

39th EURAF Executive Committee Report

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Report written by Anja Chalmin, Rosa Mosquera Losada, Jabier Ruiz

Present:

5 officers: Rosa Mosquera Losada, Gerald Lawson, Adolfo Rosati, Sylvène Laborie-Roussel, Jeroen Watté,

7 countries represented by national delegates: Sami Kryeziu (Kosovo), Norbert Lamersdorf (Germany), Bohdan Lojka (Czech Republic), Joao Palma (Portugal), Robert Borek (Poland), Andrea Vity (Hungary); Sylvie Guillerme (France)

Further participants: Christian Dupraz, Melanie Lamaison

EURAF staff: Jabier Ruiz, Anja Chalmin

Excused: Bert Reubens (Belgium), Felix Herzog (Switzerland), Patrick Worms (further participant), Jo Smith (UK), Andrea Pissaneli (Italy), Mark Vonk (The Netherlands), Anastasia Pantera (Greece), Gerardo Moreno (Spain).

The quorum was achieved.

ISSUE 1: 2nd EURAF Conference Report

Cottbus Conference / CEBra bill

- Rosa: Follow-up is going well, e.g. certificates of payments are out, most payment issues are solved, and book of abstracts is available online. Remaining major issue: how do we answer to CEBra costs?
- Suggestion Norbert: Skype meeting Anja, Norbert and Dirk (Anja will send a doodle survey to find an appointment asap), trying to provide a clear financial situation about the CEBRA costs.

Daily Allowance

- Rosa: Daily Allowance for EURAF staff: Anja is asking Kenisha for advice (to make sure we are in accordance with European rules)
- Christian: in a second step we should decide whether we opt for a daily allowance or a ticket reimbursement, as EURAF's budget is quite limited.

ISSUE 2: AGFORWARD / AGROFE – status quo

- Rosa: EURAF's first AGFORWARD project report has been produced and sent to Paul & Kenisha as requested
- Norbert & Rosa will discuss AGFORWARD related tasks this Friday; both of them will be responsible for organising EURAF's contributions for this project on behalf of EURAF
- Rosa: EURAF responsibilities and inputs need to be clarified for AGROFE too
- Gerald asked if EURAF's circulation list should be sent to Paul as the leader of AGFORWARD to send the newsletter. It was agreed within the EC to send it.

- Sylvie: AGROFE leaders are satisfied with EURAF's participation so far, Sylvie took care of all requirements - mainly providing requested documentation. Financial report needs to be submitted by 15th October, in order to obtain the next payment. Sylvie offered to take care of the financial report; Rosa offered her help. Next AGROFE meeting will be in Prague, next October.
- Bohdan: AGROFE communication is sometimes a bit difficult. The project is mainly about preparing courses for Universities and High Schools related to agroforestry. If EURAF wants to add information to www.agrofe.eu, we are invited to send updates to Bohdan and as well to explore the website. Please, have a look on this website to help.
- Rosa: Information on AGROFE should be included into one of the next EURAF newsletters, as part of the EURAF projects. May be advertisements about the courses could be also included.

ISSUE 3: Proposals

A) AGFORGOOD

The project was presented on time and the EURAF budget increased. EURAF is the leader of the Dissemination Work Package (WP) and will also take care of a case study in France.

B) Cost Action

- Rosa: Next deadline: October. Anastasia left the task. EURAF should take the lead. It would be great to have Joana as the person in charge for the proposal.
- Joao: Will clarify Rosa's request. Points out that lots of bureaucracy is involved. EURAF could be the leader of the Cost action and Anja & Jabier could take on the admin issue in future. The scientific aspects of the project are interesting.
- Joao, Gerald: Proposal's content - no research costs are paid (just travelling and allowance expenses). What should be the focus? Not entirely solved. Output involves networking and dissemination, books, to get people together, short-term missions (research) of 2-3 months

C) Education Project

- Rosa: proposal from Charles Burriel, supporting High School, PhDs and MScs related to Agroforestry. Deadline beginning of next year.
- Sylvie: Will exchange with Charles and provide updates during the next EC call

D) Dissemination

- Jeroen: Ideas for wider dissemination. NGO involvement in European Projects is being researched by Wervel. Jeroen hopes to find some sources for funding for dissemination projects, with EURAF as main partner.

ISSUE 5: International Contacts

- Rosa: AFTA asks to be involved in EURAF's Executive Committee calls
- Christian: Let's invite them when we have specific topics that could interest them, e.g. EU calls. We can ask AFTA to search project calls to collaborate with EURAF members and EURAF could do the same.

- Rosa: ICRAF issue. IUAF (International Union of Agroforestry) draft charter has been delivered and ICRAF is commenting it. It is expected to present IUAF in the next IUFRO conference to be held in America.
- Christian: Montpellier was chosen for organising the next Agroforestry Congress in 2019, but this information is not yet official.
- Rosa: participating in the European Innovation Partnership (EIP-Agri) Focus Group about Profitability of Permanent Grassland. It has been asked the possibility that we could propose the creation of another Focus Group on Agroforestry, or on more specific topics within agroforestry
- Melanie: Application is still possible for a new focus group: optimising the profitability of crop production through Ecological Focus Areas:
- http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/focus-groups/call-4-publication_en.pdf) Melanie recommends participation to EURAF. Rosa offered to take care of the application.
- Melanie: EC can create as many focus groups as they want. Innovation Focus Groups – 5-6 calls for focus groups since the beginning of the year. Experts exchanging on a specific topic, until objectives of the focus groups are reached.
- Rosa: Groups are established for a year; final report to be submitted at the end. They are important because most key aspects are treated in this report, as well as future innovation needs within the EU framework.
- Melanie: European Rural Development Network: platform for discussions to connect rural development players all over Europe, led by the European Commission (EC). EURAF members should write to responsible National authorities (usually National Agricultural Ministries) to propose agroforestry as one of the key topics for the next programming period. Letters should be sent latest by September. Melanie offered to prepare a model to facilitate the process.

