EUGENA

WHY JOIN THE EUROPEAN GENEBANK NETWORK FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES?

European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

Regional platform for the support of management, conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources

ERFP

THE IMPORTANCE OF GENEBANKS

Conservation of within and across breed genetic diversity in genebanks (*ex situ*) is a complementary strategy of the *in situ* conservation to maintain a broad genetic base for future breeding and research. It is important to safeguard farm animal genetic diversity (both local and mainstream breeds) for future generations, in particular in the global context of food and nutrition security and climate change.

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES?

The European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) is the regional platform to support the in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources (AnGR) and to facilitate the implementation of FAO's **Global Plan of Action for AnGR**. Since 2001, ERFP facilitates the collaboration, coordination of work and exchange of information and experience between different European countries and governmental and non-governmental organisations.

More information about ERFP in:
https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/

EUGENA, THE EUROPEAN GENEBANK NETWORK FOR ANGR

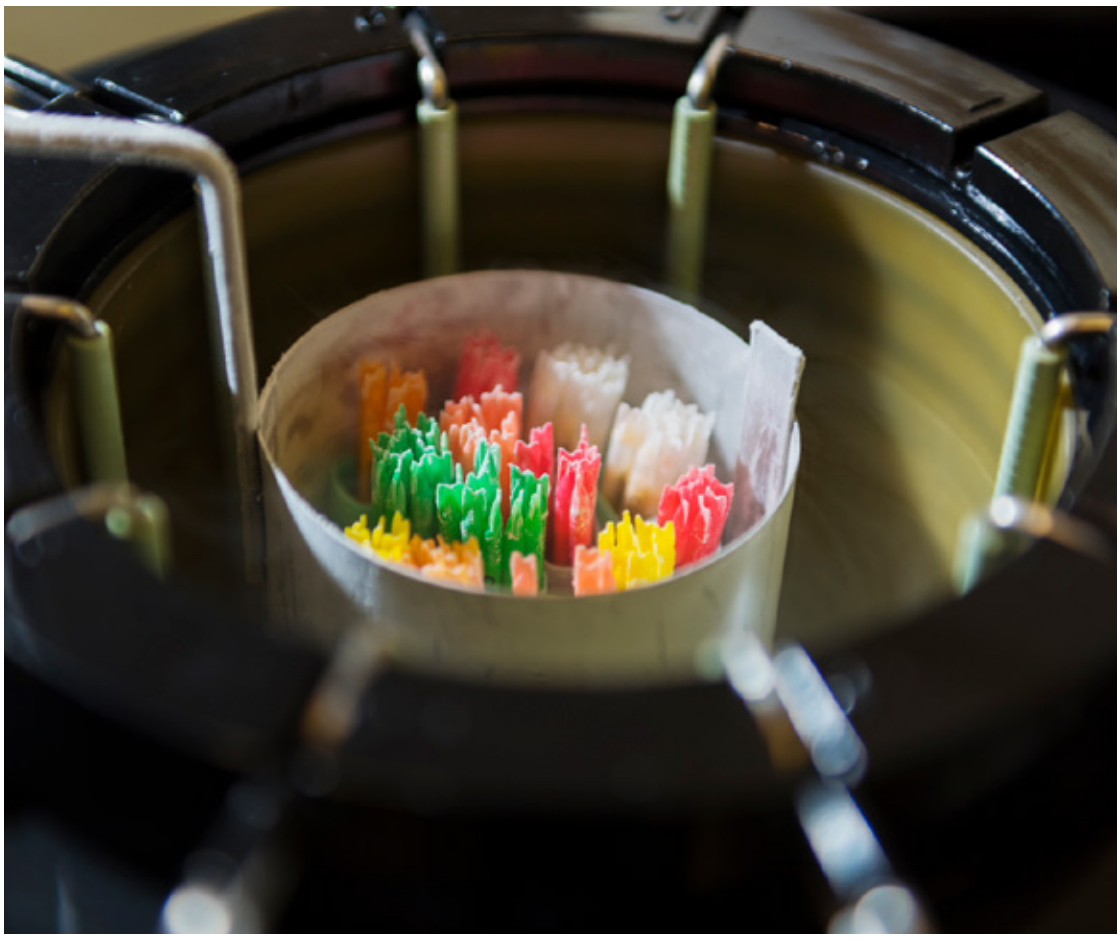
The European Genebank Network for AnGR (EUGENA) is a network of Member Genebanks in European countries with the aim to support the ex situ conservation and sustainable use of AnGR, and to facilitate the implementation of the FAO Global Plan of Action at national and pan-European level. Exchange of knowledge and experiences, and facilitating access to information about genebank collections in Europe are the main objectives of EUGENA.

