

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

14<sup>th</sup> September 10.45 - 12:00

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

## **Present:**

Elected Executive Committee: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Jeroen Watte, Anastasia Pantera

National Delegates: Bohdan Lojka, Josep Crous, Joao Palma, Johanna Bjorkland, Andrea Vityi

Ex Officio: Christian Dupraz

Apologies: Fabien Balaguer, Jo Smith, Robert Borek, Xavier Devaux, Joanna Paulo, Norbert Lamersdorf, Andrea Pisanelli, Bert Reubens, Mark Vonk

Introductory comment: Anastasia thanked Tubex for providing free tubes for agroforestry experiments in Greece.

## **1 EURAF Project Activity**

### **1.1 Ecosystem Services**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 has found the previous calls of interest for Agroforestry. She is leading on SFS-27 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. There are possibilities of consortium for SFS-29, that are working around EURAF. No news from RUR-03-2017

**Action:** whoever wants to participate in these 4 calls, ask Rosa to update the information

### **1.2 Knowledge transfer**

- RUR-10-2016-2017: Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice, 17 Feb 2016, €2 million (closed). AFINET
- 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

From this calls AFINET was funded last year, so silvoarable and silvopastoralism will not be considered as a thematic network, however, other networks dealing with other agroforestry activities like homegardens or forest farming could be of interest. There are no people working with EURAF in the other projects.

**Action:** whoever wants to participate in these 4 calls, ask Rosa to update the information

### **1.3 Cost Actions**

- 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)
- 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.

### **1.4. ITN Actions**

- 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.

**Action:** whoever wants to participate in these calls, ask Rosa to update the information

### **1.4 Submitted proposals**

- SUBER Erasmus + VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING. Lead: IRMASL, Spain(no feedback yet )
- PASTTREE (1<sup>st</sup> 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. First step approved, Second step submitted.

**Action:** whoever wants to participate in these calls, ask Rosa to update the information. Cross our fingers to succeed!

### **1.5 Funded projects**

- AGFORWARD: economic justification being prepared. Beneficiary report completed. Economic justification (31 August): a) Need salaries to be very low to compensate for previous salaries, b) Need to increase the number of person months (which is translated in low salaries)
- AGROFE: only 24 euros were not accepted as justification (indirect costs). They will give back 1264,48 € to EURAF
- AFINET: Will start next 1 January

## 2 EURAF Policy activities (CDG, others)

### 2.1 *Already finished*

- European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) held 29/8 - 2/9 in Belfast, Rosa and Javier went and made a presentation in the session of [amazing grazing](#).
- Cork 2.0 European Conference on Rural Development, Cork: Rosa and Javier. Cork1.0 was the seed of the current Pillar II. The second Cork declaration is based on the maintenance of rural areas as a living country side. See [Cork declaration](#) that includes integrated systems and the importance of forest and agriculture areas.
- Arable Crops CDG, [9 September](#), Rosa and Javier attended (main issues: review of fertilizer regulation, commission proposals on ETS, ESD and LULUCF, consultations on RED II and sustainability of solid biomass, biofuels in agric markets, simplification). DG Agri agreed to develop a fertilizer guide including compost (i.e. forest derived products) following a suggestion of EURAF. EU highlighted the important problem of the current reduction of crop productivity across Europe due to climate change. The use of woody vegetation as part of the solution and the connection with the GRA and the GACSA was highlighted by EURAF.

A presentation with concrete data on the role of agroforestry in C sequestration in arable crops is needed (next 9<sup>th</sup> November (date not confirmed)). Christian will coordinate this, helped by Rosa. A presentation can be carried out in the November Arable Crops meeting.

**Action:** Rosa will ask A. Petit about this possibility.

Gerry offered to make presentation on LULUCF at next Climate Change and Environment meeting in November (4<sup>th</sup> November) and Rosa offered to explain what is AF and the link with climate change as an initial presentation adapted to climate change (similar to that carried out in the CDG of Arable).

