

40th EURAF Executive Committee Report

08 August 2014

Report written by Rosa Mosquera Losada, Gerry Lawson, Adolfo Rosati and Robert Borek

Present:

4 officers: Rosa Mosquera Losada, Gerry Lawson, Sylvène Laborie-Roussel, Adolfo Rosati
5 countries represented by national delegates: Robert Borek (Poland), Andrea Vity (Hungary);
Bert Reubens (Belgium), Anastasia Pantera (Greece)

Further participants: Melanie Lamaison

Apologies: Felix Herzog (Switzerland), Gerardo Moreno (Spain), Jeroen Watté (secretary), Anja Chalmin

The quorum was achieved.

ISSUE 1: EURAF accounting

- **Rosa:** all payments have been done in due order thanks to Sylvène and Christian (EURAF staff). Rosa had a skype talk with Dirk Freese regarding CEBRA payment. The last proposal from a Dirk and Rosa skype conversation was achieved, but no written document from Dirk was sent. EURAF cannot pay 1400€ above the amount required by CEBRA and EURAF will receive 1500 Euros from Dirk for Melanie. This means a €100 gain for EURAF. We can wait for the written confirmation and the way how the payment will be handled.
- **Several EC people:** It should be clear why EURAF has to pay more than initially agreed. What is important is what is written in the contract. EC agreed that a meeting involving Christian, Anja, Dirk, Norbert and Rosa has to be carried out to understand why EURAF has to pay more than agreed.
- **Rosa:** European Union office can help for free to make the accounting for EURAF in AGFORWARD. Rosa and Anja will manage it. A dropbox will be created to number the bills and have them all in due order. This dropbox will be handled by Sylvène, Joana and Rosa helped by Anja.
- **Adolfo:** What about Alienor contract? Alienor contract is for a year and a new payment needs to be carried out soon.

ISSUE 2: Project future participation and update

- **Rosa:** No news from COST action. Joao and Joana will be asked by Rosa. Education and H2020 (deadline: February and June 2015) project calls will be searched by Rosa for the next meetings.¹
- **Sylvène:** Farmers exchange has to be tried as mentioned in the last EURAF conference. Marciac event was a success and there are several farms that could be visited in France.
- **Mélanie:** She will search the opportunities within the European Commission. There are some calls for communication issues like the one at the end of last year about CAP and farmers.
- **Rosa:** Maybe INTERREG or SUDOE are also good options for this, having in mind that there are many farms that can be visited in Portugal, Spain and France at least. INTERREG and SUDOE have a regional scale but it could be of high value for farmers.
- **Mélanie:** She will search these opportunities with a colleague within Alienor (Elise).
- **Sylvène:** An identification of farms will be advisable

¹ The last update of H2020 program has been released (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/main/h2020-wp1415-food_en.pdf). Please, have a look to it and let's Rosa know if you are interested in participating in a project and/or leading a project to start working on it. See Melanie 31 July summary explaining last updates. Knowledge transfer could be done through the call ISIB-02-2015 (deadline 11 June 2015).

- **Rosa:** This is being done by EURAF in collaboration with Fabien WP leader of dissemination within AGFORWARD project (a map is being constructed).
- **Robert:** Some farms can be added from Poland. Cooperation with national agricultural advisory centers that activity cover all Polish territory could be very helpful
- **Adolfo:** Education should be carefully considered, as some institutions cannot participate in education-only projects and may be it is better to focus on those that allow a broad participation of all researchers involved in EURAF. All researchers of EURAF are working in a voluntary basis, so their respective institutions should receive some money to justify any substantial work in specific projects.
- **Bert:** We can see all calls in detail and decide later if enough people are interested.

ISSUE 3: Civil dialogue group (CDG) meetings

- **Rosa:** Rosa explained what a CDG is and that it was a good success to be included in all of these groups, probably due to the strong job done by EURAF members preparing documents and visiting officers of the European Commission in Brussels. A calendar with the initial meeting dates was attached to the EC meeting call. EURAF has to be represented by two people within each CDG. Elected EC (EEC) decided to ask to include EURAF in the different animal product CDGs and the Commission answer was that all seats were already occupied. So, EURAF will not be able to participate in any of the animal product CDG. A small round within the EEC indicated that Gerry is willing to go to Rural Development DG and Environment and CDG, Joanna to the Rural Development, Forestry and Cork and the Environment and Climate Change CDG. Rosa likes to take part in the meetings related to policy due to her WP of policy leadership within AGFORWARD project and Environment and Climate Change. People names representing EURAF have to be provided 3 days before the meeting.
- **Melanie:** Melanie suggested that each meeting should be carefully prepared in order to defend EURAF positions.
- **Rosa:** Rosa thinks that it is an excellent idea, but, usually the agenda is provided quite close to the meeting.
- **All agreed that Melanie idea is very good if feasible and that an e-mail regarding the interest of all EURAF EC members will be sent to know their availability to go and prepare the meetings. This will be carried out after the first meetings of each dialogue group are held to know how are they organized (information to be discussed, frequency of meetings). The first "Arable Civil Dialogue Group" will be next 3 September. Rosa will ask Christian Dupraz and Dirk Freese to be part of this first meeting. All EURAF delegates in the CDG meetings will make a report of the meeting to be circulated among the EC members.**
- **Rosa:** A call for experts for the structured dialogue under ESI Funds has been launched.
- **All agreed that Rosa and Gerry will represent EURAF in this group.**

ISSUE 4: Web page and Newsletter

- **Rosa:** The web page is being changed by Joao who will send some examples to decide the new style for EURAF's webpage. Newsletter articles deadline will be 20 August. E-mails should be sent to Anja and Rosa to the euraf@gmx.de
- **Gerry:** Gerry is keen on the establishment of a wiki for EURAF. An e-mail will be sent to see how it works.
- **Adolfo:** Adolfo mentions that a special part of the Web page and Newsletter could be dedicated to Sponsors in order to get some money for EURAF.
- **Anastasia:** BSF Company could be of interest to fund EURAF. An e-mail will be sent to Rosa in order to research this possibility.
- **All agreed that having a label for sponsors within the EURAF web page and newsletter should be definitively studied.**
- **Andrea:** She will be able to do a general description of Agroforestry systems in Hungary and present it on time. She will also be able to prepare a more specific paper after the AGFORWARD meeting.
- **Rosa:** Paul asked EURAF to indicate that "EURAF Newsletter is sponsored by AGFORWARD". EURAF newsletter is based on voluntary contributions from EURAF

members that could belong or not to AGFORWARD. Funds for the EURAF newsletter come from different sources. AGFORWARD proposal has to deliver only one newsletter, and it is written that EURAF should be in charge of it (Paul finally got the leadership of the AGFORWARD newsletter). However, it is good for EURAF to go further in the AGFORWARD project to highlight EURAF work and AGFORWARD work for the commission.

- **Adolfo:** We can say that “This newsletter is carried out in collaboration with the AGFORWARD European Project (put a link of the AGFORWARD web page)”
- **All EC** members agreed with this

OTHER ISSUES

Next EURAF EC meeting: Initially, first Wednesday of each month. Therefore we will meet the 3rd September at 10 am (CET)