

Minutes ELBARN Area Workshop SEE

Participants:

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Dr. Sergej Ivanov	Serbia
Dr. Sylvia Drovs	Montenegro
Prof. Dr. Ante Ivankovic	Croatia
Dr. Jasna Jeremic	Croatia
Mr. Goran Gugic	Croatia
EURONATUR – Mr. Gabriel Schwader	Germany
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SAVE – Ulrich Donath	Germany
UNEP - Ms. Andreea Bucur	Romania

Minutes:

After an introduction round all participants explain briefly the situation in the country.

Albania:

At the moment there are no funds for the preservation of old breeds in Albania. ELBARN offers a good opportunity to start with joint projects to preserve the breeds, which are still found in the country.

Three concrete proposals are described in the country report.

Serbia:

At the moment there are Governmental measures supporting agrobiodiversity conservation (annual payments for farmers and financing of small scale projects). The Government of Serbia has signed a Contract with the World Bank and GEF for financing the STAR Project (Serbian Transitional Agriculture Reform Project), part of which is going to be implemented in the Stara Planina Nature Park and having the aim to support conservation of local breeds and their use in maintenance of the mountain grasslands. The Project hasn't been ratified yet.

Montenegro:

The Government has in November 2007 adopted a "National Program for Preservation and Sustainable Use of the Genetic Resources in Agriculture (2008 – 2013). Preservation of old breeds is not a key political issue and organic farming not developed due to the lack of support by the Ministry of Agriculture, but the first bio-shop has opened recently in Podgorica.

For the tourism the preservation of the agro-diversity is important especially in the mountains.

For the area workshop, it is important to involve the Ministry of Agriculture and the Bio-technical Institute.

Croatia:

The Institute for Nature Conservation is leading

- Monitoring
- Research
- Cooperation with NGOs
- Multi-disciplinary approach

In the BSAP (Bio. Strategy and Action Plan), the basis for the work of the Institute, which passed parliament, the old breeds are included.

There is a group / network of institutions involved in the preservation of old breeds as

- Livestock Centres (register)
- National Committee for old Breeds (List of protected species)
- Focal points of international conventions (basis)
- The National Coordinator, based in the University.

For the Turopolje Pig an Action Plan has been prepared:

Action Plans are important → clear vision and programme.

For the Nature Parks as Lonjsko Polje, old breed are crucial for the maintenance of the “living systems” (= cultural landscape) typical for SEE. In Western Europe, they are comparable perhaps only with Spanish landscapes (Extremadura).

The category “**Arc Park**” is needed for this systems as it is not a farm or a station, where the old breeds survived or are rescued, because

- a system of villages is the basis for the survival
- a whole landscape is the habitat of the breed
- a different philosophy of breeding is behind the agro-diversity (e.g. Posavina Horse)
- old traditions are connected with the animal husbandry
- the breeds have a specific function in the landscape, which can not be replaced by other breeds or means

These traditional principles can solve as modern solutions in breeding, regional development and conservation.

Area Workshop Information and Discussion:

Participants:

- 8 – 10 countries
- 4 – 5 people per country
- different levels to be involved: GOs, NGOs, local farmers,...

Participants by Country:

Each participant proposed some potential GOs and NGOs, which are important for the area workshop.

Important is a road map for the resources:

For the area workshop it is important to discuss more detailed the rescue and preservation issues and compare the different approaches:

1. rare breeds (endangered)
2. Action (to rescue)
3. Recovery Plan (to save populations)
4. Ark Farm or Arc park to organise the use
5. Marketing

Location of the workshop has to be in the EU.

A potential site is the Stara Planina area between Bulgaria and Serbia. The event could be held in Bulgaria as an EU country.

A partner in Bulgaria has to be found.

An excursion in connection with the World Bank project could bring the group to Serbia (non EU country) to show the different approaches and share the experiences on both sides.

Martin Schneider-Jacoby, Euronatur