**Action:** Rosa will ask for carrying out both presentations.

### 2.2 *Forthcoming (confirmed)*

- Rural Development CDG, 19<sup>th</sup> October (Rosa Mosquera and Anastasia Pantera)
- Arable Crop, 11/10/2016: JOINT MEETING OF THE SUGAR EXPERT GROUP AND THE CDG "ARABLE CROPS" ON "THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION SUGAR MARKET"

**Action:** who wishes to go? Please inform Rosa by 1<sup>st</sup> October.

- New value chains from multifunctional forests, Anastasia Pantera, 11 November, but also Andrea Vityi and Robert Borek. Rosa congratulates the election of EURAF colleagues.
- EU: [Agroforestry Focus Group](#)

The Focus group name is "Agroforestry: introducing woody vegetation into specialised crop and livestock systems". Therefore the focus group is related with silvopastoral and silvoarable systems. EURAF members were quite successful in the agroforestry focus group. [Eight EURAF members](#) were selected by the EC to support this agroforestry focus group. The first meeting will be in December in France. The coordinating expert ([Karin Eksvärd](#)) must deliver an initial document before the meeting. The coordinating expert is member of EURAF as the delegate of Sweden Johanna Björklund. 20<sup>th</sup> October an EIP subgroup will be held to discuss new focus groups besides the [existing ones](#). Rosa asks for opinions after checking the focus [group web page](#) of the EC to know which are already done and to propose new ones to push. Rosa said that maybe the next proposal could be "forest farming" for example.

- National: The Spanish focus group has launched the Spain Forestry productivity focus group.

### **2.3 Forthcoming (not confirmed)**

- Environment Climate change, 4 November (talk)
- Arable crop COP, 9 November (talk), possible talk of Christian for carbon sequestration in arable crops
- Organic farming, 25 November (Jo talk)
- Forestry and Cork, 2 December
- Arable Crop, 14 December
- PAC, 16 December

**Actions:** Please inform Rosa if you wish to go to any of the meetings. Rosa will confirm the Jo talk for the CDG of Organic farming. Christian will be in charge of the arable crop CDG talk in November about carbon sequestration in silvoarable systems. Rosa and Gerry to talk in the environment and climate change CDG meeting. Rosa will ask for the talks to the chairs of the CDG.

### **2.4 Any other meetings of interest for EURAF members**

- The next American agroforestry conference [“Agroforestry for a vibrant future - Connecting People, Creating Livelihoods, Sustaining Places”](#) has been scheduled for 27-29<sup>th</sup> of June 2017.
- [StarTree meeting](#). International conference on Wild Forest Products in Europe on 13–14<sup>th</sup> October in Barcelona (Spain).
- 

**Actions:** to be included in the Newsletter.

### **2.5 Public Consultations**

No public consultations directly relevant but we should keep track continuously

**ACTION:** contact Rosa Mosquera if you want to participate in some activity

## **3 EURAF Conference 2018**

Two offers had been received

- **Nijmegen, Holland** - details had been provided by email.
- **Orvieto, Italy** - AdolphoRosati described this at previous meeting (planning meeting held in Florence. National Research Council will provide budget backup. 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).

A web meeting will be held besides the EC meeting of October with presentations requested from the two national teams. Rosa will set up a doodle poll for dates. Rosa will circulate documents received and Gerry will collate these into a single document with a standard format answering (for example) the following questions:

- How much organization needed from EURAF?

- How are sponsors being contacted?
- Details on conference facilities (i.e. streaming and others)?
- Arrangements for budgeting (with clarity that no reimbursement is possible from EURAF)

**ACTION:** Rosa Mosquera will set up a doodle poll to organize the meeting with the two teams

#### **4 EURAF Newsletter & Dissemination Activities**

Newsletter will be ready for the end of September. Excellent content available including a feature farm from France. Given that there is now an ISSN number, a mail could be sent to attract potential contributors to the newsletter and explain the format needed.

The newsletter should also have content details to increase clicks, and the email advertising it should include a summary content, and have a subject that teases to open it. For instance: "EURAF Newsletter N° 18, July 2016" could be changed to "EURAF Newsletter N° 18: Celtic Pigs in Galicia / EU carbon accounting helping farmers?"

Rosa will ask about this possibility to the ISSN section.

Jeroen has created a [Facebook account](#) a year ago without time to update it. The initiative was welcomed. Rosa wondered how this be linked to news on the AGFORWARD Facebook account (responsibility of Fabien Liagre?, Who would be responsible?, How to link to AFINET (EURAF is in charge of dissemination activities). Jeroen suggested that EURAF needs a communication strategy linked to the research projects - beyond volunteer involvement and with shared responsibility. Rosa will talk to Fabien, Paul and EURAF AFINET members to ask how the communication strategy with the projects will be connected.

A EURAF twitter account was mentioned, but no one stepped forward to create and maintain it.

**ACTION:** Nuria and Mercedes Rois to take over the newsletter. Nuria will send an email to the newsletter subscribers to attract potential contributors. Rosa will ask how to match communication activities between the projects and EURAF.

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