

# 45th EURAF Executive Committee Report

10 December 2014

**Report written by** Anja Chalmin, Maria Rosa Mosquera-Losada

**Present:**

3 officers: Rosa Mosquera Losada, Gerry Lawson, Adolfo Rosati,

4 countries represented by national delegates: Andrea Vityi (Hungary), Robert Borek (Poland), Bohdan Lojka (Czech Republic), Kostas Mantzanas (Greece)

Further: Anja Chalmin (staff), Christian Dupraz

Apologies: Jeroen Watté, Patrick Worms (ICRAF), Mélanie Lamaison (AliénorEU), Bert Reubens (Belgium), Joao Palma, Anastasia Pantera (Greece)

The quorum was **not** achieved.

## ISSUE 1: EURAF accounting (Justification, current proposals)

### 1.1 Justification

**Rosa:**

- According to present estimates EURAF is running out of money ~ next June.
- EURAF's financial problems are mainly caused due to justification problems, e.g. contract with AliénorEU is not eligible, because the AGFORWARD proposal doesn't allow subcontracting.
- CEBra bills: Dirk Freese was really helpful trying to do obtain the bills to justify AGFORWARD. Updated bills must be available before the end of this year.
- (AGFORWARD) staff contracts can be fully reimbursed.
- (AGFORWARD) Funds, originally planned for 2014 but not used, are not automatically lost but can be used later-on.
- (AGFORWARD) EURAF will have to cofund € 11684.80 for AGFORWARD during the whole project.
- (AGROFE) EURAF will have to cofund €3094 for AGROFE. Justification with contract should be done (therefore, part of the Anja contract will be allocated to justify AGROFE). The amount will be 8277 plus €3094 of AGROFE cofund.09/2015. Anja contract can be used, but no double accounting for staff contracts is possible. For this reason it will be difficult to justify the entire amount.

**Gerry** clarifies that subcontracting is possible, if contractors are named in the original proposal, but not completely funded by the EC. If not mentioned there, subcontracting is not an option.

**Christian:** Alienor+ activity should be possible, e.g. several activities in the AGFORWARD contract can be clearly linked to AliénorEU job.

**Adolfo:** Is there any creative way to adapt AliénorEU bills, e.g. hiring someone who works for Melanie to pay for her staff?

**Rosa** will carry out more research to offer solutions, e.g. on co-funding aspects. All this options were evaluated by Andrea (linked to Joana in ISA), Susana (linked to Rosa in USC) and Kenisha and Paul (AGFORWARD). Any activity linked to services, like organize a congress, or analyse policy, even if they are clearly linked to the proposal is considered a subcontract. Subcontracting is not an option, neither for AGROFE, nor for AGFORWARD. The unique way to properly justify Melanies' work is with a staff contract. Contracting Melanie as staff is not possible, according to Melanie. Melanie will help finding a solution. **If anyone is aware of other options, please contact Rosa! Amount of money for AGFORWARD needs to be justified before the end of this month.**

### 1.2 Current proposals

**Rosa**

- Current proposals: AGFORGOOD failed. Pilot project success will be informed by next [January by Melanie](#)
- (New option) ISIB (SFS1) project. Deadline June 2015. Interested participants: Andrea Vityi, Joana, Bert, Rosa (with their institutions). **Adolfo** will check if participation for his institution is possible too.
- (New option) COST ACTION: Call opens in January 2015. Deadline March 2015. Mercedes Rois (EFI) expressed interested.

**Adolfo, Gerry:** co-funding is not secured in EURAF's case, as EURAF can only use EURAF staff time to co-fund. Another option is co-funding with sponsor's money.

**Rosa:** Joana and Rosa had a meeting organized by Jeroen with Xabier Noyón. He show high interest in a project related to Certification & Agroforestry. He will share a small draft with us. Rosa will write a letter to Xabier Noyón to ask for the draft again.

**Rosa:** New projects require member's or delegates time to work for new projects. H2020 may be an option, because subcontracts are fully paid. Anja's time will be also involved in administrative part of projects.

**Gerry:** There are options of European Commission contracts without a cofound need.

**Rosa:** Please send us examples.

## ISSUE 2: Sponsoring

### Anja

- General feedback from freelancers, agencies, and fundraising experts (e.g. NABU): An arrangement on a contingency fee basis is an option EURAF should consider. EURAF's website needs improvement. Do not underestimate the time to find and keep sponsors/members in the environmental field, e.g. spontaneous one-time donations are not very likely (as for NGO's working in disaster areas or with endangered animals).
- Several applications for free expert advice on fundraising: (1) Probonero (they bring NGO's and experts who wish to volunteer together) promised to share before Christmas, whether they have a matching Fundraising Expert for EURAF. (2)The Fundraising Academy in Frankfurt considers helping for free, using EURAF as a practical example for a group project. Other applications have been declined or further follow-up needed.
- French rules for non-profit-tax law need to be fully clarified. Thanks to Sylvene we already know that there are no taxes on sponsoring money in France at all, as long the money is paid directly to a French bank account. In addition we have to find out, whether there are any other restrictions we need to be aware of, e.g. concerning the types of co-operations with sponsors allowed for NGO's registered in France.

**Adolfo:** Arrangement on contingency basis is an option, no costs involved.

**Rosa** and Patrick had a meeting with Jaques Mevius from the International Association Union in Brussels to discuss sponsorship options, More details should be available in January. We need to think about options to return the financial service - money is not provided "for free".

