

68th EURAF Executive Committee Report

4 November 10:00 – 11:44

Present

Elected Executive Committee: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Joana Amaral, Anastasia Pantera, National Delegates: Norbert Lamersdorf, Andrea Pisanelli, Robert Borek, Felix Herzog, Mark Vonk, Jo Smith, Christian Dupraz, Joao Palma, Josep Crous Duran

Apologies: Jeroen Watté, Alain Canet, Bohdran Lojka, Fabien Balaguer

Minutes written by Gerry Lawson, Antía Villada, Rosa Mosquera

1 EURAF Project Activity

1.1 Ecosystem Services

- *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.*
- *SFS-29-2017: Socio-eco-economics – socio-economics in ecological approaches, 14 Feb 2017 (First stage), 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage), €5 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*

EURAF is involved in proposals in italic. There are possibilities of a consortium for SFS-29 being developed including EURAF.

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 (funded). 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 7 million*

1.3 Cost Actions

- Felix Herzog circulated a draft of the proposal on “Agroforestry” (link) with a focus on silvoarable or silvopastoral. Lists of partners were suggested EFA, AFTA, ICRAF (Europe), EURAF.

Action: *EC members were invited to comment on the draft which Felix will circulate early next week, and note that the deadline is approaching (probably 7th of December but Felix checking)*

1.4. Education

- ERASMUS+: Education. Rosa checked with Charles Burriel and the Agronomy School of Dijon will lead.

- International Training Network. Rosa to complete. Stephane Bellon
- 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.

Action: Charles Burriel to be asked for an update and indication of input needed from the EC

1.4 Submitted proposals

- SUBER Erasmus+ (Vocational Education and Training) Lead: IRMASL, Spain (no feedback yet)
- PASTTREE (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. First step approved, Second step submitted.

Action: Any EC member with information on proposals for these calls to let Rosa know.

Note also that the European Commission is preparing the next calls for H2020 and Paul Burgess has been invited to give a talk in on AGFORWARD in December so EURAF will have an input through this.

1.5 Funded projects

AGFORWARD: EURAF has not received comments from the European Commission on the submitted accounts. Paul will transfer money when the EC report arrives. This will allow to have EURAF to have no debt when AFINET starts.

2 EURAF Policy activities (CDG, others)

2.1 Already finished

- 14th June - "CC Mitigation Technologies" IPTS, Seville, ES, Rosa attended
- 19 Oct Rural Development CGD, Rosa went. Main points — simplification, cooperative agri-environment payments (Netherlands), mainly related to landscape level payments by results, RAPCA (firebreaks) payments proposed by increase in biodiversity.
- 24th October Financial Instruments in RDPs (Robert attended)
- Reply received from Phil Hogan and [response written](#) for Paul Brannen & article needed for next newsletter. Long discussion on accounting for scattered trees in the CAP. No easy solution but Commission is striving for simplification and EURAF can share best practices found in MS.
- 20th October: ENRC innovation subgroup – discussed need for greater use of big data, bioeconomy, ecosystem services, Cork Declaration in early September.
- 25th October ENRD steering committee —

2.2 Forthcoming (date confirmed)

- 4th Nov. Arable crops. Participant from Lugo (Dario).
- 10th Nov - Environment Climate Change, 10 November (Rosa and Gerry) specific talk on soil?
- 11th Nov - New Value Chains from Multifunctional Forests, Vienna, Anastasia?
- 25th Nov - Organic farming, 25 November (Jo talk to be confirmed)
- 2nd Dec - Direct Payments and Greening, (Rosa, anyone else?)
- 9th Dec - Forestry and Cork (Gerry & Joana)
- 14 Dec - Arable Crops
- 16 Dec - CAP (Rosa, anyone else?)

2.3 Forthcoming (not confirmed yet)

- Arable Crop, 14 December
- PAC, 16 December
- WWF conference 2017 August in Rhodes (Anastasia to provide details).

2.4 Public Consultations

No relevant public consultations directly related to EURAF but we should keep track continuously

ACTION: *contact Rosa Mosquera if you want to participate in any public consultation*

2.5 Focus Group

The Focus group name is “Agroforestry: introducing woody vegetation into specialised crop and livestock systems” and eight EURAF members are members. The coordinating expert is Karin Eksvärd and the first meeting is on 31st Nov-1st Dec Nov in Melle (France).

3 EURAF Conference 2018

Two offers had been received (Nijmegen, Holland and Orvieto, Italy), and were discussed at a web meeting on 28th Oct. A [TABLE](#) was produced to compare them with the same format, together with detailed [minutes](#) of the meeting from Rosa. The World Agroforestry Congress is likely to be in Montpellier in 2019, but no official confirmation has been given by CIRAD. Christian and Rosa will seek further information. Both EURAF conference proposals were excellent. Given that the Netherlands option was tied to Nijmegen being European Green City in 2018 Andrea indicated that the Italian organising committee had volunteered to move their conference to 2020. This also fitted with a general desire to alternate meetings in northern and southern Europe.

Action: Rosa will circulate this recommendation from the meeting to EC members who were unable to attend and give 7 days for any objections or comments.

4 EURAF Newsletter & Dissemination Activities

Robert mentioned a possible Polish farmer. Several possible articles had been mentioned in today’s meeting Jeroen has set up a Facebook page, but more content is needed. Twitter is used frequently by policy makers and EURAF should have an account.

Action: *submit any new content by 15th November for Oct/Nov issue*

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 7th December.