

41st EURAF Executive Committee Report

3 September 2014

Report written by Rosa Mosquera Losada, Anja Chalmin, Mélanie Lamaison,

Present:

4 officers: María Rosa Mosquera Losada, Sylvène Laborie-Roussel, Adolfo Rosati, Jeroen Watté

7 countries represented by national delegates: Robert Borek (Poland), Andrea Vity (Hungary); Gerardo Moreno (Spain), Norbert Lamersdorf (Germany), Andrea Pisanelly (Italy), Kostas Mantzanas (Greece), Felix Herzog (Switzerland)

Further participants: Melanie Lamaison, Christian Dupraz, Patrick Worms

Apologies: Joana Amaral (PT), Bohdan Lojka (CH), Gerry Lawson (UK); Anastasia Pantera (Greece), Jo Smith (UK), Mark Vonk (The Netherlands), Anja Chalmin

The quorum was achieved.

ISSUE 1: EURAF accounting

- **CEBRA:**

Rosa: An agreement to settle the CEBRA bill was reached during a meeting with Dirk Freese, Christian Dupraz and Rosa Mosquera. EURAF will pay the amount of money agreed in the initial budget. Additional costs caused by extra work carried out by CEBRA will be handled by Dirk Freese.

All: We all agree to send letters of acknowledgement to Dirk for being able to handle this situation, and to CEBRA for the excellent work carried out with the organization of the Conference. The payment will be carried out immediately upon receipt of invoice.

- **AliènorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** EURAF signed a one-year-agreement with AliènorEU, fees to be settled in two payments. The first payment was already carried out. The second payment will be done in September 2014. We have cash in the account from the AGFORWARD project, but, we will need money to be able to pay all our debts in due time.

- **Lobby and sponsorship:**

Rosa: Lobby work has to be carried out. EURAF needs sponsors. Several possibilities should be evaluated. Anja got the name of an expert on lobbying from Dirk and will contact her. A working group on lobbying and sponsorship was proposed to be established within EURAF. Norbert and Patrick will take part in this working group, together with Anja. If someone wishes to help, please contact Rosa.

Patrick: The possibility of having different logos size on the EURAF website.

Christian and Mélanie: Services package for EURAF's website or for events will be analyzed by the working group on lobbying and sponsorship.

Rosa: EURAF is responsible for a festival next year within the AGFORWARD project; this could be an opportunity to obtain funds from sponsors.

Jeroen: It will be interesting to have keywords, issues focusing in lobbying like other NGOs do: diversity, carbon sequestration,...

Mélanie: stated that some NGOs have partnerships with the private sector such as the WWF.

Norbert: He adds that some companies could sell low CO₂ emission products, open new markets, ecological aspects related with agroforestry i.e. some sport company equipment sell this eco-friendly products. He thinks EURAF could forward these ideas to have sponsors.

Jeroen: He suggests to sell ideas like “trees on lobby” and also to get benefit from Mélanie’s job.

Sylvène: she suggests contacting foundations to support other foundations to get money.

Patrick: he said that for sure these kinds of foundation already exist and they are usually trade organizations that help environment to get close to companies.

Adolfo: he mentions that only 5000 Euros are obtained with 500 people per year with the current EURAF fee (10 euros per person and year).

- **Accounting control:**

Rosa: Sylvène found a new job, so her availability to help with money transfers and other accounting issues could be limited. We’d like to thank Christian for his availability to help with this, knowing he is very busy. As Sylvène is busy and Christian needs support, we decided to ask Joana to take the position as the treasurer and if she agrees Sylvène will be the vice-treasurer.

All: As we need a French person to take care of the French account, the EC decided Christian will keep the right to carry out transfers on behalf of EURAF.

Christian: Having an accounting officer would be helpful, but we have to see if we have money for this. In any case, if EURAF gets more money than 165.000 Euros per year, the accounting office is compulsory, following the French rules.

Rosa: If we have enough money, we will contract one. A dropbox will be created with all the bills numbered and ordered, this will be done by Anja throughout the next month and a global balance will be presented in the next EC to learn the real situation of EURAF’s account.

ISSUE 2: Project future participation and update

- **Rosa:** No news from the COST action. Joao and Joana will be asked by Rosa. Rosa sent an e-mail to everybody to ask whether they are willing to participate in H2020¹. Two calls have been identified: one deals with research in agroforestry and a second one with innovation knowledge and how to put it into practice (ISIB2).
- **Jeroen:** There is an opportunity for NGOs called “Life operational grant”. He will be in the presentation of the call in Brussels and will provide a report.

