

ELBARN

AREA ACTION PLAN SOUTH EAST EUROPE



euONATUR



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Summary of Actions

The ELBARN Area South Eastern Europe is made up of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo UNMIK, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Of these countries, only two are members of the EU, namely Bulgaria and Romania. The recommended goals, requirements and actions were discussed in an Area Workshop in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria in May 2009 together by participants from the above-mentioned countries. The workshop discussions led to the Action Plan published here. A main goal of ELBARN is to build up a functioning network of Ark and Rescue Centres (A&RCs). The 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 of raise public awareness of rare and autochthonous livestock breeds and traditional farming, and to conserve the breeds through active breeding work.

The Area Action Plan for South Eastern Europe sets out a need for action as follows:

- Rare breeds should be approved for special treatment within legislation.
- Identification of breeds and breeders must continue, followed by long-term monitoring.
- An Area Task Force should be set up to co-ordinate the rescue actions, work on contingency plans, help identify A&RCs and prepare information.
- Traditional farming should be supported and improved through better legislation and improved information to farmers and veterinary officers.
- Potential A&RCs should be identified, contacted, visited and documented in the ELBARN database.
- Rescue and quarantine centres need to be identified, contacted and their usefulness for protecting rare breeds in the case of diseases established.
- Pilot projects should be initiated to show interested farmers how ark institutions can be set up and run sustainably.
- Herdbooks and breeding associations should be established where they do not yet exist. Quality of the herdbooks and the breed associations should be continuously checked.
- Nucleus herds should be built up in the Area in order to protect important breeding lines.
- Whilst moving towards EU standards, care should be taken to conserve the farming systems that are unique to the Area.
- Public awareness must be raised by promotion through the media, through marketing products and through education.
- Cost-benefit calculations should be made to show that indigenous breeds are more beneficial than exotic breeds – these calculations should include ecological costs.
- A systematic impact assessment should be used prior to the introduction of new breeds to the Area should be developed.
- Public health issues and an awareness of the importance of quality products for human health should be promoted.
- Cross-border co-operation, exchange of information and study visits should be arranged.
- Workshops should be organized to address special topics, e.g. herd management, organizational structures for NGOs, etc.

The combined impact of these actions will allow for optimal conservation work for traditional breeds and the landscapes they inhabit in the Area.

Elli Broxham, ELBARN Project Manager
SAVE Foundation

January 2010



photo: Borut Stumberger

An important missing link in the history of domestic breeds in Europe has been found – the Siska pig. It is one of the oldest European primitive pig breeds and a direct descendant of the wild boar *Sus scrofa*. For decades it had been considered extinct. The Siska pig matures late, reaching adulthood at about three years. All other pig breeds in Europe developed, in contrast to the Siska pig, through crossbreeding of European and Asian pigs. Currently there is a lack of knowledge on the status of this traditional breed. This Siska pig was pictured in the Bojana-Buna-Delta in Albania.

Përmbajtja e Veprimeve

Rajoni jug-lindor evropian i projektit ELBARN përbëhet nga këto shtete: Shqipëria, Bosnia dhe Hercegovina, Bullgaria, Kroacia, Kosova UNMIK, FYR Maqedonisë, Mali i Zi, Romania, Serbia dhe Ukraina. Nga këto vende, vetëm dy janë anëtarë të BE, përkatësisht Bullgaria dhe Romania. Qëllimet e rekomanduara, kërkesat dhe veprimet janë diskutuar në një workshop në Blagoevgrad, Bullgari në Maj 2009 së bashku nga pjesëmarrësit nga vendet e lart përmendura. Diskutimet e workshopit konkluduan në Planin e Veprimit të publikuar këtu. Një qëllim kryesor i ELBARN-it është të krijojë një rrjet funksional Qendrash të Ruajtjes (A&RCs). Qendrat do të përdoren në emergjenca, të tilla si për moshat e vjetra të rracave të rëndësishme ose në rëniet e sëmundjeve infective, për parandalimin e humbjes së rracave autoktone të gjësë së gjallë (bagëtime). Ato kanë gjithashtu një funksion të rëndësishëm për ngritjen e ndërgjegjes publike për rracat e gjësë së gjallë (bagëtime) dhe blegtorinë tradicionale, dhe për ruajtjen e rracave nëpërmjet mbarështimit.

Zona e Planit të Veprimit për Evropën Jug-Lindore kërkon veprimet e mëposhtme:

