

# 65<sup>th</sup> EURAF Executive Committee Report

13<sup>th</sup> July 10:00-11:30

Report written by Jeroen Watte, Gerry Lawson, Nuria Ferreiro Domínguez, Rosa Mosquera Losada

## **Present:**

**Elected Executive Committee:** Rosa Mosquera, Gerry Lawson, Jeroen Watte,

**National Delegates:** Andrea Vityi (Hungary), Adolfo Rosati (Italy), Joao Palma (Portugal), Josep Crous (Portugal)

**Invited:** Nuria Ferreiro Domínguez, Patrick Worms

**Apologies:** Norbert Lamersdorf (Germany), Fabien Balaguer (France), Jo Smith (UK), Anastasia Pantera (Greece), Bert Reubens (Belgium), Konstantinos Mantzanas (Greece), Joana Amaral Paulo (Portugal)

## **1. EURAF Project**

### ***Project calls closing in Feb 2017***

- SFS-28-2017: Functional biodiversity – productivity gains through functional biodiversity: effective interplay of crop pollinators and pest predators 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) €10 million
- SFS-29-2017: Socio-eco-economics – socio-economics in ecological approaches 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) €5 million
- SFS-27-2017 Permanent grassland – farming systems and policies
- RUR-03-2017: Towards 2030 - policies and decision tools for an integrated management of natural resources 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) €8 million

Rosa Mosquera is leading on SFS-27 and SFS-29 with assistance from Nuria Rodriguez of a public foundation, Fundación Empresa-Universidad Gallega (FEUGA) paid by USC. Barbara Smith (University of Coventry) is leading on SFS-28, but competition is high. Whoever wants to participate in this call, ask Rosa.

### ***Funded Projects:***

The AFINET project was recently approved and EURAF will get €100.000, without the need for cofunding. Some of this will fund normal EURAF dissemination activities, like the newsletter.

### ***Other project calls relevant to AFINET (any interest from EC on these?):***

- RUR-03-2017: Towards 2030 - policies and decision tools for an integrated management of natural resources 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) €8 million (closed)
- RUR-10-2016-2017: Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice 17 Feb 2016 €2 million (closed)
- RUR-12-2017: Networking European farms to boost thematic knowledge exchanges and close the innovation gap 14 Feb 2017 €7 million
- RUR-15-2017: The benefits of working with others – fostering social capital in the farming sector 14 Feb 2017 €3 million

- RUR-16-2017: Optimising interactive innovation project approaches and the delivery of EU policies to speed up innovation in rural areas 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) €5 million.
- RUR-13-2017: Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) €7 million. (contact Charles Burriel again to see if willing to lead)

### **Cost action**

Felix Herzog will draft a proposal on “Agroforestry” with a focus on silvoarable or silvopastoral. Contact him ([felix.herzog@agroscope.admin.ch](mailto:felix.herzog@agroscope.admin.ch)) for details.

### **Submitted proposals**

SUBER: SUBER Erasmus + VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING. Lead: IRMASL, Spain (no feedback yet)

PASTREE (1st stage approved in ERANET-SUSAN programme “Innovative management and use of woody plants on pastures for sustainable cattle production systems”). Lead: University of Liège (ULg), Belgium.

Proposal from the University of Cottbus (Germany) to create an International Training Network (Marie Curie) on agroforestry across Europe, mainly dealing with land restoration. Meeting organised in October.

**AGFORWARD:** economic justification being prepared.

## **2. EURAF Policy activities, CDG, others**

- Presentation was given by Rosa and Fabien Balaguer to the CDG Arable Crops on 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2016. It may be followed by more detailed presentations at future meetings (possibly the next on 9<sup>th</sup> September), when a farmer should be present. There were a wide range of questions, focusing especially in incomes, with no negative remarks.
- In the Forestry CDG, on 8<sup>th</sup> June, a resolution was passed to keep LULUCF as a separate pillar (i.e. not integrated with agriculture in AFOLU). Gerry will give more details in the minutes of this meeting. Rosa attended meetings in the GACSA [Annual Forum](#) from 15-17 June in Rome and a meeting on Datasets on GHG emissions mitigation technologies for the agriculture sector in Seville (JRC). In both she advocated increasing use of agroforestry for climate change mitigation. Governments are starting to look again at encouraging the use of forestry for mitigation activities (following a ruling expected soon from DGCLIMA) and the Spanish Agricultural ministry has invited Rosa to draft proposals to monitor sequestration by trees on farms.
- IPES-Food is a group of Sustainable Food Systems Experts working on transforming the CAP into a Common Food Policy, including health goals into it. They recently published a report on [From Uniformity to Diversity: a paradigm shift from industrial agriculture to diversified agroecological systems](#), mentioning agroforestry as example of resilient agro-ecosystem. Jeroen asks EURAF members if they could point to research which links agroforestry with health issues. The group is making reports for European Parliament Members and other decision-makers, so it would be good to link up with them in order for agroforestry to get greater recognition with regard to health goals.
- Patrick attended a workshop "Land Related Climate Change Mitigation Actions in Agriculture", held at DG AGRI in Brussels on 30-31 May 2016. mitigation actions for climate change in agriculture. He made a presentation and ensured that agroforestry was prominent in the final report. However the chair of the meeting at the time agroforestry was on the agenda, DG

