

83rd EURAF Executive Committee Report

14th February 2018 10:30 – 12:00

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez and Rosa Mosquera-Losada

Present

Elected Executive Committee: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Anastasia Pantera, Jeroen Watte,

National Delegates: Andrea Vityi, Andrea Pisanelli, Bert Reubens, Norbert Lamersdorf, Robert Borek, Vania Kachova, Piet Rombouts, Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez

Apologies: Bohdan Lojka, Jo Smith, Manuel Bertomeu

1. ROSA REPORT

1.1 EURAF STRATEGY

Rosa said that some members of the EC suggested to modify the current EURAF strategy which is defined in the EURAF statutes. Jo Smith thinks that the statutes aims are fine but she suggests to develop a proper strategy (operational plan/road map) that helps us achieve those aims, a plan for EURAF into the future. A plan that means that more people are involved in EURAF activities.

The EURAF current strategy (statutes aims) is:

- + Promoting agroforestry through communication media, including actions of lobby for adapting the European agroforestry legislation; lead by Rosa in collaboration with the rest of the members of the EC. Partially funded with the AGFORWARD project, it has to be co-funded by AFINET project (not enough money).

- + Organization of a biannual conference. Everybody is involved; leading depended on where the meeting is carried out (no funds available).

- + Electronic Newsletter; lead by Nuria in collaboration with the rest of the members of the EC (no funds available).

- + Web page creation and management; lead by Joao with the help of Nuria (no funds available).

- + Animation of the service of national structures European, allowing the exchange of information about agroforestry through Europe, organizing congresses, symposiums and seminars. Lead by Rosa with the promotion of the establishment of AFINET and the e-mails that are regularly sent to everybody, with answer from everybody (usually fast), but also with the information of what is done in Brussels every executive committee meeting. But also through the inclusion of new agroforestry national delegations and papers of agroforestry in Europe (i.e. Bulgaria). AFINET helps to this part, as it involves nowadays over 200 associations of farmers, policy makers, farmers, foresters... all over Europe

- + Plus administrations, meetings, minutes, writings, mails, skypes.....

In the last EC meeting Jeroen said that he could lead the organisation of the EURAF strategy. However, this was a misunderstanding because Jeroen thought that the EC only wanted to modify the communication strategy. As a start point, Rosa prepared a google survey on which the current strategy is shown because we should move forward from the strategy we have and try to get more people involved. The google survey was circulated among a small group but Rosa did not receive comments. Jeroen thinks that the survey is good. Rosa will circulate the survey among the rest of the EC. Moreover, some EC members think that we need a face-to-face meeting to discuss about the EURAF strategy because it is difficult to discuss about this in a virtual meeting. However, some EC members have sent emails to say that they do not have money to participate in a face-to-face meeting. We will discuss if it is necessary or not to organize a face-to face meeting. Jo Smith thinks that we need a face-to-face meeting to develop a strategy (or a number of strategies) that we can take to the EURAF conference in May for discussion with the membership. And get more people engaged. This is much easier, much more efficient, in a face to face meeting rather than trying to do it remotely.

Actions: Rosa will circulate the survey about the EURAF strategy and the EC members will send their comments within two weeks.

1.2 PROJECT ACTIVITY

1.2.1 PROPOSALS (NEXT CALLS)

1. PRIMA (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=prima>). Stage 1 Pre-proposals - 17th April, 2018, Stage 2 Full proposals - 15th September, 2018

Andrea Pisanelli will lead the PRIMA call. He will work on the proposal as soon as possible because the time is very short. The call has different topics (<http://www.4prima.org/content/prima-calls-proposals-2018-are-open-now>) and Andrea will participate in one of the topics. Three projects will be awarded for each topic, so we can participate on more. Other EC members could lead other topics because this not implies competition among the EC members. Anastasia said that she knows other Italian consortium which is preparing a proposal about *Fraxinus excelsior* L.

Actions: Rosa will try to see if there are any potential leaders for more projects within this call. So, if any is interested please ask Rosa.

2. ERA-NET SUSCROP: (FACCE-JTI)

https://www.suscrop.eu/lw_resource/datapool/systemfiles/elements/files/60C3F9747E110E71E0539A695E8617DD/live/document/Pre-announcement_SusCrop_final.pdf

Open call: 15 January, Preproposal deadline submission: 4 April

Topics:

- I. Enhancement of predictive breeding technologies and development of new genotypes leading to new phenotypes and crop varieties for improvement of plant health, protection, production and resilience
- II. Development and exploitation of novel integrated pest and crop management methods and practices
- III. Improvement of resource-use efficiency of crops and cropping systems
- IV. Systemic research on agricultural crops as part of an ecosystem including interactions between plants and other organisms (“the plant as a meta-organism”)

3. H2020 Proposals

* SFS-18-2018-2019 Climate Smart and resilient farming: efficiency and resilience of mixed and agroforestry farming systems”

After not having people interesting in leading the call within EURAF, between Rosa and Andrea Pisanelli decided that Rosa could lead this call. She had a meeting with people from Wageningen together with Bert and Andrea Pisanelli and they think that Wageningen can be good potential partners in the consortium. Bert, Rosa and Andrea told Wageningen that the excellent consortium we have with the people of AGFORWARD, AFINET and EURAF should be the basis of the consortium, starting for EURAF. So, all EC members will be invited as well as key partners which are not part of the EURAF Executive Committee (Gerardo Moreno, Christian Dupraz, Paul Burgess, EFI...). Bert Reubens thinks that Rosa should send a formal email to know who wants to participate in the call. Then the partners interested in the call should introduce themselves and say how they could contribute to the project.