- Rracat e rralla duhet të miratohen me anë të legjislacionit për një trajtim të veçantë.
- Duhet të vazhdojë identifikimi i rracave dhe blegtorëve dhe të pasojë me një monitorim afatgjatë.
- Duhet të ngrihet nje Zone Task Force për të koordinuar veprimet e ruajtjes, punën për planet e emergjencave, për të ndihmuar identifikimin e A&RCs dhe përgatitur informacionin.
- Blegtoria tradicionale duhet të mbështetet dhe përmirësohet nëpërmjet një legjislacioni më të mire dhe një informacioni më të mire për blegtorët dhe veterinerët.
- A&RCs potenciale duhet të identifikohen, kontaktohen, vizitohen dhe dokumentohen në database-n ELBARN.
- Qendrat e ruajtjes dhe mbajtjes nevojitet të identifikohen, kontaktohen dhe fuqizohen per mbrojtjen e rracave te rralla në rastet e rënies së sëmundjeve.
- Duhet të iniciohen projekte pilote për ti treguar blegtorëve të interesuar se si këto institucione ARC Pilot mund te ndihmojnë në qëndrueshmëri.
- Organizimet dhe shoqatat e blegtorëve duhet të krijohen edhe në vende qe nuk ekzistojnë ende. Cilësia e tyre duhet të jetë nën kontroll të vazhdueshëm.
- Duhet të krijohen bërthama organizimesh (grupimesh) në zone me qëllim që të mbrojnë rritjet dhe mbarështimet e rëndësishme.
- Ndërkohë që shkohet drejt standarteve evropiane, duhet të tregohet kujdes për ruajtjen e sistemeve të mbarështimit që janë unike në zone.
- Ndërgjegja publike duhet të rritet nga promovimi nëpërmjet medias, nëpërmjet promovimit të produkteve dhe nëpërmjet edukimit.
- Duhet të bëhen llogaritje për përfitimet financiare për të treguar që rracat indigjene janë më përfituese se ato të huaja – këto llogaritje duhet të përfshijnë kostot ekologjike.
- Duhet të kryhet një vlerësim sistematik mbi ndikimet para futjes së rracave të reja në zone.
- Duhet të promovohen çështjet e shëndetit publik dhe ndërgjegjësimit për rëndësinë e produkteve cilësore.
- Duhet të veprohet në drejtim të bashkëpunimit ndërkufitar, shkëmbimit të eksperiencës dhe vizitave studimore.
- Duhet të organizohen workshop-e për të adresuar çështje të veçanta, si p.sh. organizimin e strukturave për OJF-të, etj.

Impakti i të gjitha këtyre veprimeve do të mundësojë një punë më të mire për ruajtjen e rracave tradicionale dhe vendeve ku ato jetojnë në këtë rajon.



photo: Gunther Willinger

The Karakachan dog is very efficient in protecting livestock from predators. Sider Sedefchev (here together with Elena Tsingarska and their son Marco), President of Semperviva, works for the conservation of traditional breeds and agriculture in Bulgaria.

Резюме на дейностите

Територията на ELBARN Югоизточна Европа обхваща следните страни: Албания, Босна и Херцеговина, България, Хърватия, Косово, Македония, Черна гора, Румъния, Сърбия и Украйна. От тези страни, само две членуват в Европейския съюз – България и Румъния. Препоръчаните цели, изисквания и дейности бяха обсъдени на регионална работна среща, проведена в Благоевград, България, през Май 2009 г., заедно с участници от гореизброените страни. Настоящият План за действие е резултат от дискусиите, възникнали в рамките на работната среща. Основната цел на ELBARN е да изгради функционална мрежа от „Ноеви и Спастилни центрове“ (НСЦ). Центровете ще бъдат използвани при спешни случаи, като застаряване на важни разплодни животни или епидемии от заразни болести, за предотвратяване загубата на животни от автохтонни породи. Друга важна функция на центровете ще бъде повишаване на обществената осведоменост по отношение на автохтонните породи домашни животни и традиционното животновъдство, както и пряко опазване на породите чрез активна развъдна дейност.

Регионалният План за действие за Югоизточна Европа набелязва като необходими следните дейности:

- Редките породи трябва да получат специално законово отношение.
- Идентифицирането на породи и развъдчици трябва да продължи, последвано от дългосрочен мониторинг.
- Трябва да бъде създадена специална регионална работна група, която да координира спасителните дейности, работи при непредвидени ситуации, подпомага определянето на НСЦ и подготвя информация.
- Традиционното животновъдство трябва да бъде подпомагано чрез подобро законодателство и осигуряване на информация за фермерите и ветеринарите.
- Потенциалните НСЦ трябва да бъдат определени, трябва да бъде установен контакт с тях, да бъдат посетени и документирани в базата данни на ELBARN.
- Потенциалните НСЦ трябва да бъдат определени, трябва да бъде установен контакт с тях, да бъдат посетени и документирани в базата данни на ELBARN.
- Трябва да бъдат идентифицирани спасителни и карантинни центрове, да бъде установена връзка с тях, за да се определи дали могат да бъдат използвани за опазване на редки породи в случай на епидемични заболявания.
- Трябва да бъдат стартирани пилотни проекти, за да се покаже на заинтересуваните фермери как могат да бъдат създавани и поддържани устойчиви „Ноеви“ центрове.
- Трябва да се създадат племенни книги и развъдни асоциации, където не съществуват такива. Качеството на племенните книги и развъдните асоциации трябва да бъдат проверявани постоянно.
- Трябва да се създадат ключови стада в региона, за да се опазят важни развъдни линии.
- Въпреки стремежа към достигане на стандартите на ЕС, трябва да се положи усилие да се опазят животновъдните практики, уникални за региона.
- Трябва да се повиши обществената осведоменост с образование, подобряване на маркетинга на продуктите и с помощта на медиите.
- Трябва да се направи анализ на рентабилността, за да се покаже, че местните породи са по-рентабилни от екзотичните, като изчисленията следва да включват и екологичните разходи.
- Трябва да се въведе използването на систематична оценка на въздействието преди въвеждането на нови породи в региона.
- Трябва да бъдат популяризираны въпросите, свързани с опазването на общественото здраве и важноста на качеството на продуктите за здравето.
- Трябва да се организира транс-гранично сътрудничество, обмяна на информация и образователни посещения.
- Трябва да се организират работни срещи по специални теми, например поддръжка на стадата, организационни структури за НПО и т.н.

Комбинираното въздействие на тези дейности ще позволи оптимални условия за традиционните развъдчици при опазването на автохтонните породи и ландшафти на региона.



photo: Kerstin Sauer

The Turopolje pigs are well adapted to the conditions in the Sava flood plains at Lonjsko Polje in Croatia. They have an important role in the ecosystem. They dig the ground thoroughly and create wallows that are free of vegetation. When the flood waters recede, they are left with a bowl-like structure, filled with food. Waiting to spoon out the food are not only the Spoonbills but, also, Storks, Herons and other waders. Even white-tailed Eagles have been observed taking the larger fish from the pools.

