

56th EURAF Executive Committee Report

Wednesday, 7th October 2015, 10:00-12:00 pm

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro, Rosa Mosquera-Losada

Present:

Officers: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Adolfo Rosati, Jeroen Watté, Joana Amaral Paulo

National Delegates: Andrea Pisanelli (Italy), Anastasia Pantera (Greece), João HN Palma (Portugal), Norbert Lamersdorf (Germany), Xavier Devaux (France)

Invited: Christian Dupraz

Apologies: Bert Reubens (Belgium), Mark Vonk (The Netherlands), Fabien Balaguer (France), Gerardo Moreno (Spain), Patrick Worms, Andrea Vityi (Hungary)

1. EURAF Accounting

Rosa mentioned that our current treasurer Sylvene has resigned from her position after all accounting was put in order. Rosa thanked Christian Dupraz for accepting to help with the EURAF accounting system as it is a French association. We all acknowledge the excellent job carried out by Sylvene. Rosa explained the current positive situation of the account of EURAF. AGROFE accounting has been solved and after checking the eligibility of the external contract of Sylvie by Helene Coche, Charles Burriel, Jeroen Watte, Joana Amaral and Rosa a service contract amounting 2643.12 and paid in three months (October: 587.36 Euros; November: 1027.88 Euros and December: 1027.88 Euros). We are very grateful to Sylvie for her excellent job. We also agreed that the tablet will be for Sylvie acknowledging her excellent job.

Money should be spent in order to justify AGFORWARD next year. From this, a very cheap contract should be done to cope with the number of months already programmed by EURAF. It has to be considered that the contract will be cofinanced by 50%. Adolfo mentioned that we have to be very careful with the money in order not to have debts. We have to consider the cofinancing aspects as well as the overheads.

ACTION: *Joana, Dupraz and Rosa will make a proposal for spending the money to properly justify AGFORWARD*

2. EURAF Projects

EURAF is pending of the following calls without adopting co-financing, and not final results are known from the following:

- **COST ACTION** (Leader: USC): EURAF is waiting for the first stage resolution. Rosa said that in the web the Cost Action appears as “revision completed” but she has not yet received any official communication.
- **WATER** (Leader Cottbus): EURAF is waiting for the first stage resolution (call one preproposal (21 April)).

- ISIB (Leader: USC) (1 stage): an interesting project dealing with the implementation of innovations of agroforestry systems in Europe.
- Pilot project: Rosa said that the proposal was successfully submitted and the participants will have to decide the study cases, that will be done by EURAF members.

We are still preparing the following call:

- Doctorate Program: Marie Curie Actions. A draft document will be prepared by USC, ISA and BTU.

Rosa said that she had received an email from Michael den Herder (EFI) in which Mike informed her about two upcoming H2020 calls ([SFS-29-2017: Socio-eco-economics - socio-economics in ecological approaches](#) and [RUR-07-2016: Resource-efficient and profitable industrial crops on marginal land](#)). These calls could be very interesting to EURAF but the program is not definitive and we have to wait to the next steps. Joao said that EURAF could be in all of them and everybody agreed with Joao but it was stressed that EURAF should be very careful about cofinancing. Rosa explained to the EC that to avoid problems with the co-financing the best for EURAF is to focus on dissemination activities.

On the other hand, Jeroen said that it is very important to keep looking Sponsors to get money for EURAF. Rosa answered Jeroen that EURAF have a list of possible sponsors prepared by Anja and completed by Javier Santiago. Nuria sent a letter to the possible sponsors two months ago but we did not receive any response. Rosa thinks that maybe we have to try other options to look sponsors. Jeroen answered that it is better to speak personally with sponsors. Everybody agreed. Jeroen is going to ask to some possible sponsors after having the brochures. Gerry will be asked to see the current situation of the brochure.

Rosa asked to the participants in the meeting if they had new information about other calls and they said that they were not aware of any other calls.

ACTION: If someone wishes to have EURAF in a project, please contact Rosa. Rosa will then inform the EURAF EC for avoiding any conflict of interests. Jeroen will try to get sponsors.

3. EURAF Events

- Expo Milano: Rosa said that the event was successfully organized by the Italian Agroforestry Association helped by Nuria and the people enjoyed it a lot. Andrea Pissanelli said that around 50 people participated in the event. Rosa also said that the event was very useful because the people saw that agroforestry practices are carried out in similar ways in different countries. A summary of the event will be in the next EURAF newsletter.
- UN climate conference event in December 2015 Paris (AFAF): AFAF is in charge of this event and Fabien will inform soon to the EC.
- AGROFE, Brussels: there will be a Parliament event in December and EURAF will participate on it. Rosa said that part of the EURAF money dealing with AGROFE will be used to pay Sylvie and herself for travelling and accommodation expenses because the AGROFE project has to be justified. All EC agreed.

