

# 82<sup>nd</sup> EURAF Executive Committee Report

10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 10:30 – 12:30

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez and Rosa Mosquera-Losada

## Present

**Elected Executive Committee:** Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Joana Amaral Paulo, Anastasia Pantera, Jeroen Watte,

**National Delegates:** Andrea Vityi, Adolfo Rosati, Andrea Pisanelli, Bohdan Lojka, Jo Smith, Joao Palma, Josep Crous Duran, Manuel Bertomeu, Norbert Lamersdorf, Robert Borek, Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez

**Apologies:** Bert Reubens

## 1. ROSA REPORT

### 1.1 INITIAL CLARIFICATION (EURAF/USC)

Rosa is very sad because some people said that USC is getting advantages through EURAF, so she mentioned that any EURAF Delegate that wishes to have access to the accounting of EURAF just have to ask for it. Besides that Rosa showed the payments given to EURAF by her in the last three years, from which she has also invoices in case anyone else wanted to check it:

- Payments to Melanie
    - \* 3000 euros in 2015
    - \* 3000 euros in 2016
    - \* 8000 euros in 2017
  - Accounting of AGFORWARD
    - \* equivalent to 9000 euros for the whole period
  - Writting projects
    - \* 9000 euros AFINET (full stage)
    - \* 3000 euros i-Grassland (first stage)
- Total: 35000 euros**
- Person months involved paid through Rosa without money of the EURAF (at least)
    - \* 2015-2016: 6 person-month
    - \* 2017: 6.1 person-month

### 1.2 EURAF STRATEGY

Rosa said that the EURAF strategy is defined in the EURAF statutes. The EURAF statutes cannot be modified by the EC. The statutes have to be modified in the General Assembly. The EURAF current strategy (statutes aims) is:

+ Promoting agroforestry through communication media, including actions of lobby for adapting the European agroforestry legislation; lead by Rosa in collaboration with the rest of the members of the EC. Partially funded with the AGFORWARD project, it has to be co-funded by AFINET project (not enough money).

+ Organization of a biannual conference. Everybody is involved; leading depended on where the meeting is carried out (no funds available).

+ Electronic Newsletter; lead by Nuria in collaboration with the rest of the members of the EC (no funds available).

+ Web page creation and management; lead by Joao with the help of Nuria (no funds available).

+ Animation of the service of national structures European, allowing the exchange of information about agroforestry through Europe, organizing congresses, symposiums and seminaries. Lead by Rosa with the promotion of the establishment of AFINET and the e-mails that are regularly sent to everybody, with answer from everybody (usually fast), but also with the information of what is done in Brussels every executive committee meeting. But also through the inclusion of new agroforestry national delegations and papers of agroforestry in Europe (i.e. Bulgaria). AFINET helps to this part, as it involves nowadays over 200 associations of farmers, policy makers, farmers, foresters... all over Europe

+ Plus administrations, meetings, minutes, writings, mails, skypes.....

After the Rosa presentation, the EC discussed about the EURAF strategy. Jo Smith thinks that EURAF needs a new strategy to involve more people in the EURAF tasks but Rosa said that all people is always invited to participate in the EURAF activities, but unfortunately EURAF Delegates have not time or money to do more, in spite of trying and wishing to participate. Rosa also mentioned that in spite of EURAF Delegates not taking part of the monthly EC meetings they read the minutes, make questions and do works. For example, the papers that from Eastern countries have been presented in Journal Citation Report journal "Agroforestry Systems" Jo said that the EURAF work in policy is very good but EURAF needs to do more things. Joao said that EURAF is doing an excellent work but some aspects could be improved such as the newsletter. After these interventions, all members of the EC expressed their opinions and some members of the EC think that we need a face-to-face meeting to discuss about the EURAF strategy because it is difficult to discuss about this in a virtual meeting. We should move forward from the strategy we have and try to get more people involved. Jeroen said that he can get the lead with the organisation of the strategy. Rosa said that a start point could be the preparation of a google survey on which we initially show the current strategy.

Adolfo mentioned that we should be more constructive and work from what is done through improvement. Most of the EC Delegates present in the meeting, agreed with Adolfo words.

**Actions:** *Jeroen will take the lead on the discussion of the Strategy and he will send us information about the meeting as soon as possible.*

## 1.3 PROJECT ACTIVITY

### 1.3.1 PROPOSALS

#### *Participation of EURAF in new Proposals*

In the last EC meeting was initiated a discussion about the participation of EURAF in the projects. Jo Smith thinks that EURAF should be seen as an independent entity and therefore not all delegates can be involved in all proposals of EURAF. Jo thinks that if EURAF is involved in a particular proposal, EURAF Delegates can decide to contact with the coordinator directly to ask if he/she can join the consortium, but the coordinator can ask negatively. However, if the proposal coordinator wants to open the invitation to all involved in EURAF, the coordinator can email everyone explicitly inviting them to join.