**Anja:** Options should be defined together with an expert for fundraising strategy, if possible

**Adolfo:** PEFC's secretary in Italy expressed that sponsoring an activity in Italy would be easy, but that they would be less helpful on a European level. Organizing an Agroforestry festival in Italy is still not an option, because 100% sponsoring would be needed. Adolfo will arrange another meeting.

**Rosa, Anja, Adolfo:** ~10 new members joined EURAF during the past 2 months, mainly from Ireland and Hungary. New members from Italy can be expected next year.

**Rosa, Adolfo:** Rosa, as President of EURAF, got money from the Spanish Ministry to pay companies to help with the elaboration of successful European Union proposals.. Please send names of well-experienced agencies to [Rosa](#).

## ISSUE 3: AGFORWARD

### 3.1 Marciac Festival

**Rosa:** It has been noted that Anja's support is the only contribution EURAF can offer (no financial support). Melanie will be in charge of the activities. Members of the European Commission will be invited. Draft programme will be sent by Melanie in January. We should look for sponsors (for EURAF's activities at the festival).

### 3.2 New Agroforestry Associations

**Bohdan & Robert:** Bohdan participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> agroforestry conference in Poland and held a presentation. Robert confirmed that there were >60 participants. The Polish Agroforestry Association was founded; process will be finished throughout the next weeks.

### 3.3 New RDP programs

**Gerry/Robert:** Article 23 in Poland is not implemented. Negotiations are still ongoing. Robert will send information to Gerry/Rosa as soon as available.

**Bohdan:** Article 23 not implemented in the new RDP in Czech Republic. According to governmental sources, there is no perspective to have it implemented.

**Gerry:** It is important to follow-up on the legal situation (Art. 23 in new RDP's) right now, e.g. Wales considers to include Art. 23, but they are wondering about eligibility. They are looking for examples and solutions and EURAF is able to contribute.

**Rosa:** EURAF delegates should explain the policy problems they have to better develop policies related to agroforestry. Draft letters can be elaborated by EURAF delegates and signed by EURAF to support better policy implementation at European level. However, it is also important lobbying at national level. Discussions are still ongoing.

**Adolfo:** 6 regions out of 21 plan to adopt Agroforestry measures in the new RDP's in Italy. Support and number of trees differ a lot. In some cases they plan to fund tree planting for up to 200 trees/ha.

**Rosa:** This is related to Pilar II. In Pilar I, land is not eligible for CAP funding if tree density is above 100 trees/ha or some reduction can be applied depending on trees. However, there is certain flexibility with "traditional practices"

**Gerry:** There is a perversion in the CAP. You can establish forestland and agroforestry under Pilar II but it may be not eligible for funding in Pilar I afterwards.

## ISSUE 4: AGROFE

**Rosa** talked to Charles Burriel: An AGROFE event in Brussels is scheduled for Sept. 2015 and EURAF is expected to participate. Rosa clarified that EURAF cannot contribute financially, but Anja can support the organization of the event. In addition, Charles requested that a few EURAF EC members join the event, their trips being financed by their own institutions. The event is organized by Mélanie (AliènorEU), she will provide the draft programme next January.

## ISSUE 4: AliènorEU contract

Rosa talked to Melanie:

- Rosa obtained a sponsorship over ~3.000€ for the next year. Melanie will send a list what she is able to offer for this amount. If selection of services is needed, Anja will organize a Doodle among the EC.

## ISSUE 5: New communication tools for EURAF (Google Docs, E-mail list)

### 5.1 Google Docs

**Rosa & Gerry:** Google Docs is a useful tool for EURAF: Changes in files are carried out live, this solves the problem with different versions of the same Word / Excel – file. Gmail account is needed, but you can link it to another account (so no need to use Gmail). Everyone agrees.

## 5.2 Google Groups

**Gerry:** One Group just for EC members. Messages are private and linked to each other. One group for general discussions (existing group).

**Adolfo & Gerry:** Suggestion to have 3 levels: 2 confidential lists (EC, EURAF members), one public list (Dissemination list).

**Rosa:** EURAF has now already three lists. The first one is the EC+Delegates list to inform delegates about news and get feedback from them. The second one is the EURAF member list linked to the country delegates (updated by Anja) and the third one is the dissemination list (over 500 members) linked to the Newsletter dissemination. Having googlegroup lists have pros and cons. Having lists is a good suggestion to involve members more frequently, and give something back by their support. But, we have to take care about asking sensible things and taking into account socioeconomic aspects of each country. If something is sensible it should be previously asked to the national delegates just in case.

**Adolfo:** Rules for sending the lists. Let's start as simple as possible. No rules, just based on common sense. If this is not working, let's discuss it again. Make sure to behave sensible when communicating positions: No problem when asking for opinions. Please be more careful with statements such as "EURAF's position is...". Take care also when sending an e-mail as a EURAF representative.

**Rosa:** Anja will be the manager of the EURAF members list, EURAF dissemination list and the EURAF EC list.. If we wish to complete the already established googlegroup list for dissemination (around 125 names) with the 500 people that Anja has in an excel file it will take time. All them linked to the already existing account already created by Rosa in 2011. Gerry offered to include the names by himself in the euraf2011@googlegroup. Anja and Rosa can help him.

**Adolfo:** Adolfo agrees with Anja and Rosa managing the lists. Google Groups willnot exclude sending emails outside the googlegroup, e.g. to a smaller group of the EC.

Next meeting date: 7<sup>th</sup> January at 10:00