We do not know if the European Commission wants an integrated proposals on mixed farming and agroforestry systems or separated proposals. Bert thinks that we have to check this by contacting the national contact points to avoid a penalty during the evaluation.

Rosa was told that maybe the UK organisations should not be responsible for key tasks in the project because it is not known what will happen after the Brexit. The best option is to allow UK to decide. Rosa said that Sara Burbi from the Coventry University has contacted her and Andrea Pisanelli to participate in the proposal that joins all of us. Rosa mentioned that Sara said that people from Northern Ireland (AFBI) on which a great friend of Rosa is working (Jim McAdam), Teagasc (Ireland), ORC (Jo Smith), Cranfield (UK), Scuola Scuperiore Sant’Anna, Pisa, Italy, CNR and CAWR are interested. Rosa thinks that it will be difficult to have 4 partners per country, so the option of third parties could be a good option (i.e. France in the AGFROWARD project had several institutions participating as third parties). But, this will should be discussed in the next weeks.

* RUR-04-2017-2020, Analytical tools and models to support policies related to agriculture and food. Rosa leads this call. All people were invited to participate. The proposal was submitted yesterday. The 2nd stage deadline is 11 September.

Actions: Please contact Rosa to update the information and if you wish to participate or lead a call. Andrea Pisanelli will lead the PRIMA proposal and Rosa the SFS-18-2018-2019. Rosa will send an e-mail asking for the participation of EURAF members in the SFS-18-Call

1.2.2 PROJECTS

- **AFINET**

Rosa initiated a discussion by email to clarify the situation of the EURAF contracts. She said that we had a meeting in the ORC last June 2017 to discuss the staff contracts of EURAF in AFINET. The decision we took was approved by the EC last November. In June 2017, Rosa proposed to contract people of EURAF strongly collaborating with the three AFINET organizations of the EURAF EC that have the leadership as WP leader in AFINET: that were ISA, Nyme-KKK and USC in order to be more efficient. After a good discussion, it was decided to allocate 10.5 person months of EURAF staff doing the EURAF AFINET activities with people based in Lugo and directly collaborating with the USC and 8.5 EURAF staff doing the EURAF AFINET activities based in Lisbon and directly collaborating with ISA. Mainly because the duties related with policy and web page that have to be done in AFINET are so different that one profile is not enough, and because the best place to do them are those that are already leading these activities in EURAF, so allowing them to be efficient doing the links between AFINET and EURAF. We also decided that ISA and USC will decide on the best people to do the duties and contracted by EURAF, as they are the ones that will collaborate directly with them. Contracts were delayed from June until the end of 2017 due to inconsistencies in the AGFORWARD project in person months and also because the long time it took to get all the papers done from an administrative point of view (Fabien and Rosa worked hard on this even during their holidays), but the job of the first year is done by people linked to USC and ISA on a voluntary basis. Last December, Fabien Balaguer indicated that he is not too happy with this decision and he wants to re-discuss it in the EC meeting. In the January meeting we decided that it was better to re-discuss this with the EURAF EC members that are involved in AFINET because they know better the project and present it in the EC to get a final approval by the EURAF EC. Rosa said that after circulating an e-mail, the EC members that are involved in AFINET decided to maintain the contracts but these contracts will be a part time (more and less 1.5 hours a day) because there is no money to maintain full time contracts.

Actions: part time contracts will be maintained. The EC has to start to think in the revision of the EURAF strategy to contract people.

2. EURAF CONFERENCE

Rosa and Nuria had a meeting with Mark and Louis 12 February at 20:00 h. The next meeting will be 26 February at 20:00 h. From now we will have periodically meetings with them. Jeroen and Anastasia said that they can participate in these meetings.

During the last meeting the next points were discussed:

a) Registration

- Almost none just after Christmas. We have now 22 subscriptions (Margot and Nuria will see the lists)
- Possibility of one day payment for farmers with a possible parallel specific session. Louis will make the proposal.
- Could early registration be moved 15 days as we will not be able to inform about abstract acceptance before the early registration ends? Louis will ask to the person in charge of the budget.

