



European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net: the first year and next steps

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The ELBARN project is a three year project supported by the European Union under the work programme of EC 870/2004 and co-financed by the Swiss government.




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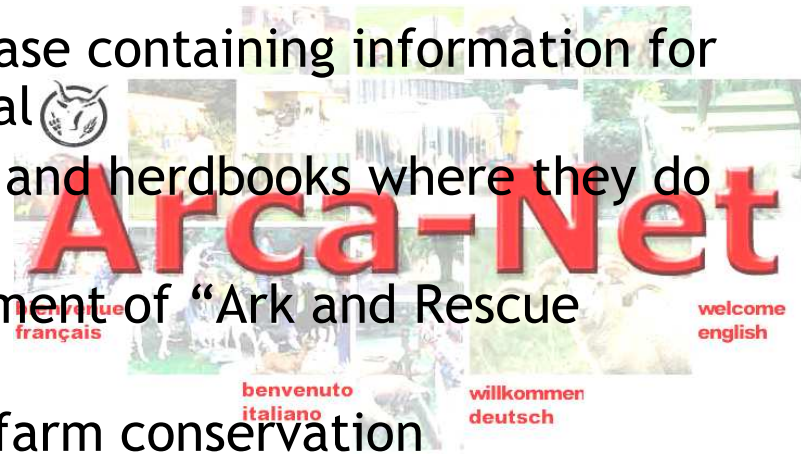
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What is ELBARN?

- A 3 year NGO-run project
- Under Work Programme of EC 870/2004

Aims:


- To build up a network of *existing* establishments that do in-situ conservation of autochthonous breeds
- To record these in an online database containing information for both the public and the professional 
- To establish breeding programmes and herdbooks where they do not already exist
- To motivate towards the establishment of “Ark and Rescue Centres”
- To secure the future of in-situ/on farm conservation



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First Year of ELBARN

(01.06.2007 - 31.07.2008)

- Central Workshop in Kutna Hora, Czech Republic
February 8th - 10th 2008

Work Group Reports:


- Rescue and Quarantine
- Characterisation of Ark and Rescue Centres
- Breeding
- Marketing



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Work Group 1: Rescue and Quarantine

- Definition of what rescue should mean:
 - Rescue is a temporary act
 - Rescue must be professionally undertaken
 - Emergency funds needed to pay for transport, fodder etc
 - Scientific verification of the rescued breed (*post factum*)
 - Ex-situ conservation (in gene banks, as security)
- Quarantine/Isolation in the event of disease outbreaks:
Meeting with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to discuss regulations and requirements



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Work Group 2: Characterisation of Ark and Rescue Centres

ARK:

- Collection or permanent exhibition of autochthonous breeds open to the public.
- Pedigree breeding with participation in a breeding programme.
- Animals must be kept in such a way that the welfare of the animal is respected.
- Establishment recognised by the national organisation (e.g. RBST, GEH) or a city-farm, open air museum, eco-museum, nature park centre (with membership of relevant professional association).
- The differing characteristics of the breeds and varieties should be documented.

RESCUE:

- Free space
- Flexibility in terms of sanitary status
- Registration as a rescue centre (contract)



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Work Group 3: Breeding

EFABIS/DAD-IS breed descriptions should be used

- All subgroups need to be managed as ONE population
- A&RCs are required to accept a central mating/selection plan
- Offer advice to other breeders
- Financial support required for this, cost is prohibitive! (work may be limited in some areas)
- Transboundary breeds - NGOs can often work effectively crossborder

Rescue operations:

- Work fast - take what you can get
- Pick within healthy range and a good cross section.
- Pick as many (unrelated) males as possible
- In the case of some diseases not much can be done: prior action is required.



