



euronatur



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[www.saddlebacks.org.uk](http://www.saddlebacks.org.uk)

[www.britishloppig.org.uk](http://www.britishloppig.org.uk)

[http://www.grassroots.co.uk/cgi-bin/start.cgi/BAR/bar\\_start.html](http://www.grassroots.co.uk/cgi-bin/start.cgi/BAR/bar_start.html)

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## ELBARN Area Action Plan for North West Area

The North Western Area (NWE) is made up of the following countries: France, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

In parallel with this development to a more industrial way of agricultural production, more and more farmers in NWE are trying to supplement their farm incomes with other initiatives where the use of rare breeds can play an important role: growing organic food, regional products, city farms, school farms, tourism, environmental projects and extensive grazing. In the vision for a working ELBARN in the North West area, there are five main goals:

1. The installation of a 'Task Force' in each country (or federal regions) for future co-ordination
2. Further registration of all rare breeds, breeders, and possible Ark Farms and Rescue Centres
3. Sound biosecurity plans and better communication with the veterinary authorities
4. Better co-ordination in marketing of rare breed products and sharing of good practices
5. Education and raising of public awareness

In order to achieve these goals actions are required on a national and international level:

- A Network of Ark and Rescue Centres should be established that fits the goals of the ELBARN Project



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- In each country a Task Force should carry on the message of ELBARN. These Task Forces can send representatives to a Task Force for the NWE area
- Financial support for the project should be found
- Improve the flow of information between all stakeholder levels
- Reliable breed organizations, professional data-collection, registration of all animals and mapping of important bloodlines and registration of breeders
- Better communication between breed organizations of cross-border breeds or foreign rare breeds in other countries is needed
- National and international biosecurity (contingency) plans need to be made and communicated to the veterinary authorities
- (Trans)national workshops to discuss important topics and share good practices: education; training of breeders, ark farmers and vets, marketing; media and genetic resources
- More actions should be planned to get AnGRFA in the media. Improve the ELBARN database for agro-biodiversity with rare breeds: pictures, video, breed descriptions, etc to be used as an international media resource.
- Create public awareness to use old breeds in nature conservation, city farms, school farms, etc.
- Education on a national/regional level is extremely important.

The main goal for the future is that the diversity that exists today in the North West area will not be lost. And not only the animals, but the use and their products as well. To achieve this goal it is crucial to have a good description of all breeds and a professional registration system. Better communication is necessary, with the governments, between breeders, with the veterinary authorities (biosecurity plans) and the general public. Stakeholders on all levels can share information and good practice in education, training, marketing and breeding. To raise public awareness more actions should be planned to stimulate education, to share information, to get rare breeds into the media – and to save the diversity of our traditional breeds for the next generation.