- A session within the Arable CDG of the EU will be organized by AFAF

Regarding the CDGs, Rosa informed that there was a letter signed by some NGOs participating in the CDGs to ask the commission to reduce the number of the meetings and make them more useful. i.e. Arable CDGs are usually dealing with markets in spite of the huge change of the CAP dealing with decoupling. The letter is about the Arable but also the Livestock CDG and others on which the EURAF does not participate. EURAF will not sign this letter even though the idea is supported in general terms for the one CDG where EURAF participates in order to avoid conflicts and act as intermediate.

With apologies from Christian because of the short period of time he has to be in the meeting he joined late, all EC participants agreed to change the EC meeting agenda order and speak about the 3rd EURAF meeting.

- 2016 EURAF meeting (Montpellier) (AGFORWARD): Christian provided the general and updated background of the Conference needs. He sent by email a first tentative of budget last week to the EC but now he is preparing a less costly budget. Christian informed that he will be able to get reduced prices for many costs (amphitheatre renting, lunches, etc...) if we declare the conference as an INRA event. But of course, this will be a EURAF event, and it will be advertised as such. Adolfo asked Christian about if EURAF has to take over the event costs and Christian replied that the event will not imply any cost for EURAF. Christian also mentioned that all organizing aspects will be carried out for free by the INRA staff. Next week, he has an appointment with a company to evaluate prices in order to be hired to organize the event. Rosa said that for her it is important to know who the real organizer of the event is. This will avoid problems like those that appeared in Cottbus and Christian answered that he will try to prepare different proposals with no cost for EURAF. Christian said that now the most important step is to publish the event in the web, especially the call for abstracts and it is also necessary a title for the event, a president for the scientific committee and some people involved in the scientific committee. The EC decided that a good title could be “20 years of innovation in agroforestry”. Regarding to the coordination of the scientific committee Anastasia, Joana and Joao said that they can be involved in the scientific committee but it is difficult for them to assume the coordination. Joana said that we must also consider the editing and printing of the book of abstracts. Joao and Joana will be in Chile during the next year and therefore they cannot take over the book. Anastasia suggested that Christian should be the coordinator of the Scientific Committee as he is the responsible of the event. Everybody agreed and Christian accepted. Rosa asked Christian about the number of abstract that he expects to receive. Christian said that in Cottbus they received around 100 abstracts but probably the number of abstracts will be higher in Montpellier. Rosa said that maybe Joao could create a platform to organize the registration and the abstracts received, which will facilitate a lot the work of the event. Rosa and Nuria offered to help with the organization of the abstracts distribution among reviewers. Rosa asked Christian if the conference will be an INRA or a EURAF event because this is an important point to justify the AGFORWARD project but Christian said that this is not a problem because the conference will not imply costs to EURAF. Rosa said that if we wish to justify staff organizing

the event it will be important to add AGFORWARD that was considered a good point. Adolfo mentioned that he will send the template letters and registration form created for the Expo Milano event. Joana said that therefore INRA will organize the event and EURAF will only participate in the scientific committee of the event and Christian confirmed it. Rosa asked Christian about the EURAF stamp and Christian said that EURAF has not stamp. Rosa requested permission to create a stamp and the EC agreed. Finally Anastasia asked if EURAF will gain any money from the conference and Christian said that the best is no benefit neither for EURAF nor INRA. However, if sponsor comes the money could go to EURAF. All EC thanks it a lot.

On the other hand, Christian said that there is a meeting of the Switzerland Agroforestry Association in November but he has not much information about the meeting. Rosa said that she can go to the meeting and will be in Finland at the end of the month for a circular economy meeting. Rosa also said that she will send by email a provisional calendar with the CDG meetings to get EURAF people involvement. In the CDG meetings there are enough people with the exception of the meeting on arable crops because this meeting is held every month and most of the people said that the content is about market. However, Rosa will try to get a person to go to the meetings but we have to take into account that EURAF participates in 90% of the meetings. This is not in line of what is happening with some of the NGOs, that have problems to send people to the meetings in spite of having only one position instead of two. Jeroen explained that he went before summer holidays to a parallel NGO meeting dealing with “sustainable food and farming”, they will be working in this subject, trying to modify other regulations and official strategies different than the CAP. CAP is already approved and difficult to change. He volunteered to follow these meetings on behalf of EURAF and all EC thanks it.

ACTION: AFAF (Fabien Balaguer contact) will start to organize the UN climate conference and the Arable CDG Agroforestry session with the help of all. Rosa will participate in the event of AGROFE. Rosa will send by email a provisional calendar with the CDG meetings for people to be appointed. Christian will take care of all aspects of the EURAF Conference in Montpellier with a meeting in fifteen days only dealing with the event.