Mélanie: She talked to the person responsible for the pilot project in DG Agriculture. They are still consulting other units in order to decide on how to proceed. Financial rules are flexible, which means that the money is there until DG Agriculture makes a decision, probably in the fall.
- **Adolfo:** He points out that it is important to know what EURAF is able to carry out without too much funding. We have to think carefully how EURAF can be involved. EURAF members have to do extra jobs without financing. So, the best solution should be to get money for each participant institution that allows EURAF members to help with the EURAF duties.
- **Rosa:** She opened a round to see how EURAF should participate in the proposals.
- **Jeroen:** Depends on the project. If goals are clearly stated, we have to contract good staff to do the job.
- **Patrick:** Preparing proposals is expensive; you have to have special skills.
- **Felix:** There are some parts of the projects that cannot be easily delegated.

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).

- **Gerardo:** We have to be focused in the right call. We have to think carefully the to find adequate people matching good ideas. Time is limited.
- **Norbert:** He fully agrees. Proposals should be based on already existing experiences. New projects should be linked to the job that we usually have to do.
- **Jeroen:** We have to decide in each case what we should do.
- **Christian:** Nothing to add. He prepared EURAF duties for AGFORWARD. If an opportunity is there and we have time we should apply.
- **Robert Borek:** Nothing to add.
- **Sylvene:** Nothing to add.
- **Joana:** I agree. We do not have too much time.
- **Andrea Pisanelli:** Calls should be evaluated and each individual organization can decide if they can contribute or not.
- **Kostas:** Agreed with most of the aspects said. Nothing to add.
- **Joao:** Agreed with most said, but we have to keep in mind that time is limited.
- **Andrea:** May be it is better to be focused in a call and decide when it comes if it is interesting for EURAF to participate or not.
- **Rosa:** If one is interested in a call where EURAF could participate, please let me know in order to discuss it.

ISSUE 3: Civil dialogue group (CDG) meetings

- **Rosa** The next 30 September a CDG of Arable crops will be carried out. Christian and Dirk will be the representatives of this group. Dirk is not able to go this time.
- **Christian** I am not an expert in specific sugar crop group, and he does not see good connections between this group and agroforestry.
- **Rosa** This is the first time a group is organized so a general organization will be explained.
- **Mélanie:** She can go.
- **Jeroen:** He can go this time.
- **All:** agreed.
- **Jeroen:** He was told by people from the Commission that there is an opportunity to create a new EIP Focus group about agroforestry. He was told that around 10 EIP focus groups will be carried out. Deadline will be October.
Mélanie: She recalled that in the last monitoring, she encouraged EURAF to put forward agroforestry as a topic for one Focus Group. She added that the deadline for submitting proposals is the 1st of October. Furthermore, the topic has to be quite focused with a clearly defined working question.
- **Rosa:** She explains she is already participating in the Permanent Grassland Profitability Working Group. This group aims at producing a report with very applicable facts for farmers, but also for policy-makers and to propose new research that has to be done. It is important to be there. There will be calls every year and it is part of the EU's new idea to foster research into practice. The EIP focus groups are composed of 20 people, including researchers, farmers, etc.. We have to be focused in a subject to present it as a focus group.
- **Jeroen and Rosa:** will ask again how to proceed, using Jeroen's contact.
- **Adolfo:** What is the difference of Operational Groups and Focus Groups?
- **Rosa:** Operational groups will be decided at National level; they include mostly farmers and there is money for this in the CAP. They are the new name for the former Local Action Groups. The Focus groups are managed by COMAGRI. A member of a focus group is created based on

the expertise of each person. There are public open calls to apply to become a member. The money for creating a network of operational groups can be obtained by the before mentioned ISIB2 H2020 program.

Unfortunately the connection was not good while this interesting conversation was carried out and many people from the EC were out of the conversation.

OTHER ISSUES

Andrea Vityi: Asked if EURAF received the information from her country for the newsletter.

Rosa: It was received, but Anja is on sick-leave and not able to handle the newsletter. Rosa also received interesting information about agroforestry implementation in different Eastern European countries. She asked to the Agroforestry systems journal editor in chief if it is possible to present papers summarizing the main types of Agroforestry systems in those countries, and the answer was yes.

Robert: He will do a contribution for this journal about AF in Poland.

Mélanie: The RND topics for the next period are open. National authorities should take care of it. This is an interesting opportunity for national EURAF members to lobby.

Rosa: Please lobby AF in your countries.

Kostas: Agroforestry measure was included in the RDP of Greece which was sent to the Commission by mid-July.

Next EURAF EC meeting: we will meet next 1st October at 10 am (CET).