Sažetak aktivnosti

Projekt ELBARN Area South Eastern Europe obuhvaća sljedeće zemlje: Albaniju, Bosnu i Hercegovinu, Bugarsku, Hrvatsku, Kosovo, Makedoniju, Crnu Goru, Rumunjsku, Srbiju i Ukrajinu. Od ovih zemalja samo su dvije članice Europske unije – Bugarska i Rumunjska. O predloženim ciljevima, zahtjevima i aktivnostima sudionici iz gore navedenih zemalja razgovarali su na radionici održanoj u svibnju 2009. godine u Blagoevgradu, Bugarska. Razgovori koji su se vodili tijekom rada radionice doveli su do plana aktivnosti koji se ovdje objavljuje. Glavni cilj projekta ELBARN je izgraditi funkcionalnu mrežu centara za smještaj i spašavanje (A&tRCs) koji će se koristiti u hitnim slučajevima, kao što su visoka starost važnih uzgajivača ili pojava zaraznih bolesti, da bi se spriječio gubitak životinja iz uzgoja autohtonih pasmina. Oni također imaju značajnu funkciju unapređenja svijesti javnosti o rijetkim i autohtonim pasminama stoke i tradicionalnim seoskim gazdinstvima, te očuvanja pasmina kroz aktivan uzgoj.

Akcijским planom za područje jugoistočne Europe utvrđuje se potreba za sljedećim aktivnostima:

- Zakonskom regulativom treba odobriti poseban postupak za rijetke pasmine.
- Treba nastaviti s utvrđivanjem pasmina i uzgajivača i dugoročno ih pratiti.
- Treba osnovati radnu grupu za ovo područje koja će koordinirati aktivnosti spašavanja, raditi na planovima za izvanredne slučajeve, pomagati u utvrđivanju centara A&tRC i pripremati informacije.
- Tradicionalna gazdinstva treba podržavati i unapređivati kroz bolju zakonsku regulativu i informiranost seljaka i veterinaru.
- Potrebno je utvrditi potencijalne centre A&tRC, stupiti s njima u vezu, posjetiti ih i dokumentirati u bazi podataka projekta ELBARN.
- Treba utvrditi centre za spašavanje i karantenu, stupiti s njima u vezu i odrediti njihovu korisnost u zaštiti rijetkih pasmina u slučaju bolesti.
- Treba pokrenuti pilot projekte kojima će se zainteresiranim seljacima pokazati kako se institucije za spašavanje mogu osnivati i održivo voditi.
- Tamo gdje ne postoje, treba uvesti registre stoke i osnovati udruge uzgajivača. Kvalitetu registara stoke i udruga uzgajivača treba neprekidno kontrolirati.
- Na ovom području treba osnovati nukleusna stada kako bi se zaštitile važne uzgojne linije.
- U približavanju standardima Europske unije treba nastojati očuvati uzgojne sustave koji su jedinstveni na ovom području.
- Svijest javnosti treba unapređivati promicanjem kroz medije, marketinške proizvode i obrazovanje.
- Potrebno je izraditi proračune troškova i koristiti kako bi se pokazalo da su izvorne pasmine korisnije od egzotičnih – ovi proračuni moraju obuhvatiti ekološke troškove.
- Prije uvođenja novih pasmina na ovo područje treba provesti sustavnu procjenu utjecaja.
- Treba promicati pitanja javnog zdravlja i svijesti o važnosti kvalitetnih proizvoda za zdravlje čovjeka.
- Treba organizirati prekograničnu suradnju, razmjenu informacija i studijske posjete.
- Treba organizirati radionice koje će se baviti posebnim temama, npr. upravljanjem sa stadima, organizacijskim ustrojem nevladinih udruga itd.

Zajednički rezultati ovih aktivnosti omogućit će optimalno očuvanje tradicionalnih pasmina i krajljika u kojima žive na ovom području.



photo: Kerstin Sauer

The Posavina horse grazes on the flood plains of the Sava river in Croatia.

Rezumatul Acțiunii ELBARN

Proiectul ELBARN pentru zona „Sud-Estul Europei”, cuprinde următoarele țări: Albania, Bosnia și Herțegovina, Bulgaria, Croația, Kosovo UNMIK, FYR Macedonia, Muntenegru, România, Serbia, Ucraina. Dintre aceste țări, doar două sunt membre ale UE, respectiv Bulgaria și România. Obiectivele recomandate, cerințele și acțiunile au fost discutate în cadrul unui workshop desfășurat în zona Blagoevgrad din Bulgaria în luna mai 2009, împreună cu participanți din țările menționate mai sus. Discuțiile care au avut loc pe atelierele de lucru au condus la planul de acțiune publicat aici. Un obiectiv principal al proiectului ELBARN este de a construi o rețea de acțiune pentru Centrele de protecție și Centrele de salvare. Centrele vor fi utilizate în situații de urgență, cum ar fi cazul reproducătorilor bătrâni de mare valoare sau apariția focarelor de infecție de boli, pentru a preveni pierderea efectivelor de animale din rase autohtone. Ele prevăd, de asemenea un rol important în sensibilizarea opiniei publice pentru rasele de animale rare și autohtone, cât și a agriculturii tradiționale și conservarea raselor prin munca de creștere activă.

