

# 57<sup>th</sup> EURAF Executive Committee Report

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 10:00-12:00 pm

**Report written by** Nuria Ferreiro, Rosa Mosquera-Losada

**Present:**

**Officers:** Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Joana Amaral Paulo

**National Delegates:** Andrea Pisanelli (Italy), João HN Palma (Portugal), Konstantinos Mantzanas (Greece), Norbert Lamersdorf (Germany), Robert Borek (Poland)

**Invited:** Christian Dupraz

**Apologies:** Adolfo Rosati (Italy), Anastasia Pantera (Greece), Bert Reubens (Belgium), Bohdan Lojka (Czech Republic), Fabien Balaguer (France), Jo Smith (UK), Jeroen Watté (Belgium)

## 1. 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.
- **ISIB (Leader: USC) (1 stage):** an interesting project dealing with the implementation of innovations of agroforestry systems in Europe.
- **Pilot project:** Rosa said that our proposal was the only tender received and now we have to wait the result of the evaluation.

Rosa said that there are some open calls by the European Commission. These days Melanie sent information on this call “Grants for information measures relating to the common agricultural policy (November 2016)”. Rosa also reported that a member of the Spanish Agroforestry Association asked for the participation of EURAF in an Interreg project. EURAF was invited to participate in the project entitled “*Pinus pinea* grafting for increasing fruit production” led by Neus Aleta. EURAF can support this project as an associate member or as a partner (100000 euros, 75% cofinancing). The EC agreed that it is a pity not to participate as a full partner but at this moment it is difficult to cofinance it, so EURAF will become an associate member of the project. Melanie also sent the following calls in which agroforestry is mentioned or the calls that relate both agriculture and forestry, that were summarized by Rosa’s team as follow:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/master\\_calls.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/master_calls.html)

- **SFS-01-2016:** Solutions to multiple and combined stresses in crop production, 17 Feb 2016 (First stage), 13 Sep 2016 (Second stage), 12 million
- **SFS-02-2016:** Teaming up for good: Exploiting the benefits of species diversity in cropping systems, 17 Feb 2016 (First stage), 13 Sep 2016 (Second stage), 10 million

- SFS-26-2016: Legumes - transition paths to sustainable legume-based farming systems and agri-feed and food chains, 17 Feb 2016 (First stage), 13 Sep 2016 (Second stage), 10million
- SFS-28-2017: Functional biodiversity – productivity gains through functional biodiversity: effective interplay of crop pollinators and pest predators, 14 Feb 2017 (First stage), 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage), 10 million
- SFS-29-2017: Socio-eco-economics – socio-economics in ecological approaches, 14 Feb 2017 (First stage), 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage), 5 million
- SFS-31-2016: Farming for tomorrow - developing an enabling environment for resilient and sustainable agricultural systems, 17 Feb 2016 (First stage), 13 Sep 2016 (Second stage), 5 million
- RUR-03-2017: Towards 2030 - policies and decision tools for an integrated management of natural resources, 14 Feb 2017 (First stage), 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage), 8 million
- RUR-06-2016: Crop diversification systems for the delivery of food, feed, industrial products and ecosystems services - from farm benefits to value-chain organization, 17 Feb 2016 (First stage), 13 Sep 2016 (Second stage), 20 million. A COMPANY INTERESTED FROM HUNGARY
- RUR-10-2016-2017: Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice, 17 Feb 2016, 10 million
- RUR-11-2016: On-farm demonstrations: deepening farmer-to-farmer learning mechanisms, 17 Feb 2016, 2 million
- RUR-12-2017: Networking European farms to boost thematic knowledge exchanges and close the innovation gap, 14 Feb 2017, 7 million
- RUR-13-2017: Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice, 14 Feb 2017 (First stage), 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage), 7 million
- RUR-15-2017: The benefits of working with others – fostering social capital in the farming sector, 14 Feb 2017, 3 million
- RUR-16-2017: Optimising interactive innovation project approaches and the delivery of EU policies to speed up innovation in rural areas, 14 Feb 2017 (First stage), 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage), 5 million

***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.***

## **2. EURAF Brochure**

Rosa said that the last week Gerry and she had a meeting with Tubex about the EURAF brochure. The agreement between EURAF & PGI (owner of TUBEX brand) was the follow:

1. An 8 page glossy brochure to be financed and produced by TUBEX with EURAF providing approved photos, assistance and reviewing the text.
2. 1 page will be dedicated to PGI for TUBEX product information. Location of said page to be agreed jointly. EURAF will seek to arrange advertising blocks equivalent to 1 page for other suppliers in the

industry. Content of said adverts to be approved jointly. PGI reserves the right to know how the companies will be selected and to vet any companies it believes would not represent both EURAF and PGI in the correct manner.

