

72nd EURAF Executive Committee Report

15th March 10:00 – 11:30

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez, Antía Villada and Rosa Mosquera-Losada

Present:

Elected Executive Committee: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Jeroen Watté

National Delegates: Andrea Pisanelli, Josep Crous Duran, Bohdan Lojka

Apologies: Anastasia Pantera, Joana Amaral Paulo, Mark Vonk, Bert Reubens

1. EURAF PROJECT ACTIVITY

Projects

AGFORWARD

AFINET

Proposals (awaiting response)

- 1.- MSCA-ITN-ETN, EsLar, Doctorate Programme about agroforestry and land restoration, one stage
- 2.- COST Action, OC-2016-2-21377 "Agroforestry for sustainable intensification and ecosystem services" one stage
- 3.- iGRASSLAND, SFS 27, permanent grassland management and ICT-tools, two stages
- 4.- REFARM, SFS 29, socio-economy studies, REFARM - REsilientFARMing practices for Europe, two stages
- 5.- RENUCLEA, SFS-30, Reduced GHG Emissions and enhanced NUtrientCycLing within Agroecosystems (RENUCLEA), two stages
- 6.- AGRICALL, SFS-34, Multi-actor systemic approach for innovative agri-food chains, two stages
- 7.- SUBER: SUBER Erasmus + VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, two stages

These proposals are being evaluated and we will receive news on the resolution in mid-April

New proposals (ongoing)

1. MSCA-RISE-2016: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (on going). This proposal is led by Sara Burbi (Coventry University, UK)
2. **Interreg:** Applications encouraged under **Priority axis 4 Environment & Resource Efficiency**

Rosa said that she has received an email to participate in this call. The Commission is pushing this type of proposals. Rosa cannot lead this proposal but maybe some person of

the EURAF EC is interested. Nuria sent everyone an email with information about the proposal. Please, inform Rosa if you want to participate in this proposal asap.

Gerry said that this proposal is not related with research because it is a proposal focused on policy. Gerry suggested contacting Mike Strachan. Rosa explained us that in this call it is very important the end users. Andrea said that Giustino Mezzalira might be interested in participating in the call. Rosa will try to connect with them. Moreover, next week Rosa will be in the Focus Group meeting and she also ask Bert Reubens.

Actions: *please contact Rosa to update the information and to participate in the Interreg call.*

2. EURAF ACCOUNTING

- **AGFORWARD**

New contract has to be done with the already existing money. The contract will start very soon.

- **AFINET**

The money of the AFINET project is in the bank. We have money for new contracts. Probably some money will be used to contract a person in Portugal to manage the EURAF web page. EURAF will take care of this.

Actions: *Rosa will prepare the new contract with the AGFORWARD money.*

- **EURAF fees**

Bulgaria, Switzerland, Germany, Czech Republic and Greece have paid the 2017 fees. Nuria will contact with the delegates of these countries to update the information. Rosa also said that it is necessary to update the France lists.

The ISA team and Rosa proposed to prepare a template in which is explaining how to become an EURAF member. This information will be published in the EURAF web page. The template will be circulated among the EURAF delegates. The template should be translated into different languages.

Actions: *the EURAF delegates will take care of the EURAF members fees. Nuria will contact with the delegates to update the lists of the EURAF members. The template in which is explaining how to become an EURAF member will be circulated among the EURAF delegates.*

3. EURAF POLICY ACTIVITIES

- **Already carried out in January**

CDG and ENRD

Arable Crops: 7 February, Dario, Saray

Rural Development: 15 February, Dario, Javier

Innovation Sub-group of Rural Development, Dario
Leader Sub-group of Rural Development, Rosa
Arable Crops: 7 March, Dario

Actions: Rosa will create a new folder in which the summaries of the meetings will be included.

- **Forthcoming events**

March

- Focus group on Agroforestry 21st and 22nd March 2017 (Ideas for operational groups and new focus groups). There are two new Focus groups: 1) New forest practices and tools for adaptation and mitigation of climate change and 2) Grazing for Carbon.
- Best practices addressing environmental needs, 23-24 March 2017 – Brussels. Rosa will circulate a ppt file. She needs examples of good practices to present in the meeting. It would be good to include photos. Gerry thinks that LULUCF should be included in the presentation. Rosa also said that it is important to maintain a synchronism between all the activities that we carry out (practice abstracts –GACSA).

April

- *Arable 5 April*

May

- *CAP 3 May*
- *Arable crops 5 May*
- *Organic Farming, 12 May, Victor, Belen*
- *Direct Payment and Greening, 19 May*

June

- *Arable crops 2 June*
- *Forestry and cork Not confirmed and changed from previous date (7 June) to 8 June*
- *Environment and Climate Change 9 June*

Those dates in red are provisional

Actions: Please inform Rosa if you wish to go to any of the meetings, send Rosa ideas for operational groups and new focus groups (deadline 20th March) and help Rosa with examples of good practices.