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Work Group 4: Marketing

- Marketing is not just about products, it's also about raising public awareness – e.g. through education, farm parks etc.
- Marketing also covers promoting the use of autochthonous breeds – e.g. in landscape management.
- Specified wool, meat and milk processing points will be integrated into Arca-Net
- Creation of a new label for small scale, extensive production from local breeds and plant varieties using traditional manufacturing and respecting animal welfare is being looked into.
- Lobby for rescue funds on regional, national and European level

For the regional areas and A&RCs it is important to:

- Identify and promote “Flag-Ship Breeds” for the region
- Promote farm park visits for children and adults
- Identify suitable breeds for landscape management
- Promote value as cultural heritage and for consumer health
- Identify product marketing possibilities and undertake market analysis

Full reports from all groups:


<http://www.save-foundation.net/ELBARN>



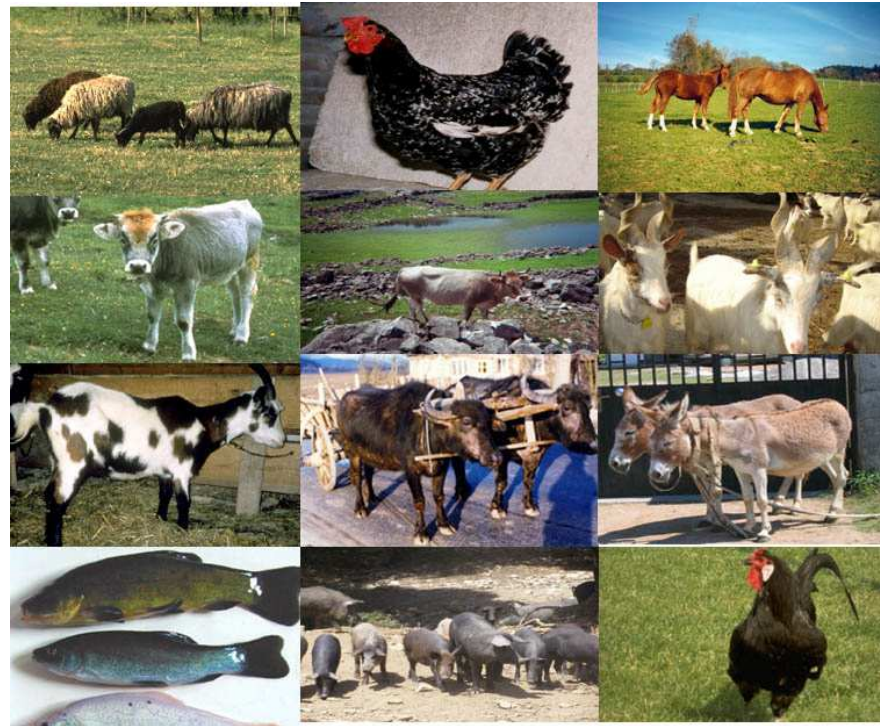
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- Questionnaire
- Website
- Area Workshops



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Fact-Finding Questionnaire

The questionnaire will be sent to about 500 people :

- ❑ **All National Coordinators!**
- ❑ Heads of relevant European organisations and institutes
- ❑ All invitees of Area Workshops
- ❑ Other interested people

The questionnaire will be translated into as many languages as possible.

Method	Yes/No
Electronic database	
Herdbooks	
On paper	
Other	
Do not know	

Recorded by	Yes/No
Government	
University	
Breed organisation	
Other	
Do not know	

Breeding Programmes

6. Are there any breeding programmes for autochthonous breeds in place in your country?

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

For which breeds?

Species	Breeds

Range of questions:


- National programmes and regulations
- Known establishments that may fit into Ark and Rescue criteria
- Breeding programmes
- Marketing/promotion
- Transboundary breeds
- National networks and organisations

The data gathered with the questionnaire will be used on the ELBARN website, in ArcaNet and for the Area Workshops.

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- The ELBARN website www.elbarn.net will go live on 29th September 2008




European Agrobiodiversity Day!

This year with the theme:
Ark and Rescue Centres

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The Area Workshops will take place in 2009:

- Belgium - beg. March
- Czech Republic - end March
- Italy - mid April
- Bulgaria - beg. May

Aim of the Area Workshops:

- To discuss issues that are of Area/Regional/National relevance
- To draw up an Area Action Plan

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Area Action Plans

The Area Action Plans will:

- Show what is still needed for ELBARN to function in the Area
- Contain a plan of how the Area will contribute to the continuation of ELBARN
- Show which institution or individual will control Ark and Rescue Centres

The amount of work involved in producing an Area Action Plan will vary depending on the needs of the Area.


Experienced people from all over Europe will be asked to help solve problems faced in writing the Action Plans

- Possible synergies with National Action Plans (GPA)?

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Thank you for your attention!


From the ELBARN team:
EURONATUR, SAVE, GEH, RARE, SLE



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