

St. Gallen and Vienna, July 28th 2016

1st IMAGE Dialogue Forum
INVITATION

Farm animal genebanks: Conservation priorities and future perspectives
A stakeholder view

Dear Sir /Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to the **1st IMAGE Dialogue Forum** in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The event will take place just after the European Regional Focal Point (ERFP) meeting and right before the EAAP conference. It will be held on Sunday 28th August 2016 from 18:00 – 21:00 at Riddel Hall, 185 Stranmillis Road in Belfast BT9 5EE.

The 1st IMAGE Dialogue Forum aims to:

- Provide comprehensive explanation of the objectives and activities undertaken by the IMAGE Project
- Provide information about the European network of gene banks EUGENA
- Provide space for discussions about the needs and wishes to strengthen the collaboration between in situ and ex situ conservation

IMAGE – Innovative Management of Animal Genetic Resources – was founded on 1st March 2016 by a consortium of 28 partners, including SMEs, NGOs, universities and scientific institutions. The aim of IMAGE is to enhance the use of genetic collections and to upgrade animal gene bank management. IMAGE sets out to achieve a better exploitation of DNA information and develop methodologies, biotechnologies and bioinformatics for rationalising animal genetic resources. It will improve the benefits brought by gene banks to the development of sustainable livestock systems by:

- **Enhancing the usefulness** of the genetic collections to allow the livestock sector to respond to environment and market changes
- Using **latest DNA technology and reproductive physiology** for collecting, storing and distributing biological resources
- **Minimising genetic accidents** such as abnormalities or genetic variability tipping points
- Developing synergies **between ex-situ and in-situ conservation** to maximise resources for the future

To identify the needs and the opinions of all who are concerned with this subject, we will organise annual stakeholder meetings through the four year project period – the **IMAGE Dialogue Forum**. There, we would like to involve a broad variety of representatives from breeding associations, breeding industry, governments, NGOs and science and discuss key issues to shape the

future course of the project. On the project's website, documents and information will be available. The stakeholders will be contacted and informed regularly by mail.

With your invitation, we also sent you a form containing open questions about the role of gene banks within your field of activity. We would like to ask you to fill out the form to share your professional experience on this subject. Your statements will be collected and implemented anonymously in the block of discussions at the Dialogue Forum.

You are kindly requested to send the filled-out form together with your confirmation of participation via Email to waltraud.kugler@save-foundation.net or michael.klaffenboeck@boku.ac.at until August 10th, 2016.

Agenda

- 18:00 Introduction and general outline of IMAGE (Michèle Tixier-Boichard)
- 18:15 Status quo of the development of the European gene bank network (Sipke-Joost Hiemstra)
- 18:30 Case studies of selected gene banks, their current strategy, role and type of current use of collections. (Beate Berger)
- 18:45 Moderated discussion on the basis of needs and actions in the view of the participants
- 20:00 pre-dinner drinks and nibbles

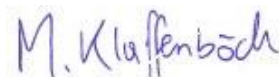
Thank you very much in advance for your time and cooperation.

We sincerely hope you will be able to attend the 1st IMAGE Dialogue Forum 2016 and we are looking forward to meeting you in Belfast in August.

Yours Sincerely,
The IMAGE Dialogue Forum Team



Waltraud Kugler



Michael Klaffenböck