Planul de acțiune pentru zona Europa de Sud Est stabilește acțiuni necesare, după cum urmează:

- Rasele rare de animale ar trebui să beneficieze de un tratament special în cadrul legislației.
- Identificarea în continuare a raselor și crescătorilor de animale din rase rare, urmată de monitorizarea pe termen lung.
- Ar trebui înființat un „Comandament” pentru coordonarea acțiunilor de salvare, acțiunilor de lucru cu privire la planurile de urgență pentru a ajuta la identificarea A Et CR și pregătirea informațiilor.
- Agricultură tradițională ar trebui să fie susținută și îmbunătățită printr-o legislație mai bună și informarea fermierilor și personalului veterinar.
- Centrele de protecție și / sau Centrele de Salvare vor trebui să fie identificate, contactate, vizitate și înregistrate în baza de date ELBARN.
- Centrele de Salvare și Centrele de carantină trebuie să fie identificate, contactate și utilizate la protejarea unor rase rare de animale, în cazul apariției unor boli posibile.
- Ar trebui să fie inițiate Proiecte Pilot pentru a arăta fermierilor interesați cum se înființează și cum funcționează Centrele de Protecție.
- Herdbook-ul și asociațiile de crescători ar trebui să fie stabilite în cazul în care acestea nu există încă. Calitatea herdbook-ului și asociațiile de crescători de animale de rase rare ar trebui să fie verificate în mod continuu.
- În scopul de a proteja cele mai importante linii de reproducători vor fi constituite nuclee de populații în cadrul Zonei.
- În timp ce se apropie de standardele UE, trebuie avut grijă pentru conservarea sistemelor agricole care sunt unice în Zonă.
- Se va promova creșterea gradului de sensibilizare publică prin mass-media, prin marketingul produselor, prin educație.
- Calculele cost / beneficiu trebuie să arate dacă rasele autohtone sunt mai benefice decât rasele exotice - aceste calcule ar trebui să includă și costurile ecologice.
- Înainte de introducerea raselor noi de animale se va efectua o evaluare sistematică a impactului asupra zonei unde se vor dezvolta.
- Ar trebui să fie promovate problemele legate de sănătatea publică și să fie conștientizată importanța produselor de calitate pentru sănătatea umană.
- Cooperarea transfrontalieră, schimbul de informații, vizite de studiu.
- Ar trebui să fie organizate Workshop-uri pentru a aborda subiecte speciale, de exemplu gestionarea efectivului de animale, structurile de organizare pentru ONG-uri, etc.

Impactul combinat al acestor acțiuni va permite continuarea lucrărilor de conservare optime pentru rasele tradiționale și mediul în care trăiesc în cadrul Zonei.



photo: Gunther Willinger

The Karakachan is the most primitive sheep breed of South East Europe. It is very small and belongs to the Karakachan nomads and pastoralists who used the Central Balkan pastures for their flocks during the summer up until the first World War. Semperviva successfully breeds Karakachan Sheep on their Ark farm in Vlahi in the Pirin Mountains, Bulgaria.

Pregled akcija

ELBARN¹ za oblast Jugoistočne Evrope čine sledeće države: Albanija, Bosna i Hercegovina, Bugarska, Hrvatska, BJR Makedonija, Crna Gora, Rumunija, Srbija, Ukrajina i teritorija Kosova pod administrativnom upravom UN, od kojih su samo dve države članice Evropske Unije – Bugarska i Rumunija. Preporučeni ciljevi, uslovi i aktivnosti su bili predmet diskusije učesnika regionalne radionice u Blagoevgradu, u Bugarskoj, maja 2009. godine u kojoj su učestvovali predstavnici iz gore navedenih država. Diskusija sa ove radionice je dovela do nastanka Akcionog plana koji je ovde predstavljen. Osnovni cilj ELBARN-a je da izgradi funkcionalnu mrežu „Ark” i „Rescue” centara (A&RCs²). Ovi centri će biti korišćeni u hitnim, vanrednim situacijama kada naprimer usled starosti, bolesti ili smrti odgajivača autohtonih rasa životinje ostaju bez brige, ili u slučaju pojavljivanja zaraznih bolesti pri čemu je cilj sprečiti gubitak životinja autohtonih rasa.

Takođe, ovi centri imaju veliku ulogu u jačanju javne svesti o značaju retkih autohtonih rasa i tradicionalne poljoprivrede, kao i u pogledu očuvanja ovih rasa putem aktivnog uzgajivačkog programa.

Regionalni Akcioni plan za Jugoistočnu Evropu ukazuje na potrebu za sledećim akcijama:

- retkim rasama priznati poseban tretman u okviru zakonodavstva;
- nastaviti Identifikaciju rasa i odgajivača uz dugoročni monitoring;
- uspostaviti Regionalni tim kako bi se koordinisale akcije spašavanja, rad na planu za nepredviđene/vanredne situacije i kako bi se identifikovali A & R Centri i pripremile informacije;
- tradicionalna poljoprivreda treba da bude potpomognuta i unapređena putem bolje zakonske regulative i poboljšane informacije za farmere i veterinarske službenike;
- potencijalni A&R Centri treba da budu identifikovani, kontaktirani, posećeni i dokumentovani u ELBARN bazi podataka;
- spasilački centri i centri za karantiranje treba da budu identifikovani i kontaktirani i ujedno da budu osposobljeni za prihvatanje retkih rasa u slučaju pojave bolesti;
- započeti pilot projekte kako bi se zainteresovanim farmerima kako mogu da se uspostave ark institucije i kako mogu da funkcionišu na održiv način;
- uspostaviti matičnu evidenciju i odgajivačke organizacije tamo i u slučajevima gde one ne postoje. Kvalitet matične evidencije i udruženja odgajivača pojedinačnih rasa treba da bude stalno proveravan;
- uspostaviti nukleusne zapate u regionu kako bi se zaštitile dragocene priplodne linije;
- tokom približavanja EU, povesti računa kako bi se očuvali poljoprivredni sistemi tipični za region;
- jačati javnu svest promocijom preko medija, marketingom proizvoda i putem obrazovanja;
- pripremiti proračune troškova i zarade (tzv. "Cost-benefit") kako bi se dokazalo da su autohtone rase isplativije od egzotičnih rasa, a ovi proračuni treba da obuhvate i ekološke troškove;
- primeniti sistematsku procenu uticaja pre uvođenja nove rase u region;
- promovisati Promovisanje tema od interesa za javno zdravlje i značaj kvalitetnih proizvoda autohtonih rasa na zdravlje čoveka;
- pokrenuti prekograničnu saradnju, razmenu informacija i organizovanje studijskih putovanja;
- organizovati radionice posvećene posebnim temama (npr. upravljanje stadom; organizacione strukture za NVO i sl).