Adolfo agrees that we need an agreed structure for involving EURAF in research proposals. He thinks that in general EURAF should invite all to participate but a coordinator has the right to decide which partners she/he needs/wants. EURAF is also free to decide whether to participate and at what conditions. If and when there is no obvious consensus, EC members should decide/vote. Adolfo suggest to require that, when EURAF participates in a project, the partners that participate as both partners in the project consortium, and as EURAF members, have to guarantee that they'll take care of EURAF part of the work. They cannot expect other EURAF members that are not receiving money as direct partners with their own institution (i.e. people with no person-months in the project), to do the work. If these partners that participate (and get funds) with their own institutions guarantee to do the EURAF part of the work and the other EC members agree that EURAF can participate, then ok. This is what we are already doing in AGFORWARD, where EURAF work is being carried out, at least for the most part if not all, by people who also have money and person months in the project. Adolfo thinks that it could not work otherwise because we are all too busy to work on non-funded activities. Moreover, the funding should require no co-funding, or the co-funding should be specified and available before EURAF can decide to participate.

The EC agrees that EURAF needs a strategy to participate in the projects. EURAF will not participate as partner in any proposal until the strategy is defined. EURAF will only sign letters of support to the projects and these letters will not commit EURAF in anything.

Jo is coordinating a proposal for the EU Thematic Network on Hedgerows and she only wants to invite part of the people of EURAF, excluding others, because she thinks that there is no money for all. She thinks that in the future EURAF members will fight for the same funds in competition. Rosa mentioned that a lot of EURAF members got angry because they are not part of AFINET thematic network in spite of being invited. Moreover, having another thematic network in hedgerows will be impossible if Jo's proposal succeeds. So, as it is needed a Project participation strategy, the EC agreed on not include EURAF in the Hedgerow proposal.

Rosa invited to everybody to take part of the RUR04. She asked not to include EURAF to avoid conflicts. It was decided that as everybody got invited EURAF could take part of the proposal.

**Actions:** Rosa will work with Jeroen in develop a survey for the EURAF project Strategy.

### **Proposals (next calls)**

1. Christian, PRIMA: Announcement January 2018; Deadline: 19 June. PRIMA:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=prima> and  
file:///C:/Users/Usuario/Downloads/PRIMA\_Short\_Dec-2017.pdf

2. ERA-NET SUSCROP: (FACCE-JTI)  
[https://www.suscrop.eu/lw\\_resource/datapool/systemfiles/elements/files/60C3F9747E110E71E0539A695E8617DD/live/document/Pre-announcement\\_SusCrop\\_final.pdf](https://www.suscrop.eu/lw_resource/datapool/systemfiles/elements/files/60C3F9747E110E71E0539A695E8617DD/live/document/Pre-announcement_SusCrop_final.pdf)

Joao said that Portugal is not in ERA-NET

Topics:

- I. Enhancement of predictive breeding technologies and development of new genotypes leading to new phenotypes and crop varieties for improvement of plant health, protection, production and resilience
- II. Development and exploitation of novel integrated pest and crop management methods and practices
- III. Improvement of resource-use efficiency of crops and cropping systems
- IV. Systemic research on agricultural crops as part of an ecosystem including interactions between plants and other organisms ("the plant as a meta-organism")

Open call: 15 January, Preproposal deadline submission: 4 April

H2020 Projects

\* SFS-18-2018-2019 Climate Smart and resilient farming: efficiency and resilience of mixed and agroforestry farming systems"? Bodham, Andrea, Adolfo, Andrea, Bert (Andrea Pisanelli is thinking to lead).

\* RUR-04-2017-2020, Analytical tools and models to support policies related to agriculture and food. Rosa will lead this call. All people are invited to participate.

