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## Summary of Actions

The ELBARN Area Central and Northeast Europe is made up of the countries Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary. The recommended goals, requirements and actions were discussed in an Area Workshop in Roznov pod Radhostem, Czech Republic from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2009 with 30 participants from the above-mentioned countries. Those discussions laid the basis for this Area Action Plan. A main goal of ELBARN is to build up a functioning network of Ark and Rescue Centres (A&RCs). These centres will be used in emergencies, such as old age of important breeders or the outbreak of contagious diseases, to prevent the loss of animals from autochthonous livestock breeds. They also have an important function to raise public awareness of rare and autochthonous livestock breeds and traditional farming, and to conserve the breeds through active breeding work.

The existing Area Action Plan covers the following points:

- What a rescue centre needs to be successful and what actions must be undertaken to guarantee a successful rescue
- The steps that are necessary to prevent losses in case of disease outbreaks
- Networking of existing ark farms and establishment of new ones
- Raising public awareness of the importance of conservation of autochthonous breeds and disease outbreaks
- Improvement of the information flow between all relevant stakeholders, including seminars for veterinarians and practical information and guidelines for farmers
- Exchange of information about implementation of European rules and laws, marketing initiatives/best practice, etc.
- Setting up of special national groups and an Area Task Force to include all stakeholders and network them better.

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For the implementation of this Action Plan it should be considered that although there are many similarities between the countries of the area, certain actions are more important to some than to others. For example, the number of ark farms differs widely, with more than 100 in the German-speaking countries, but only 4 in the Baltic region. Also in the former case, the ark farms are relatively well networked.

This Area Action Plan covers the requirements for reaching the goal of a functioning network of A&RCs broadly. The actions which should be taken depend therefore on the situation in the individual countries. However, an exchange of experience between the countries of the area is considered very useful, and a combined approach, for example, in the case of European legislation and regulation regarding the effect of diseases on rare and autochthonous livestock breeds would benefit all.

If the Area Action Plan, as outlined in this document, is put into practice, it is expected to have a positive impact on the conservation and utilization of autochthonous livestock breeds in the Central and Northeast Area. In order for the Area Action Plan to be a success, all stakeholder levels – from farmer through to government minister – will need to work towards the same goals.