Kombinovani efekti ovih aktivnosti će omogućiti optimalni rad na očuvanju tradicionalnih rasa i predela koje one nastanjuju u regionu.

¹ ELBARN – Projekat Evropske "Ark" i "Rescue" mreže za domaće životinje (European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net Project).

² Ark centri/stanice i stanice za spašavanje



photo: Borut Stumberger

Busha are autochthonous cattle of the Balkan Peninsula of brachyceros cattle type. It is a primitive and indigenous breed. It may be grey, yellow, red, white or black in colour. In the Bojana-Buna-Delta, where this individual was photographed, its small number of some 20 heads is a cause for concern.

ELBARN Area Action Plan for South Eastern Europe

Introduction to ELBARN

People concerned with in-situ or live conservation of rare breeds are often faced with the danger of losing important stock in cases of, for example, increased age or changed priorities of keepers or, even, epidemics. ELBARN, the European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net, is a pan-European project which focuses on solving some of the problems facing livestock keepers within a network of so-called 'Ark and Rescue Centres' (A&RCs).

The ELBARN Network will be spread throughout Europe to share knowledge and encourage collaboration between organizations and institutes wishing to conserve European animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (AnGRFA). Additionally, the promotion of the products of these livestock breeds, whether this as a food product or as a service such as grazing for environmental management, is a central theme of the project.

The project documents, in the form of an online database, all sites that already exist and can be used as A&RCs, and will also encourage the founding of new A&RCs.

These Centres will:

- Keep core breeding groups.
- Offer breeding help for livestock keepers.
- Offer a place for the public to see the AnGRFA of Europe.
- Offer emergency places for endangered genetically important livestock.

ELBARN was not intended as a project that buys property or animals. Nor does it have any finances available for helping in the upkeep of A&RCs. However, through Work Groups, ELBARN is able to make concrete suggestions on how A&RCs can maximize the marketing potential of the rare livestock breeds in their care, thus rendering them profitable. It is also hoped that, through the existence of an international network sponsored by the EU, smaller projects related to fulfilling the wider goals of ELBARN will find funding to achieve their goals.

ELBARN was launched with a 'Central Workshop' in February 2008, where working groups discussed rescue and quarantine, the characterization of A&RCs, breeding programmes and the marketing of rare breed products. The results of these discussions were published as ELBARN Guidelines in 2009 and can be downloaded from the ELBARN website www.elbarn.net.

In early 2009, four 'Area Workshops' were held in Ghent, Belgium, in Roznov, Czech Republic, in Legnaro, Italy and in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. Each workshop was a meeting of a wide range of stakeholders from the area, each of whom has a special interest and expertise in the field of in situ conservation of agro-biodiversity. For each area an 'Area Action Plan' has been developed and tailored to perceived local needs. The Action Plans have been developed together with local partners and, therefore, can be seen as a representation of the views of current participants in the ELBARN project.

Introduction to the ELBARN Area South Eastern Europe

The area of South Eastern Europe (SEE) is made up of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo UNMIK, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Of these countries, only two are members of the EU, namely Bulgaria and Romania. Many of the countries in the area are very small and were once part of the former Yugoslavian Republic; all the countries in the area were once under socialist rule. The break up of Yugoslavia and the collapse of the other socialist republics has led to many changes in economic conditions, especially in rural areas. Historical factors, such as agricultural policy in the former socialist states as well as the conflicts in the area, have left rural areas impoverished. In some areas farming is still largely small scale, extensive and traditional, but in other areas farming was 'collectivised' and traditional structures were destroyed. With this background, governments have to face two challenges: to modernize farming in order to compete in the modern market place and, also, to fulfil international commitments to conserve local biodiversity and landscape, which agro-biodiversity is an integral part of. These challenges also have to be undertaken within the context of planned or recent accession to the EU, which requires a modern economy as well as alignment to EU regulations.

The area contains many special features, which distinguish it from other parts of Europe. Firstly, there are problems of land ownership – historical factors have left much land in common ownership. As a result of the conflict, mines are still found on pasture land in countries as Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The

landscape in the karst poljes, the mountain fringes and even in coastal area, including the Croatian Islands and the Albanian coast, is made up of extensive pastures – these grasslands or plains are used mainly for grazing, but also haymaking is still widespread. There is also much wetland or marshy pasture land, where only especially adapted animals can thrive. The Sava Wetlands are a typical example. The temperate grassland of the karst poljes or in the mountain areas are also very important. These grassland ecosystems are key areas in the European Econet. Several indicator species for Natura 2000 sites depend on the preservation and long-term use of the grassland as meadow or pasture. Due to significant rural–urban migration, many of these large pastures are abandoned and given over to the scrub land of natural succession. As this land is not wanted as farmland, it is sometimes sold off to companies looking for cheap land to build factories. This may bring short-term economic benefits to a country, but the damage done to the ecology of the area is long term. This land is also taken out of the agricultural sector, making the country less self-sufficient and more dependent on imports of agricultural products. As land use changes or is even lost to agriculture, traditions also change and adapt to the new circumstances. The long-range transhumance of traditional pastoralism of the area is restricted by national borders where previously there were none – these days transhumance is practised over shorter routes and the animals are often transported by lorry rather than being expected to walk the routes. This leads to change and adaptation of the traditional breeds of the area.