Development of EUGENA was initiated by the ERFP in 2016, and since then the net has grown constantly in terms of number of countries, Member Genebanks and information about genebank collections.

EUGENA itself does not constitute a legal entity but operates by its Member Genebanks collectively to reach the main objective to drive the collaborative work between all the ex situ collections of AnGR in Europe, and promote the relevance of the genebanks in the conservation of AnGR. EUGENA is working on the basis of a Terms of Reference (ToR) and is governed by the General Assembly of ERFP.

EUGENA

More information about EUGENA and ToR in:
https://www.eugena-erfp.net/en/about/what-is-eugena



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING EUGENA?

official recognition

EUGENA is the only European network of officially authorised genebanks for AnGR. EUGENA's membership accredits the entities that are effectively working for the conservation and sustainable use of AnGRs.

commitment

EUGENA promotes the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.
EUGENA membership actions are useful for governments to demonstrate compliance with UN Sustainable Development Goal 2.5. Indicators 2.5.1 measures the number of breeds for which sufficient genetic material has been stored in either medium or long term conservation genebank facilities.

collaboration

EUGENA encourages collaborative work between genebanks through the exchange of knowledge and the development of common protocols in order to:

- Increase the efficiency of genebank operations.
- Develop harmonised procedures that improve the quality of collections.
- Facilitate sharing of information about the genetic material stored in genebanks among potential users.

networking

EUGENA is promoting synergies between genebanks, which is essential to optimize the efforts of conservation and sustainable use of AnGR at pan-European level, especially when dealing with transboundary breeds.

conservation of transboundary breeds

EUGENA genebanks can benefit from the new regulations on intra-Community trade in germinal products, which allow exceptions to the animal health requirements for reproductive material intended for the conservation and sustainable use of local breeds.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER COUNTRY OF EUGENA?

To participate in EUGENA, the ERFP Member Country and the ERFP Secretariat have to sign an EUGENA Memorandum of Understanding (https://eugena-erfp.net/en/about/how-to-become-a-member). The EUGENA member countries are available in https://eugena-erfp.net/en/countries

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER GENEBANK OF EUGENA?

1. Check that your country participates in EUGENA (https://eugena-erfp.net/en/countries).

2. Contact with the National Coordinator for AnGR in your country (https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/index.php/countries/) to agree on and sign a Letter of Agreement for participation in EUGENA. https://eugena-erfp.net/en/about/how-to-become-a-member

3. The National Coordinator will inform the ERFP secretariat about your membership and your Genebank will be registered in the EUGENA portal.

In case your country is not yet member of EUGENA, please get in contact with your National Coordinator for AnGR (https://www.animalgeneticresources.net/index.php/countries/) and communicate your interest in joining the network.

WHAT ARE THE COMMITMENTS OF A MEMBER GENEBANK?

The main commitment of an EUGENA Member Genebank is to operate according to the objectives of EUGENA (ex situ conservation and sustainable use of AnGR), and to share information on the genetic material stored in its facilities through EUGENA public available web page. The information to share in EUGENA is “meta-data” related with the amount of material, donors, breeds, species, property rights, acquisition and access conditions of use of the material.
The EUGENA Member Genebanks maintain full sovereignty over their material. Potential users can contact the Member Genebank when interested in access to material and/or collaboration.

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