JRC's Luca Montanarella, was dismissive of AF's potential. As he appears influential, he should be lobbied personally lest he spread the opinion that agroforestry is a "benevolent distraction from agriculture" too widely. The meeting discussed moving the CAP to a results-orientated approach, but this was dismissed by a number of speakers on the grounds that the whole CAP system as it exists to date would need to be radically re-engineered. Interestingly, there was no opposition to the principle of a results-based approach, just to its practicality. But that was reason enough for the Chairman to move the discussion on, dismissing. Patrick sent us a [summary paper](#) for discussion of the workshop.

- The meeting on Arable Crops probably will be 9<sup>th</sup> September.
- PEFC EU conference in September. Rosa will send the link.
- Rosa able to go to the Rural Development meeting in Cork and "amazing grazing" meeting in Belfast
- Rosa will be in a meeting in Madrid (14<sup>th</sup> July 2016) on the promotion of mitigation activities of climate change. The organizer is the INIA
- The next week there is a meeting on how to organize operational groups at a regional level in Spain. EURAF was invited to take part of an operational group in Italy. This a good opportunity for EURAF and agroforestry

Meetings		Place	Paid
Forestry and Cork	Josep and Gerry	Brussels	yes (EC)
Environment and Climate Change	Rosa and Gerry	Brussels	yes (EC)
7th European Evaluation Conference "The Result Orientation: Cohesion Policy at Work", Sofia (BG), 16-17 June 2016	Emi and Vania	Bulgaria	no
Changing our Mindsets - Seizing opportunities in the Green Economy	Anastasia Pantera	Brussels	yes (EC)
Methods for assessing impacts of Rural Development Programmes 2007-13 practices and solutions for the ex post evaluation	Rosa, Javier Santiago and Gerry	Palermo	no
Arable presentation	Rosa Mosquera and Fabien Balaguer	Brussels	yes (EC)
IPES-Food Policy Lab 1 - Agriculture-food-health nexus - Expression of interest to participate (27 June)	Jeroen	Brussels	no
GACSA	Rosa Mosquera	Rome	yes (Ministry Agriculture)
Joint Research Centre	Rosa Mosquera	Seville	yes (JRC)

Next meetings		Place	Paid
Arable crops	9 September 2016	Brussels	yes
Next meetings: PEFC EU POLICY CONFERENCE. Promoting sustainable policy through EU policies – the way forward.	21 September 2016	Brussels	no
Cork 2.0: European Conference on Rural Development taking place at the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork	5-6 September 2016	Cork	no
EAAP 2016 67th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science Session Amazing grazing	1 September	Belfast	no
Inia (ERANET)	14 July 2016	Madrid	no

There is not a provisional calendar of the next CDG. Rosa will send an email with the next public consultations.

Planned DGAGRI hearings in autumn 2016 are:

1. The future of the EU sugar market after the abolition of sugar quotas in 2017 (with up to 2 reimbursed guests)
2. The role of conservation agriculture in enhancing agricultural productivity and ecosystem services (with up to 2 reimbursed guests). EURAF has suggested Lorenzo Forlan, Giustino Mezzalira
3. Resource efficient and innovative agriculture - EU and global best practices (with up to 3 reimbursed guests). EURAF has suggested Alain Canet.

### **3. EURAF Newsletter**

NL will be ready for the end of July. A line will be added on the 2018 conference candidatures. For the next NL more information is welcome by 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

### **4. EURAF Conference 2018**

\* Nijmegen, Holland (nobody present to give explanation)

\* Orvieto, Italy (Adolfo gave a briefing). There was a planning meeting held in Florence. National Research Council will provide backup for the budget. Venue found in historic building. Farmers already being contacted for field trips. Italy's large heritage of traditional systems gives good view of impact of landscape as an economic activity for tourism. Many people are involved in the conference planning - from tourist organisations to academic departments. Intended to involve the Italian association of scientific societies - which could bring more participation. An important link with PEFC and first agroforestry product certification could coincide with the Conference.

The two candidates have to answer the following questions in the next EURAF meeting. Then the EURAF EC will take a decision

- How much organization needed from EURAF?
- How are sponsors being contacted?
- More details on conference facilities (i.e. streaming and others)?
- EURAF needs to be clear that no reimbursement is possible?

**The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 at 10:00 CET**