With the project 'Balkan Network for Agrobiodiversity' 2005/2006, a first investigation about the state of the rare autochthonous breeds of the Balkan countries was done. The cross-border occurring breeds were identified and listed in the 'SAVE Focus Special Edition Balkan'. Information about the breeds, contact persons and available population data was collected (www.save-foundation.net/Publications/SAVE_Focus_05_Balkan.pdf). A website for the Balkan Network on Agrobiodiversity was established within the SAVE Agrobiodiversity-Net (www.agrobiodiversity.net/balkan/). Discussions with experts show that concrete population data is still missing in the most Balkan countries. Data collection is not only important to preserve the animals but also to preserve the landscapes and traditional livelihoods.

The need for action in South East Europe is great as many breeds live in small populations and there is a lack of A&RCs to maintain these animals or support for the owners to keep them and develop A&RCs.

The degree of geographical decentralization is very limited in some countries, especially in the Balkans. Sometimes there is only one herd of one breed occurring in a country and, therefore, the need for action to create a system of A&RCs and to distribute the nucleus herds is great.

The number of breeds in the countries in South-East Europe is high and still not all breeds and varieties are identified, registered and officially recognized. The need for a system of A&RCs is great. When herdbooks and breeding organizations are established and the breeds are well-known, breeding organizations may replace the A&RCs, as is the case for certain breeds in some European countries.

In the light of the above, a precise characterization and official recognition of breeds is required. To this should be added a complete census and registration of animals from autochthonous breeds. These factors, whilst costly, provide a strong foundation for conservation programmes to be based on. The Area Workshop participants identified the problems outlined above and agreed that the countries in the area also need to focus on a good strategy for rural renewal and development. There were also many positive examples provided of how strategies are working and breeds are used in conservation projects that have been included in the ELBARN best practice lists. This is especially seen in the case of large-scale grazing projects as a part of nature conservation projects. The SEE Area still has a wide range of locally adapted breeds and many enthusiastic stakeholders, on all levels, who are eager to work on a programme for their conservation. This Area Action Plan sets out the ideas, in the context of the ELBARN project, for achieving some of their goals.

South East Europe vision for ELBARN

The ELBARN project requires that A&RCs are identified, documented and networked via the project website as part of a database that holds easily accessible information about rare livestock breeds, their uses and locations. This is to help the process of ensuring that A&RCs will be established all over Europe. As in all other ELBARN Areas the goals of identifying national, cross-border or area contact persons to co-ordinate rescue actions as well as developing marketing strategies to promote use of rare livestock breeds have been set. Enhancing bio-geographical-regional breed co-ordination is also of great importance to promote joined up strategies for cross-border breed conservation.

Alongside these general goals, which are shared with the other ELBARN Areas, the SEE Area has some specific goals which address the special needs of the Area. The concept of ELBARN should be taken into the long term and plans for how to follow up the project should be established. An 'Area Task

Force' should be set up, with the inclusion of stakeholders on all levels (c. 6-8 people per country). This Task Force will co-ordinate the rescue actions, work on contingency plans, will help identify A&RCs and prepare information. The work of the 'Task Force' will also be to lobby on a national level and to exchange knowledge between countries and stakeholder levels. They will also exchange information with representatives from other areas and join in lobbying activities on an international level.

Halting economic development is, of course, not part of the vision – however, this development should not damage the richness of the agrobiodiversity and landscapes of the area. Traditional farming should be supported and improved through better legislation and improved information to farmers and veterinary officers. Through the concentration on the issues and the combined efforts of all the stakeholders in the area, this vision can be achieved.



photo: Borut Stumberger

The Ljaba sheep in Solana Ulcinj, Bojana-Buna-Delta, Montenegro, is well adapted to the Mediterranean climate and scarce nutrition during dry summers.

Plan of action for SEE:

The following steps are a prerequisite to achieving the vision of a functioning ELBARN in the SEE Area:

1. Preventive measures

- Rare breeds should be approved for special treatment within legislation. This will require lobbying work.
- The following should be documented within a programme of long-term monitoring – a census of breeds, a register of holdings (preferably all but at least ark, rescue and quarantine centres should be registered), the geographical distribution of the breeds.
- Potential ark and/or rescue centres should be identified, contacted, visited and documented in the ELBARN database. Those that are open to the public should also be taken into Arca-Net.
- Rescue and quarantine centres need to be identified. These centres should be contacted and their usefulness for protecting rare breeds in the case of diseases established.



photo: Borut Stumberger

Ass with zebra stripes at the legs in the Bojana-Buna-Delta in the transboundary area of Albania and Montenegro.

2. Ark Institutions

- Only a few ark institutions exist at present, so other existing holdings should be developed further so that they meet the criteria of an ELBARN Centre.
- A connection with breeding associations is necessary to maintain breed standards.
- Ark institutions are an optimal opportunity to display national heritage to school children and interested people, and help them to build up a connection to the diversity of the breeds. Therefore ark institutions should be located within easy reach of major population centres.
- Pilot projects should be initiated to show interested farmers how ark institutions can be set up and run sustainably. This project should include direct marketing of products and also an educational aspect. Funds for this pilot project should be sought by the Task Force from national governments, EU programmes and/or international donors.
- In SEE, large-scale pasturing systems still exist, therefore the creation of ark parks based on protected areas such as nature parks or biosphere reserves to maintain a landscape with the autochthonous breeds and a community of several holders is to be striven for.



photo: Martin Schneider-Jacoby

The Carpathian Buffalo is perfectly adapted for life in a harsher environment: its hooves are hard for walking on stony ground and, in winter, its thick coat protects it from the cold.