**Actions:** Please contact Rosa to update the information and if you wish to participate or lead a call.

### **1.3.2 PROJECTS**

- **AGFORWARD**

Rosa said that maybe we need the payment of an audit

- **AFINET**

Rosa said that we had a meeting in the ORC last June 2017 to discuss the staff contracts of EURAF in AFINET. The decision we took was approved by the EC last november. In June 2017, Rosa proposed to contract people of EURAF strongly collaborating with the three AFINET organizations of the EURAF EC that have the leadership as WP leader in AFINET: that were ISA, Nyme-KKK and USC in order to be more efficient. After a good discussion, it was decided to allocate 10.5 person months of EURAF staff doing the EURAF AFINET activities with people based in Lugo and directly collaborating with the USC and 8.5 EURAF staff doing the EURAF AFINET activities based in Lisbon and directly collaborating with ISA. Mainly because the duties related with policy and web page that have to be done in AFINET are so different that one profile is not enough, and because the best place to do them are those that are already leading these activities in EURAF, so allowing them to be efficient doing the links between AFINET and EURAF. We also decided that ISA and USC will decide on the best people to do the duties and contracted by EURAF, as they are the ones that will collaborate directly with them. Contracts were delayed from June until the end of 2017 due to inconsistencies in the AGFORWARD project in person months and also because the long time it took to get all the papers done from an administrative point of view (Fabien and Rosa worked hard on this even during their holidays), but the job of the first year is done by people linked to USC and ISA on a voluntary basis. Last December, Fabien Balaguer indicated that he is not too happy with this decision and he wants to re-discuss it in the EC meeting. In this meeting (January 2018) we decided that it is better to rediscuss this with the EC members that are involved in AFINET because EC members interested in AFINET were there and know better the project and present it in the EC to get a final approval by the EURAF EC. Rosa said that we have to decide it soon, by 31 January, as the current contracts ends on 15 February, because on one hand if we carry on, a part time job will be developed for them (there is no money to maintain full time contracts) and the consultancy firm needs time for doing it and on the other hand our current workers have the legal right to know in advance the contracts they are going to have with 15 days in advance. If we decide to stop the contracts we will have to pay again around 500 euros to start new contracts to the consultancy firm doing them.

**Actions:** Rosa will initiate a discussion by email to clarify the situation, and if needed a skype meeting will be organized. The EC has to start to think in the revision of the EURAF strategy to contract people.

## **2. AGROFORESTRY IN UK**

This point of the agenda will be addressed in the next meeting.

### **3. CONSULTANCY “PRESERVING AGRICULTURAL SOILS IN THE EU” CONSULTANCY “PEFC”**

Rosa sent us information about the two consultancies but she has not received comments from anyone.

Jeroen said that the letter on “Preserving agricultural oil in the EU” was printed and dropped in all the MEP AGRI committee's physical inboxes beginning of November, together with the invitation to the 29<sup>th</sup> November conference. However, Jeroen has not received reactions from any MEP

**Actions:** *Please send Rosa comments about the consultancies*

### **4. NEXT EURAF CONFERENCE**

Nuria said that we have received a total of 85 abstracts. The Netherlands is the country with the high number of abstracts (23 abstracts) followed by Germany (11 abstracts) and France (10 abstracts). We have also abstracts from USA and Canada. The deadline to submit abstract was extended until 15<sup>th</sup> February so probably the final number of abstracts will be higher. Nuria will prepare a excel file with the different sessions of the conference to select the sessions in which each member of the scientific committee wants to participate by reviewing abstracts. This file will be sent next week. Nuria thinks that the review process could be similar to the review process carried out in Montpellier by Christian Dupraz and Marie Gosme because their work was excellent. The EC agrees with the Nuria proposal. Adolfo thinks that maybe the scientific committee needs a skype meeting to organize the review process.

**Actions:** *Nuria will prepare the review process of the abstracts and she will send information to the scientific committee about the organisation of the review process.*

### **5. NEWSLETTER**

Nuria said that she is working on the next newsletter which will be probably published at the end of January. The featured farm of the next newsletter is from Sweden. A new about a Spanish project will be also included in the next newsletter. Nuria thinks that we can also prepare a new about the AFINET meeting in Lisbon and the AGFORWARD meeting in the Parliament but we need regional news. Andrea Pisanelli said that he can write a small text about a conference in Italy. Rosa commented that it would be nice if we can publish featured farms of Central and North Europe. Norbert said that he can write a featured farm from Germany.

In November the number of subscribers to the EURAF newsletter increased probably due to the AGFORWARD meeting in the Parliament (Thank you Jeroen and Rosa for your work in the organisation of this event). EURAF newsletter has 1093 subscribers!

Nuria thinks that it is very important the collaboration of all EC in the newsletter. Please send her your comments during the review period of the newsletter.

**Actions:** Nuria will take care of the newsletter. Please send to Nuria agroforestry news of your countries to publish in the newsletter.

## **6. EURAF ACCOUNT**

Rosa said that in December she had to pay 4000 euros out of her own pocket to avoid a fine of the Spanish social security. She does not want this to happen again. This situation could be avoided if she or Joana had the keys of the EURAF bank account to be able to carry out banking operations but only Fabien Balaguer has the keys of the EURAF bank account.

**Actions:** Fabien Balaguer will send the keys of the EURAF bank account to Rosa and Joana

**The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 (wednesday) at 10:30 CET**