4. EURAF Policy Activities

- Rosa will be for a week in Brussels and will meet some parliamentary member in order to evaluate the possibility of creating an agroforestry strategy like that already existing in Brasil, India or USA. Rosa will inform about the dates to Jeroen, Fabien and Patrick.
- Rosa said that Fabien is in contact with representatives of the Ministry of France who are interested in the promotion of an agroforestry focus group at European level. Rosa talked with the representative of the Ministry of Spain to evaluate this possibility and they said that maybe it is best to create a national focus group on agroforestry in each country and then a focus group at European level. Thereby, the national associations of EURAF will be part of the focus group. Norbert asked Rosa about the money to create the focus groups and Rosa answered him that each country and each regional government has money from the EU to spend on focus groups

and operational groups. The operational groups are innovation working groups for projects. The focus groups are working groups to create a strategy at national level. Rosa spoke about the example of Holstein that can be seen [here](#). Andrea explained that there are two working groups of AF in Italy, but they are not organized by the Ministry. Finally, Rosa told Andrea that the focus group is created thanks to the CAP funds at regional or national level. The Ministry is responsible to invite the participants and organize everything. Moreover, the Ministry has money allocated in the CAP and this is compulsory. The EC decided to evaluate the possibility of creating an operational and focus groups in their own countries.

- AGFORWARD project. Rosa said that in the last week she had a meeting with Fabien Liagre because EURAF has to prepare a tool to promote the creation of a national agroforestry association. The idea is to create a map where everybody can press in a country and you will have the information of the agroforestry association (name of association, person of contact, when it has been created, statutes, a small paragraph of the main agroforestry practices done in their countries and why they created the association). Rosa thinks that this is a simple tool and she proposed to use this new information to replace the inconsistent information of the current EURAF web page. Joao thinks that it is good to have a place in the web page that should be different for each country, allowing people to update news on a country basis. Rosa agreed that this could be compatible.
- Rosa received a letter asking for farmers to participate in a seminar on 3-4 December 2015 in Dublin, Ireland, on the theme of knowledge systems, learning and innovation in agriculture and rural development. Travel and hotel costs for participants will be covered by the European Commission. Please disseminate the link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/motivation-form-eip-agri-seminar-knowledge-systems>

ACTION: Reports and documents will be included in the EURAF CDG Dropbox as usually. Rosa and Nuria will follow up all these activities to help with the organization and link everybody. All EC members will try to evaluate the possibility of creating an operational and focus groups in their own countries

5. EURAF Dissemination Activities

- ✓ EURAF Newsletter

EURAF newsletter is ok for September and Nuria will publish it in the EURAF web the next week. In September, the newsletter had 15 new subscribers, mostly from Italy and France. This increase of subscribers could be due to the events of this month (Marciac Festival and EXPO Milano). For the newsletter of November we only have two news. One new will be written by Vania from Bulgaria about the new agroforestry project she received. Bulgaria has become a new member of EURAF and will participate in the next EC. Andrea and Anastasia said that they can write the feature farm of the newsletter of November and January 2016, respectively. Moreover, Rosa also said that Nuria is trying to request an ISSN number for our newsletter.

ACTIONS: Nuria and Teresa to take over the newsletter

6. EURAF Internal Activities

✓ EURAF web page

Rosa said that the information of the map created for AGFORWARD can be used for the EURAF webpage. Rosa already sent to Paul a draft of the map and will send to all EC a proposal of sheet to ask if the information used in the map of AGFORWARD is enough or we need more information than in AGFORWARD. Rosa thinks that in the EURAF web page, the information in the sections of the different countries should be consistent. Joao said that sometimes it is difficult to be consistent because there are many differences between the countries. Rosa said that the most important thing is to organize the information and differences can be integrated in a consistent way within the menu. Joao thinks that in the EURAF web the sections of the different countries should be free to increase the participation of everybody. Jeroen proposed to add an extra page in the web with the map and the sheets created within AGFORWARD framework and maintain the sections of the different countries as Joao mentioned.

ACTIONS: Rosa will send the proposal of the information to be included in the map. EURAF members to check the EURAF web and propose changes

7. EURAF prize

Rosa reminded us that in the last EC meeting we approved the creation of the EURAF prize. The prize could go to PhD or Master Thesis and Degree Thesis students. Rosa thinks that the creation of the EURAF prize is a good way for making people aware of EURAF activities. The prize could be announced during the AGROFE event in Brussels in December and the first prize could be granted the next year, probably in the 2016 EURAF meeting. Joao mentioned that maybe there is not a need of money for the winners just to improve the cv. Therefore, the EC should decide before December among other things the name of the prize or the number of prizes.

ACTIONS: Rosa will see the possibility to announce the prize during the AGROFE Parliamentary session.

The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 4th of November 2015 at 10:00 CET.