3. Types of Ark and possible Ark Institutions:

	Purposes	Requirements	Type of facilities
Type 1: Educational A&tRCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public awareness, special information programmes for schools, organizations of farmers, scientists, hobby breeders, consumer groups - Safeguarding knowledge of breeding rare breeds, including traditional and cultural aspects of animal breeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a representative sample of endangered, typical, local farm animals. - Provide guide-facilities, documentation, well-equipped meeting rooms - Able to offer 'learning by doing' programmes such as working with products of traditional farming (e.g. baking, cheese making, weaving) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farm parks, model farms - school farms, university - research farms - City farms - Zoological gardens and wildlife parks - Open air museums - Information centres at: national parks, in-situ conservation parks, biosphere reserves
Type 2: Farm A&tRCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breeding of endangered farm animals, keeping of breeding males - Production and sale of (labelled) local breeds products - Sustainable farming with local breeds - Farming in combination with nature conservation - Farm tourism (bed and breakfast) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professionally run farms ('working farms') - Farms should be economically sustainable - Majority of animals present on the farms should belong to local endangered breeds - Highest animal welfare standards to be applied on the farm - Open to the public and provide guided tours on request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ark farms, organic farms, state farms, prison farms - Grazing projects or other nature conservation projects - Community care farms connected with therapy or sheltered workshops - Farms with bed and breakfast facilities
Type 3: Rescue centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To save herds of endangered farm animals from slaughtering in case last remaining breeder(s) (have to) stop breeding activity - To save animals in case of political unrest, military conflicts, flooding, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities that are knowledgeable about caring for animals and have room, time and personnel available to welcome additional animals - Ease of transportation regulation to and from rescue centres - Suitable sanitary status and contingency plans to take unknown animals at short notice and also, if necessary, to provide for isolation of incoming animals and can take care of farm animals over a certain period of time <i>at short notice</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All type of facilities that are equipped
Type 4: Quarantine centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voluntary isolation to save endangered breeds of farm animals in case of outbreak of contagious diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contract with ELBARN and also relevant governmental body (e.g. veterinary authorities) to perform this role. <i>see Guidelines for Rescue in Case of Disease for more details</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any registered establishment, willing to take on the role, that fulfils criteria for quarantine

4. Rescue Centres

The concept of rescue centres is very difficult to realize in practical terms as so many factors influence the process – populations, distribution, status of breeds and what should be achieved. However, with the goal of maintaining current diversity, it can be said that, in order to achieve the goal of a functioning rescue network:

- Census, registers etc have to be in place.
- Resources that are already in place should be used and built on.
- It is necessary to identify people, especially veterinarians, willing to take part (this can lead to a network of veterinarians, working in emergency situations as a special service).
- The Task Force should write protocols of what to do in emergency situations with contact numbers of people who can help. These protocols can be distributed by veterinarians to farmers when they are on their normal rounds.
- The economic situation needs to be addressed – long-term conservation has to be self-financing, and short-term rescue needs emergency funds.

Requirements for rescue centres are:

- Free space.
- Flexibility in terms of sanitary status, possibilities for isolation.
- Readiness for collaboration – agreement.
- Registration as a rescue centre.

What does a rescue centre have to fulfil?

- Define which species can be taken.
- Define how many animals can be kept.
- Experience in animal keeping.
- Should be able to take animals for a minimum of 2 months.
- A special agreement is needed for emergency actions.
- The farm must have the option to cancel the agreement.

What conditions have to be fulfilled for rescue actions to function?

- Agreement for taking the animals has to be signed.
- Veterinary status has to be checked.
- There should be a management plan to back-up the rescue action.
- It should be a national duty to find a new owner for the animals (Task Force).
- The actual cost for labour and fodder has to be re-funded. The cost has to be fixed using normal costs in the country.
- The products (e.g. milk, eggs) of the animals belong to the rescue centre and their value will be used to balance the costs.
- Young animals, which are born at the rescue centre belong to the person/organization which paid for the animals.

General conditions:

- To be on a national list for rescue centres agreements are needed.
- The list of rescue centres has to be updated by the national committee/focal point.
- The list must be submitted to ELBARN.
- ELBARN must publish the list for emergency situations.

5. Contingency plans

- A plan for how to deal with rare livestock in the event of natural disaster or disease should be established. This should include some emergency funding.
- Representatives from countries that already have contingency plans in place should be contacted.
- National legislation should be studied to see if any changes are necessary.

6. Breeding

Necessary steps for improving breeding management in the Area are:

- An inventory of breeds needs to be completed.
- A register of breeding associations needs to be made.
- Breed characterizations should be made and added to the ELBARN database.
- Herdbooks should be centrally managed and digitally recorded.
- Quality of the herdbooks and the breed associations should be continuously checked.



photo: Martin Schneider-Jacoby

Sheep similar to Baljusa sheep in Solana Ulcinj, Bojana-Buna-Delta. The Baljusa or Balusha sheep is a triple purpose sheep breed kept for milk, meat and wool.

7. Nucleus herds

A definition of "nucleus herd" was agreed during the SEE Area Workshop. Nucleus herds should be built up in the Area based on this definition. A nucleus herd:

- should represent the breed characteristics,
- should be used for reproduction of the breed,
- should include whole genetic diversity of breed,
- does not have to live together it can include breeding lines (this relies on good herdbook keeping!)
- can include animals in neighbouring countries that are part of a cross-border breed.

