuk presented the current situation regarding the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol at global and European level.

Furthermore, she reported about the work of the TF. There have been meetings on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Bonn, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 in Amsterdam and the above mentioned joint meeting with the WG on Ex situ Conservation. One of the main items was a submission to FAO as answer to the notification letter of the CGRFA Secretariat to inform on “on voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices, and/ or standards in relation to access and benefit-sharing for all subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture”. This paper will be sent to FAO at the beginning of September 2014.

### Risk status and Indicators

Christina Ligda reported from the Task Force on behalf of Eléonore Charvolin-Lemaire. The first part of the final report had been presented on the Assembly Meeting 2013 in Nantes. Ms Ligda presented the main items of the second part. The complete version will be distributed by email among the National Coordinators as soon as possible. The Assembly thanked Ms Ligda and all involved persons for the work and decided to close this Task Force.

### **AOB**

Elzbieta Martyniuk informed the attendees, that the ERFP Assembly Meeting 2015 will be held in Krakow, prior to the EAAP meeting in Warsaw. The meeting will be held on Saturday and Sunday. For those, who will join the EAAP sessions, there will be comfortable train connections from Krakow to Warsaw.

At the end of the first day, Catherine Marguerat-König honoured the outgoing members of the ERFP Steering Committee and the ERFP Secretariat and thanked them for the work they have done over the last years.

## **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

### **Reports from Ad hoc actions**

#### Progress report by EAAP WG-AnGR

Sipke-Joost Hiemstra reported about the planned EAAP/ERFP session on “Strategies of national gene banks for AnGR in Europe for long term conservation purposes and to support in situ conservation of endangered breeds” in Warsaw 2015. This session should be preferably on Monday, so it would be more comfortable for persons involved in ERFP to attend. Jeanne Bormann made the suggestion to invite speakers from the USA or Africa. Sipke-Joost Hiemstra encouraged all attendees to send abstracts for and to participate in this meeting.

#### Study of origin and conservation strategy of the Pramenka sheep breeds as regional transboundary breeds

Ante Ivankovic presented the final report of this project and distributed the booklet to the attendees. He clarified, that Pramenka sheep are a group of different breeds and not a single breed. Further booklets can be sent by post upon request. Roswitha Baumung offered to publish such reports also in the FAO Animal Genetic Resources Journal.

#### Proper way of supports for endangered livestock breeds – SUBSIBREED

Drago Kompan presented the final report of the project and handed out an electronic version to all participants.

It was discussed to better use another wording regarding substitutions of AnGR in future. It was proposed to call it payment or contribution for ecosystem services like already done in some countries.

#### Development of models assessing the breeds risk status by utilization of population and relevant georeferenced data

Andreas Georgoudis reported about the results of this project. The importance of the geographical distribution of the breeding animals of a breed for the calculation of its risk status was highlighted. Especially in the case of an outbreak of animal diseases, this distribution could decide about the conservation or extinction of a breed. The final report will be sent till the end of 2014. Christina Ligda mentioned that comments on the presentation of the results are very welcome and could be included in the report.

#### Development of new reports for EFABIS

Christina Ligda presented some interesting new reports in EFABIS, inter alia reports describing the current state of uploaded data.

Roswitha Baumung took the opportunity to mention, that even the population data of exotic breeds need to be updated regularly, because the CGRFA needs the data for the calculation of the indicator.

### Transboundary breeds in CryoWEB

As the name of the Ad hoc action could lead to misinterpretations, Sipke-Joost Hiemstra made clear, that it contains the European register for cryomaterial in genebanks in EFABIS. It was highlighted, that working collections of AI centers should not be included in this register. Workshops to introduce the cryodata upload tool to National Focal Points are planned for the future.

### EFABIS upload workshops

Zhivko Ducheve reported about the three EFABIS upload workshops in Madrid, Sofia and Riga in 2014. The workshops have been very fruitful and thus the quality and quantity of the data in EFABIS have been improved.

Christina Ligda thanked Zhivko Ducheve for all the excellent work he has done in the Working Group and the Ad hoc actions for the improvement of EFABIS.

### Progress report by FAO and summary of country progress reporting on implementation of the GPA

Roswitha Baumung gave an overview of the FAO activities in the period 2014 - 2015. She reminded the attendees of the regular update of the population data in EFABIS.

She informed the Assembly that 129 countries have submitted their country reports for the preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SoW). Among them are 35 countries from Europe. A draft of the SoW will be uploaded on the website of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITWG) not later than 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

She reported about the plans of a workshop for National Coordinators on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in Rome, prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the ITWG (26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014). The invitations for the 8<sup>th</sup> session have already been sent out to the countries and the provisional agenda is uploaded on the website.

(<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent-docs.html>). Further working documents will be published there soon.

The Assembly also took the opportunity to distribute the preparatory work among the participating countries and asked for volunteers to coordinate the European Regional Group (ERG) positions on the respective agenda items as follows:

“The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”

→ Sweden

“Implementation and update of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources”

→ Switzerland

“Ecosystem services provided by livestock species and breeds”

→ Slovenia

“Access and benefit-sharing for animal genetic resources”

→ Poland

“Genetic diversity and climate change”

→ Germany

“Biodiversity and nutrition”

→ France

“Application and integration of biotechnologies”

→ The Netherlands

The papers should focus on the “guidance sought” sections of the working documents that will be published by the FAO. They should be circulated among all European National Coordinators and all NCs are very welcome to provide their input and comments.

### **Preparatory action on EU plant and animal genetic resources in agriculture**

Frank Begemann presented the participants and the general conditions of this preparatory action, that has been commissioned by the European Commission. The objectives are to identify, describe and analyze the activities on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural and forest genetic resources and to identify missing links and actions to be addressed in future actions. The Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity (IBV) of the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) is involved in this study as a subcontractor. The first task is a mapping exercise, aiming at identifying and listing initiatives, existing databases, collections and their corresponding key stakeholders. Therefore the IBV will ask the National Coordinators of the EU Member States for contact information of the relevant institutions or societies involved in the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR.

More information about this project will be available soon under: <http://www.geneticresources.eu/>

### **AOB**

Elzbieta Martyniuk reported, that the CGRFA Secretariat asked her to inform all NCs, that a National Focal Point for the report on The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture should be appointed in the countries as soon as possible if not already done. The first deadline for the delivering of data is the end of 2014.

Montserrat Castellanos Moncho informed the Assembly that there is a new label "autochthonous breed" in animal products in Spain. This initiative is part of the development plan of the Conservation, Improvement and Development of Livestock Breeds National Programme.

Catherine Marguerat-König looked ahead to the next ERFP Assembly Meeting in Krakow in 2015. She asked if the structure of the meeting should be changed. The Assembly did however not see a need for any change. At the end, she thanked all persons involved in the work of ERFP and introduced Bernt Guldbbrandtsen, who afterwards gave a presentation about the Red Danish Dairy Cattle as an introduction for the technical visit. After that, she closed the Assembly Meeting.

### **Technical Visit**

Finally there was a technical visit to the dairy farm of the “Assendrup Foundation” (<http://www.assendrup.dk/english-12.html>) .