3. EURAF will receive 1,000 English copies of the brochure to be distributed to their stakeholders. Should EURAF wish to print more brochures they will do so at their expense.

4. Other language version (French, optional Spanish & German) will be produced by PGI. Should EURAF have the resource they will proofread the Spanish, French and German version and jointly approve for printing. If not, versions in those languages can be published without proofreading provided EURAF agree.

5. English and French brochures to be launched jointly at Libramont, Belgium July 28th – 29th.

6. Copyright – to be agreed on

Rosa explained that even if it is not the best agreement for EURAF it will be good to follow it as most of the activities were already carried out. Gerry mostly agreed with this and Joao said that as there is not an exclusivity contract we can later on do other brochure with other people or with new sponsors. Any amendments in the future will need to be agreed on between PGI and EURAF EC.

***ACTION: EC accept the agreement and in the future EURAF as no exclusivity is included. Other brochure can be done with other sponsors***

### **3. EURAF Events**

- AGROFE, Brussels: there will be a Parliament event in 9<sup>th</sup> December and EURAF will participate on it. Currently there are no more news about this event
- UN climate conference event in December 2015 Paris (AFAF): AFAF is in charge of this event and Fabien will inform soon to the EC.
- 2016 EURAF meeting (Montpellier) (AGFORWARD): Christian said that it was necessary to make some decisions. The first aspect is to accept to include the gala dinner in the registration fee which implies an increase of the fee (250 euros for EURAF members and 300 euros for non EURAF members). Christian also said that the balanced budget is for 150 participants. If the number of participants is only 100 we would have a deficit but in this case, we could cancel the grant for inviting people (7000 euros) and the simultaneous translation (3000 euros) so we will be in the safe place. Christian said that to check the registration of the EURAF members the best option is to provide a list with the name of the EURAF members in 2015 and in 2016 to the company responsible for registration and the EC agreed. Joao highlighted that it is important that people know that it is cheaper join EURAF than to pay the full registration of non EURAF members. Christian answered that we can include the link to become a EURAF member in the same page of the registration to the conference. Christian also mentioned that a reduced rate for farmers would be advisable. The fee could include the field tour and the sessions of the last day (200 euros). EC agreed. Christian explained that it is necessary to sign the contract with the company in charge of the registration and everything else. The contract is ready but is in French.

He will circulate the contract next week, but he needs permission to sign the contract. Once the contract is signed the company needs 5 days to put the registration facilities online. In the contract all expenses are included. Gerry asked about the possible sponsors for the event and Christian answered that INRA is the unique sponsor but ILVO will manage the sponsors so they will be willing to receive possible sponsors as Tubex to get some support. Christian mentioned that EURAF will be the unique beneficiary of the sponsors money. Joana said that maybe the contract should be in English too to be clear with the EC and Christian accepted to forward it in English. Christian asked to Joao if it is possible to put the registration link in the EURAF web within the next week and Joao said that it is possible but he needs the final text. Rosa asked Christian about the deadline to submit the abstracts and Christian said that now we can provide a provisional date (end of January) and then if it necessary we can modify it.

**ACTION: EURAF will participate in the AGROFE event and AFAF (Fabien Balaguer contact) will continue organizing the UN climate conference with the help of all. Christian will take care of all aspects of the EURAF Conference in Montpellier with the help of all of the EC willing to help.**

#### 4. EURAF Policy Activities

Rosa said that the last month Fabien Balaguer went to Steering Committee of European Network for Rural Development and we will receive the minutes of this activity as soon as possible. The last week Rosa went to the Circular Economy workshop in Finland. Rosa thinks that the concept of Circular Economy is very important for the projects of the H2020 and she will put the minutes in the drop box as soon as possible. Rosa accepted to be part of the EC of AFTA. Rosa remembered us that she sent by email a provisional calendar with the CDG meetings for people to be appointed. The following table shows the names of the people which will participate in the CDG meetings.