It is important to remember that:

- Each species is different.
- Each breed has different requirements.

This means that the exact requirements of a nucleus herd will have to be worked out breed by breed.

8. Decision making/information exchange

- Decisions are presently made on a governmental level. In future a wider level of stakeholders should be included into the decision-making process.
- Whilst moving towards EU standards, care should be taken to conserve the farming systems that are unique to the Area and not concentrate solely on commercial farming or transition away from the primary sector.
- Many older breeders and farmers have a low level of education. They often find filling in forms and gaining information difficult. The lack of knowledge means that their involvement might not be helpful, therefore they need good representation from breed associations and other non-governmental or civil society organizations.
- Younger generations are better educated, and some are interested in traditional breeds. This interest should be nurtured and these people should be integrated into the decision-making structures.
- Education programmes for farmers about regulations as well as about renewing traditions are important. Younger people returning to rural areas need to have access to information about the traditional farming practice of the region.

9. Awareness raising

- The public should be made more aware of the breeds that found in their country. This can be achieved by promotion through the media, through marketing products, through education.
- Using 'flagship' breeds – animals that have a unique feature that makes them attractive and memorable – to promote the other breeds is a strategy that has worked in other countries.
- Through information exchange on an international level, other successful strategies can be adapted to work in the Area.

10. Area action

- The 'neo-rural' should be actively encouraged to get involved in the project.
- Cost-benefit calculations should be made to prove that indigenous breeds are more beneficial than exotic breeds – these calculations should include ecological costs.
- A systematic impact assessment to be used prior to the introduction of new breeds to the Area should be developed.
- Public health issues should be emphasised and an awareness of the importance of quality products for human health should be promoted.
- Cross-border co-operation, exchange of information, study visits and best practice lists should be established for the benefit of all the stakeholders in the Area.
- Workshops should be organized to address special topics e.g. herd management, organisational structures for non governmental organizations, etc.



photo: Gabriel Schwaderer

The traditional cattle breed in the Prespa lake region (trilateral lake area Albania, Greece, FYR Macedonia) is a locally adapted subpopulation of the Busha type. These tiny cows reach a withers height of about 90cm (females) to 120cm (males). They are dual purpose and are kept for both meat and milk. Cross-breeding with Holstein, Jersey and Simmental cattle has left the purebred Prespa highly endangered.

Summary of goals

- Establishment of a network of A&RCs that fit the goals of the ELBARN project.
- Establishment of national Task Forces that send representatives to an Area Task Force.
- Financial support for the project in place.
- A breed inventory and holding list accurately recorded.
- Monitoring the occurrence of existing AnGRFA being actively undertaken.
- Determination of suitable frequency of monitoring and review (quality control).
- Monitoring of geographical distribution actively should taking place.
- Establishment of breed societies where they have not previously existed.
- Establishment of nucleus herds.
- Highlighting and demonstration of best practise, e.g. at a seminar or on website.
- Training and capacity building seminars should taking place.
- Review of animal health and welfare policy.
- Identification of sustainable uses and stimulation of demand for AnGRFA.
- Assessment of impact of changes in farming and economic systems on the area's AnGRFA.
- Encouragement of actions to promote sustainable use of AnGRFA.
- Improved communication of information on AnGRFA.
- Assessment of animal disease regulations and their impact on AnGRFA.
- Assessment of animal welfare policy and links with AnGRFA policy.



photo: Martin Schneider-Jacoby

Free ranging Busha cow in the dunes of Velika Plaza, Bojana-Buna-Delta, Montenegro.

Milestones and deliverables for measuring progress in implementation of the Area Action Plan:

- Establishment of Task Forces.
- A funding structure.
- Census of breeds and holdings.
- List of breeds in the area.
- Establishment of nucleus herds.
- Strategy for marketing services and products.
- Stakeholder network.
- Contingency plans.
- Rescue protocols.



photo: Gunther Willinger

Mixed herd of pigs in the floodplain of the Sava river in the Nature Park Lonjko Polje in Croatia. These pigs are free ranging in the large pastures and guarded by swineherds.



photo: Elli Broxham

Karakachan horse and foal in Vlahi at the entrance to Pirin national park, Bulgaria.

Conclusion

The work groups at the SEE workshop were very interested in the topics presented as part of ELABRN and made valuable contributions to the project and to this Area Action Plan. The workshop was very "solution" orientated, and most participants were very open about the problems of the area. However, it is clear that the history of this region presents many problems for cross-border co-operation and also for the breeds of animals concerned, many of which have been split into smaller breeding groups as borders and political situations have radically changed over the past almost 20 years.

The conclusion of the workshop highlighted the following points:

- Rare breeds are adaptable and often resistant – they can often survive a disease or difficult environmental conditions and this is valuable for the future.
- More information about the benefits of locally adapted breeds is needed – especially research into changes when husbandry changes.
- There is a requirement for community education programmes about laws, subsidies, diseases and nutrition.
- Improvements in legislation, information resources, awareness raising, mobilizing funds for emergencies and sharing research findings are all necessary.
- Emergency plans must be made.

If the Area Action Plan, as outlined in this document, is put into practice in the Area, the future of the autochthonous livestock breeds of South Eastern Europe will have more chance of survival into the future than they do at present. 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.



photo: Martin Schneider-Jacoby

Semperviva established an Ark farm in Vlahi in the Pirin Mountains in Bulgaria. They breed Karakachan Dog, Sheep and Goat as well as Kalofer Goat.

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