4. OTHER MEETINGS

- a) Niimejen (22nd February)
- b) FAO meeting (28th February)
 - * WAC
 - * IUAF

The next World Agroforestry Congress (WAC) will be in Montpellier. During the FAO meeting Rosa was working in a draft on the constitution of the Agroforestry International Union (IUAF). The aim of the IUAF is the integration of ICRAF, AFTA and EURAF among other institutions. Some statutes were created but the process of creation was stopped. The process was restarted and Ravi will be in charge of that. The IUAF needs people to work in the draft on the constitution of the IUAF but the work has to be free. Probably the draft will be approved during the WAC

c) Clima tree life project (10th March)

Rosa was in Matera (Italy) as member of the advisory board of the CLIMATREE project. The partners of the CLIMATREE project work with algorithms to know the carbon sequestration in the soil under different tree species. They work with fruit tree as olive trees which are very related with our work. Some of the partners will try to get a new project and they invited EURAF to participate. Rosa will circulate the information about the call. Andrea said that he has a project about olive orchard and he is interested in the call. Rosa will contact Andrea with the CLIMATREE partners.

d) Sequestering carbon in soil <https://www.breakthroughstrategiesandsolutions.com/copy-of-overview-1>

e) GACSA (practice abstracts)

FAO has created the GACSA and Rosa has been recently named as facilitator of the GACSA. They asked her to collaborate doing a FAO practice brief about agroforestry in temperate areas. Rosa sent us the template for practice briefs two months ago and now we have to prepare the practice abstracts. Fabien will prepare the practice abstract about silvoarable and Johanna about homegardens but we need voluntaries to prepare the practice abstracts about buffer strips, silvopasture and forest farming. Fabien from France, Johana from Sweden and Vania from Bulgaria will prepare the drafts of silvoarable, homegardens and riparian buffer strips.

Actions: *Please contact Rosa to prepare the FAO practice abstracts*

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Research and Technology:

[Public Stakeholder Consultation – Evaluation of Public-Public Partnerships \(Art.185 initiatives\) in the context of the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation](#) 27.01.2017 – 30.04.2017

[Open Public Online Consultation on modernising and simplifying the common agricultural policy \(CAP\)](#) Deadline:02.05.2017 (Rosa to prepare a summary of policy report)

Rosa was talking with Melanie from ALIENOR and if we agree Melanie will be in charge of the public consultations and she will be our link with the European Commission.

Actions: *Melanie will take care of the public consultations*

6. EURAF Newsletter & Dissemination Activities

The newsletter of January was published and today Nuria will send you the draft of the next newsletter (March) which will be published at the end of this week. Now we have to start to prepare the newsletter of May. Please send some agroforestry news to Nuria.

To increase the EURAF visibility we have created an account on facebook and twitter. Jeroen is in charge of these accounts. Rosa thinks that it is important our participation in the social networks. Rosa said that in the AFINET project it will be prepared a document explaining how to use the facebook and twitter. This document can be circulated among the EC. Rosa thinks that we have to connect facebook with twitter. Javier Santiago could handle this but previously Jeroen has to put Javier as manager of the facebook account.

Actions: *Nuria and Mercedes Rois will take care of the newsletter. Jeroen will put Javier as manager of the facebook account to link it with tweeter.*

7. EURAF CONFERENCE

Rosa said that the next EURAF conference will be held in a nice city. The venue is 4 km from the city center but there are buses and the organisation will try to get free tickets for the participants. Rosa thinks that the Dutch people are doing a great job. They send us the following information:

Objective

Objective 1: accelerating the inevitably necessary transition of traditional farming into sustainable or natural Agroforestry. In other words: accelerating ecological intensification as described among others by professor Pablo Tittonell (Wageningen University; keynote speaker on our “Van Akkernaar Bos” congress December 2017).

Objective 2: more farmers in our audience

We wish to express in Firm public statement:

- That ecological intensification is necessary;
- That this intensification implies a process of learning by doing;
- That natural or sustainable Agroforestry can bring less input and better life.

Main topics

- What are success and stress factors for transition in the different European regions?
(stories of success and failure)

AFINET results can be combined within this topic.

- What are cost and revenues of Agroforestry on the scale of respectively the individual farmer, region, state/society ?(proven praxis and theoretical models)

It is very important to pay attention to various forms of ecosystem services.

- What do we think of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and how can we influence CAP-policy?

A new CAP will follow after 2020, but we do not know when exactly.

- Other topics resulting from call for papers.

Biodiversity, soil and climate change are important topics

Maybe we can give both AFINET and AGFORWARD the opportunity to show their results in a sub session.

Working together with EURAF Committee

Program committee formulates proposals; decision making and external communication by EURAF/Scientific Commission. Mark is linking pin. He knows the procedures from inside. Link from EURAF website with organizing committee

Call for abstracts May-June 2017

Rosa asked us if we agree with the topics. Rosa thinks that the EURAF EC should be part of the scientific committee and we could be also in charge of the webpage updates as in the Montpellier conference. Rosa said that the Dutch people needs 3 “good speakers” to attract people. Maybe PK Nair and Ravi could be the chosen ones. Jeroen ask Rosa about the budget and the sponsor and Rosa said that EURAF does not have to put money.

Actions: *Mark Vonk will take care of the EURAF conference with the help of the EURAF EC through Rosa contact.*

The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 11th of April 2017 at 10:00 CET