4 November Arable: sugar and no food crops	nobody	nobody
10 November Direct payment and greening	Andrea	Rosa
13 November Environment and climate change	Gerry	Fabien
17 November EIP group	Rosa	
17 November DG Regio	Gerry?	
25 November Rural Development	Andrea	Nuria
26 General Assembly	Rosa	
27 November Arable crops		
Regarding those of December (dates not confirmed yet)		
1 December: Forestry and Cork	Joana	Gerry
4 December Arable sugar and starch		
11 December Arable crops	Nuria	
15 December CAP	Rosa	
16 December Organic farming	Rosa	

In most meetings there are targeted people with the exception of the CDG on Arable Crops possible because these meetings are very focused on market. Rosa proposed to make a letter explaining to the person in charge of the Arable Crops CDG that the market it is important but also the concept of sustainability. Rosa tried to find people to go to these meetings but it is very difficult so if you know about someone please tell her. Rosa also said that some NGOs are not able to have representatives in all CDG and they offered their sites to EURAF. There is an extra site in the CDG on Environment and Climate Change (13<sup>th</sup> November) and probably other in the CDG on Forestry that will be covered by EURAF people.

Rosa said that 25<sup>th</sup> November there will be a farmers meeting in Dublin and Adolfo Rosati as a farmer and probably Robert and Fabien will be there. Rosa was invited to take part of the Executive Committee of Agroforestry Temperate Association and also selected to be part of the Mixed Systems Focus Group in November 2015. Rosa will try to make an agroforestry mini paper to push agroforestry there.

***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 find people to participate in the CDG meetings***

## **5. EURAF Dissemination Activities**

- ✓ EURAF Newsletter

EURAF newsletter is ok for November and it will be published at the end of the month. We have news from Bulgaria, Portugal, France, UK and Italy. However, we need news for the newsletter of January. In the last EC meeting Anastasia said that she could write the featured farm and Nuria will send her a reminder. Rosa said that it is important to respect the deadlines marked during the preparation of the newsletter because extra changes mean changing everything in the system again.

***ACTIONS: Nuria and Teresa to take over the newsletter***

## **6. EURAF Internal Activities**

- ✓ EURAF web page: Rosa said that an example was sent to Paul and Fabien but we have not received an answer yet.

- ✓ EURAF lists update: We are working on it.

- ✓ Memberships: Payment got from Hungary, Netherlands, Switzerland and Italy.

- ✓ Rosa said that Sweden and Bulgaria is initiating the job for creating a National Agroforestry Association. This is very important for the AGFORWARD project.

- ✓ Bulgaria and Czech Republic wrote an excellent paper about agroforestry and policy. Andrea is interested in the paper and Rosa will ask permission to authors to send him the paper. Rosa said that they are at country scale.

- ✓ Joao and Rosa noticed the increase of new subscribers to the EURAF newsletter

- ✓ Andrea said that they have prepared the letter for the Italian Ministry of Agriculture to create the agroforestry focus group in Italy. The letter could be sent the next week. Rosa explained the

situation of the operational groups in Spain. The national call will be launched in December and it consist of 100000 euros to write a proposal for the operational group and a maximum of 1 million of euros for making the approved project for a three year period. In Spain, all regions will launch an operational group call. Rosa highlights that all European Rural Development Programs will launch operational groups as it is compulsory to do. However, the focus groups are not compulsory.

## **7. EURAF Prize**

Rosa said that she will try to talk with Charles Burriel about the possibility to announce the prize during the AGROFE Parliamentary session.

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

## **8. Other Events**

Rosa said that this week she sent us an email with information about an agroforestry event ([https://agroforestry.adobeconnect.com/dennisgarrity/event/event\\_info.html](https://agroforestry.adobeconnect.com/dennisgarrity/event/event_info.html)) in which the person who will be talking is the "father" of the agroecology (Mr. Garrity). So she recommends to attend, if possible.

**The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2015 at 10:00 CET.**