b) Current situation of abstracts

- 85 abstracts right now
- Ask for abstract before the end of February. The Scientific Committee will working in the edition and in the corrections on those already available
- Abstract content will be in a digital form and downloaded from the web system during the conference and from the web page of EURAF afterward. May be it is possible to provide them in pen-drives if more than 400 subscriptions
- Abstracts will be sent for review to the Scientific Committee. Authors will suggest a session; the reviewer will confirm or change the session. Nuria will allocate the abstracts based on the reviewer suggestion and once done we, the scientific and organizing committees, will organize them and the topics to have a balanced proportion of abstracts per topic

c) Current situation of program

- Agriculture Minister will probably come to the event (28th May). Two province government persons will also come. Minister will come after the lunch on 28th. Pending of confirmation! Probably this week. As soon as confirmed we should invite people in the: i) AGFORWARD list, ii) AFINET list, iii) EIP-AGRI, iv) COPA COGECA, v) VIA CAMPESINA, vi) ENRD, vii) CDG, viii) Peter. MARK VONK will prepare an e-mail
- If we have more than 25 people come then translations will be organized
- Rosa will send e-mails with cc to Mark and Louis and Nuria.

d) Needed Chairman and chairwoman, or moderators that should be assigned to different sessions and summarize each session. Mark will prepare questions to be given to the chairman/woman that will be asked with some question that should be to the answered by people.

e) Logistics

- Mago will organize the logistic part
- It will be interesting to know how many people of EURAF will be involved in the process in CINEMEC. Rosa said that this will be known from the registration

f) Next steps

- Rosa will be in the FAO next week to speak about IUAF, and the possibility of presenting the IUAF statutes next year

g) Rosa Specific questions

- Kevin and Dupraz. Workshop about High-SAFE, after the congress and not being able to be in CINEMET, but a meeting room in another place will be available.
- Somarriba invitation, depending on 400 visitors
- PK Nair travelling will be paid by Rosa, could the organization be in charge of the hotel and the payment of the Somarriba travelling?

Money allocation will depend on the number of registrations, if over 400 then everything is almost possible.

Meetings will be at 20:00, whoever wishes to participate is invited. Please comment so to Rosa

Actions: Rosa, Anastasia, Jeroen and Nuria already confirmed to have a skype meeting so they will have a meeting with Mark and Louis 26 February at 20:00 h. Nuria will send an email to know who wants to be chairman/woman in the EURAF conference

3. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC CALL

Rosa asked if there was any EC member interested in leading this public call. Anastasia said that she can take the lead, and Rosa acknowledge it.

Actions: Rosa will send the link of the public call and documents to Anastasia. Anastasia will prepare a draft which will be circulated among the EC.

4. PARLIAMENT POLICY MEETING IN BRUSSELS

EURAF has not been very active in the EU Parliament. So, EURAF should increase its presence in the Parliament because we are starting discussions for the CAP Post 2020. Melanie knows the people in the Parliament and she knows who we have to present the policy recommendations of the AGFORWARD project and EURAF to succeed. Christian could accompany Rosa to Parliament due to his political expertise and in climate change (adaptation). Both, Christian and Rosa are part of the Global Research Alliance and the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (FAO) dealing with adaptation and mitigation to Climate change. Climate change is the big issue in the current CAP. Nor the travelling costs neither the accommodation are reimbursed.

Actions: *Rosa and Christian will organise Parliament policy meetings in Brussels with the help of Melanie.*

5. NEWSLETTER

Nuria said that Mercedes Rois is reviewing the English of the newsletter. At the end of this week Nuria will send us a draft of the newsletter. Please send Nuria your comments during the review period of the newsletter. Nuria said that she needs news for the next newsletter to be released in April. The deadline is 20th March. It would be very interesting to publish featured farms from central Europe.

Actions: *Nuria will take care of the newsletter. Please send Nuria agroforestry news of your countries to publish in the newsletter.*

6. EURAF ACCOUNTING

Rosa said that she is preparing all documents to justify AGFORWARD for EURAF. We need an excel file with all the accounting carried out since 2014, but it costs money in France. Rosa is surprised because this is free in Spain, Anastasia confirmed that this is free in France. Rosa thinks that we should pay for it to have it asap. Fabien is very busy and we need help with this from French partners. Rosa thinks that maybe Christian Dupraz could help us if Fabien is not able to provide it.

Actions: *Rosa will contact with Christian Dupraz if Fabien Balaguer cannot help us with the EURAF bank account.*

7. OTHER ISSUES

Calendar (provisional) of forthcoming CDG and EU meetings

- First AKIS meeting (no payment of travelling neither accommodation)
- FAO Forestry Meeting 20-21 February, Rosa

- 26 February meeting at 20:00 (EURAF CONFERENCE), Rosa, Nuria, Jeroen, Anastasia
- 28 February to 1 March, AKIS, Rosa
- Innovation meeting 21 February, Nuria
- Arable crops: 6 February, Dario and Javier
- CLLD/LEADER:8 March, Nuria
- TN network leaders: 8 March, Rosa
- Direct payments and greening: 9 March, Rosa and Nuria
- Arable crops: 16 March, Dario and Javier
- Grazed Orchards, UNESCO heritage, Strasbourg, 23-24 March
- CAP 20 April; Rosa
- 24 April ESIF, Rosa

Actions: *If any of you wish to go please inform Rosa. Rosa can help and make easier the meetings for those going. Moreover, may be it is a good idea to create working groups to have a good response when people goes. Some of the meetings are paid for travelling and accommodation, some not. None of them covers personnel costs so are done in a voluntary basis.*

The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 28th of March 2018 at 10:30 CET