ISSUE 6: EURAF website & newsletter

- Rosa: suggests translating EURAFs website + adding an option to find volunteers – e.g. for translations
- Most of the EC Members think that translation is not necessary and very work-intensive
- Christian: we should switch to a new website, more modern. EURAF website is quite old fashioned (general agreement). Joao offered to work on this; Anja and Jabier will contribute.
- Jeroen: We should help national associations to create good webpages/websites. Collect examples of good agroforestry websites, e.g. examples from UK and France
- Rosa: Newsletter is not accessible for many farmers if in English only, e.g. in Spain. How about other countries? If needed, National Delegates should take the decision if translation is worth and organise it.
- Gerald: Every country should summarize on our website the country specific decisions that will be made in the coming weeks/months related to CAP and agroforestry. It was agreed to ask every national delegate to include this information in the web site.

ISSUE 7: APLITEC & EURAFs Finances

- APLITEC costs: Christian recommends that Sylvène takes an appointment with the APLITEC office to clarify the costs for the bookkeeping. Christian suggests starting with APLITEC for the 1st year, because the office was very helpful and professional. It will be easier for APLITEC to include staff

costs, because they are in contact with the offices in Belgium and Germany handling EURAF staff too. Costs about 2.000 Euro per year.

- Sylvène: APLITEC costs are not too high. Please send all the questions you have to Sylvène before her meeting with APLITEC next week.
- Rosa: Sylvène should make sure that APLITEC is able to do the bookkeeping that is needed for AGFORWARD and AGROFE financial reports too. It is also important to know how co-financing should be established.
- Jeroen: we should find EU project calls without the need to co-finance (e.g. related Environmental Awareness Raising), e.g. the AGFORWARD WP9 doesn't need co-financing from EURAF, WP8 yes.
- Christian: Melanie will be paid on a semester basis – 5.000 € / semester. VAT needs to be paid on top (not for the 1st semester, but from the 2nd onwards). New funds needed to pay the 2nd term. Money from the AGFORWARD project is not an option, because we would be without funds.
- Melanie: EURAF fees are too low
- Christian: only half of the fees has been paid so far
- Sylvène and Anja will take care of the outstanding fees/list of members to request payments.
- Jeroen: National delegates should do a call to require more funds for EURAF (Rosa offered to take care of this call). A call for this payment will be done among the partners. Rosa offered to contact some of partners to request for payments, originally promised.

ISSUE 8: Climate Smart Agriculture: Gold Standards

- Jabier: following Sylvène's initial idea, he prepared several suggestions to improve the agroforestry content of the Gold Standards currently under public consultation: http://www.goldstandard.org/luf_csa. These suggestions were circulated for Executive Committee members by e-mail on June 27th.
- Andrea: agrees with the content of the suggestions
- As the rest have not had the time to read them, a further deadline is set for July 11. All ideas and comments to be sent to jruizmirazo@gmail.com. If there is enough feedback, suggestions will be sent in the name of EURAF; otherwise, just in the name of Jabier.

Next EURAF EC meeting:

- First Tuesday or Wednesday of each month? Doodle to ask for preferences (→Anja)
- Google HangOut: Gerald and Jeroen suggest trying this tool instead of Skype, but not yet for the next call. No differences regarding quality. Advantage: no software to be downloaded. Disadvantage: subscription to a google account needed.

Tasks and Activities to be performed

TASK	Responsible	Deadline?
EURAF's Agforward tasks (skype meeting)	Rosa, Norbert	11.7.
Agroforestry content Gold Standard. Comments to Jabier	Everyone	11.7.
Please send all questions Sylvene should clarify to her.	Everyone	July 13
Meeting with Aplitec	Sylvene	July 14-18
Doodle, next EC call	Anja	July
Cost Action: Joana available as person in charge?	Joao	Next EC call
Education Project: updates from Charles	Sylvie	Next EC call
AGROFE as a subject in one of the upcoming EURAF newsletters	Sylvie & Bohdan?	August?
Examples of good agroforestry websites to support national associations.	Anja	August
Letters to National Authorities (draft letter provided by Melanie).	National Delegates	Latest by September
AGROFE financial report	Sylvie (Rosa)	before Oct 15th
EURAF website – new look: Anja to contact Joao and Jabier	Joao, Anja, Jabier	2014
AGROFE website: Please have a look on the website and suggest/send possible updates to Bohdan	Everyone	asap
EURAF website – add country specific information on CAP&agroforestry	National Delegates	asap
Updated list of EURAF members/outstanding payments	Anja, Sylvene	asap
CEBra Bill: Skype meeting (Doodle request: Anja)	Norbert, Dirk, Anja	asap
AGforward/EU guidelines on daily allowances? a) Request to Agforward project management b) EURAF EC's final decision on daily allowances	a) Anja b) EC	asap
Funds for dissemination projects	Jeroen/Wervel	ongoing
AFTA request	Rosa	
New Focus Groups (agroforestry, EF-Areas)	Rosa	
Obtain funds to pay Melanie's work	Rosa?	