

59th EURAF Executive Committee Report

Wednesday, 20 January 2016, 10:00-12:00 pm

Report written by Jeroen Watte, Rosa Mosquera-Losada

Present:

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

National Delegates: Andrea Vityi (Hungary), Bohdan Lojka (Czech Republic), Fabien Balaguer (France)

Apologies: Gerardo Moreno (Spain), Joao Palma (Portugal), Robert Borek (Poland), Patrick Worms (ICRAF), Bert Reubens (Belgium), Anastasia Pantera (Greece)

Invited: Christian Dupraz

1. Added Point

Jeroen has a contact with potential sponsor (Triodos Bank, Netherlands) that is interested to donate around of 20.000 €/year to EURAF. Jeroen suggested the context of a LIFE operational grant, an EU scheme that finances environmental & climate NGOs doing EU policy work. The co-financing is 40%, so this is an interesting scheme for institutions that are looking for leverage in their donations. They asked for a “management summary” of EURAF, Jeroen asked more details and will answer together with Rosa. Within EURAF we would have to find people capable of writing such a (two-year) workplan. Additional sponsors would enable two or more people to be hired for two years, and they can be seduced with the leverage of their donation, given the 60% that EU co-finances.

2. EURAF Projects

EURAF is working in the following proposals, without cofinancing:

- AFINET: In dissemination and policy activities
- COST-ACTION, a draft will be send soon by Rosa
- Project about mixed systems and AF coordinated by Sarah Garré (UCL, Belgium). Christian will push EURAF in, with a dissemination role (no co-financing)
- AGFORWARD: Rosa sent the work carried out within the Policy WP. She already received 3 answers from EURAF delegates. Please see the deadline and send it before it.
- AGROFE: The Parliament meeting was a success. There were several people from the Commission taking notes and Francesca from the Veneto Region wishes to collaborate with us. MEP Paul Brannen was in Agrofe meeting, came to visit AFAF in Auch (FR) and was very supportive.

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

- Pilot project: Melanie asked last December, and was told that the result will be known by end of January.

EURAF will also support the following projects with a letter:

INTERREG –POCTEP

EURAF could be interested in participating in the following calls, if any of you is interested, please inform Rosa:

Link:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/master_calls.html

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

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-10-2016-2017: Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice 17 Feb 2016 10 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

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

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-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.

3. EURAF Events

3.1 EURAF Third Conference

Christian explained that everything is in due order. Scientific committee almost approved, about 20 people included. Organising committee is established. We need all networks available to invite to register, submit abstracts. French minister of agriculture sponsored 5k euro, will probably be present. EURAF General Assembly will be on Wednesday evening, with possibility for online attendance. Everything was already organized by Christian.

3.2 Civil Dialogue Groups

There are only two arable CDG events programmed by the EU in this moment. Both are related to Arable Sessions, one is the next 4 February and the other next 2 March (still to be confirmed). Oscar Crespo, from Spain, is willing to go, and Fabien Balaguer will answer later on, if he is not able to go, Nuria Ferreiro will be invited.

Rosa already sent an e-mail to Arnaud Petit the chair of the Arable CDG to ask for place for organizing a EURAF session of around two hours, following the invitation he did last year. The best date for it will be June. Everybody agreed on organizing it with researchers and farmers. Rosa mentioned that speaking with different people, Oscar Crespo will be able to speak about poplar production and cereals, Alfredo from Portugal will be also asked to make a talk, together with Fabien Balaguer from France. Jeroen proposed to also have two people from research that could be Rosa and Christian. Both agreed, Fabien and Rosa will organize the session and we will wait for the specific date.

3.3. Milano event

Christian was asked by the VAT problem. Eventhough he asked several times to the French Ministry about this subject without answer. He will go physically to ask now.

3.4 Payments of former meetings

As requested by the EURAF EC, Rosa asked in the Commission to pay back the flight tickets, to pay the cancelled trips bought by Oscar Crespo and Andrea Pissanelli due to the terrorism attack in France last month of November. EU answered that they will not be paid. Rosa asked to pay with the money of EURAF as they put the money from their own pocket. Everybody agreed.

ACTION: Rosa and Fabien Balaguer will organize the Arable CDG of June. Christian will keep organizing the EURAF conference and will take care of the VAT issue. Rosa and Joana will do all needed to pay back Andrea and Oscar Crespo.

4. EURAF Policy Activities

Rosa and Gerry have had a meeting with Mr. Gambrús and Joao and Rosa with the assistant of Paul Bremmen. They are quite keen on Agroforestry. The idea of the European Agroforestry Strategy is wellcome but there are many things to do. European Commission should write it and we should talk

with the MP Mrs. Kotsinger from Austria. The assistant of Mr. Paul Bremmen explained that there are two opportunities to push AF: Clima and Simplification dialogue. In Clima aspect, we should push trees in arable land to account for Carbon balance, Gerry can help on this, for the Simplification, all can help. We will prepare better Mrs Kotsinger if we have some feedback from Austria. Jeroen contacts Felix, Joana contacts Austrian professor for help in converting her.

The following public consultations that can be linked to AF are open with the following deadlines:

ACTIVE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS	Deadline
Streamlining monitoring and reporting obligations in environment policy	10 February 2016
Preparation of a new Renewable Energy Directive for the period after 2020	10 February 2016
A renewed Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education in the European Union	29 February 2016
Experience with the first year of application of the greening obligations under the direct payment scheme (Common Agricultural Policy)	8 March 2016
Consultation on the functioning of the Auctioning Regulation pursuant to the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowances trading within the Community (EU ETS)	15 March 2016

ACTION: EURAF members will contact the Commission. Rosa will go to the meeting organized by European Parliament and prepare it with the rest of EURAF members. Rosa will prepare a draft of the Agroforestry Strategy to be agreed with the EURAF EC and to be defended with the EC. Anyone that wishes to help or take the lead with the public consultations or other activity please contact to Rosa

5. EURAF Dissemination Activities

- ✓ EURAF Newsletter

EURAF newsletter is ok for January. Nuria will send a draft soon. We need people participating in the NL of March.

ACTIONS: Nuria and Teresa to take over the newsletter. EURAF members will contact them to send contributions for the March NL.

6. EURAF Prize

- ✓ It will be linked to the EURAF Conference

- ✓ Call for PhD/Master/Graduate students, Rosa makes a proposal.
- ✓ Scientific committee of conference evaluates. Among others, the criteria can be the relevance, papers delivered.

ACTIONS: Rosa will prepare the draft of the Prize and circulate it

7. EURAF internal activities

EURAF Membership lists: besides the ones received before, fees from Italy and UK the money has been received. For those who had not pay, the national delegates need to collect & pay. AliénorEU Mélanie wants to collaborate, but we wait for pilot project. A sponsor from Spain can offer the same as last year, but this will be the last time.

Joana and Rosa justified AGROFE toward Hélène Coché.

- For AGFORWARD, EURAF needs to spend a small amount of money for a high amount of time, to compensate for higher salary we paid in the contracts of the early years in the project. Rosa will handle this and will ask help to the USC that is willing to be involved in rectifying this, with Nuria's contract. The amount agreed with a is 12000 Euros. EURAF agrees.

ACTIONS: Rosa will see the possibility to announce the prize during the AGROFE Parliamentary session. Joana and Rosa will work on Project Justification and will ask Paul and Kenisha if the EURAF contracts should be publicly announced.

The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 10th of February 2016 at 10:00 CET.