

‘Characterization of the indigenous and improved Podolic cattle breeds and identification of threats for extinction in global challenges’

With the leadership of the University of Debrecen, Hungary, a project was submitted to the ERFP Call for Action in 2009. The project proposal was eligible for funding by the ERFP.

Participants of the project are:

Italy *National coordinator: D. Matassino*
ANABIC
Dr. F. Filippini

Austria *National coordinator: B. Berger*
National Park Neusiedlersee
Director: K. Kirchberger

Serbia *National coordinator: S. Stojanovic*
Farmer: Sz. Truzsinszki

Hungary *National coordinator: T. Szobolevszki*
Hungarian Grey Cattle Breeders Association
Director: I. Gera
University of Debrecen
Dr. Béla Béri

Duration of the project:

Two years (1st of July 2009 - 30th of June 2011)

The aim of the project is to establish cooperation between the breeders of the group. The role of subsidies in order to avoid the danger of extinction in international comparison must not be neglected. To give a personal importance and atmosphere to effective work 4 meetings will be organized for changing the experiences. The results of two years work will be summarized in a book.

The first event was a **workshop** organized in Italy in order to accept the working plan and decide on the further steps and tasks.

As the ANABIC has organized a great conference on the present status of Podolic cattle in Matera (Sulle trace delle Podoliche), there was a great opportunity to collect all the representatives of countries breeding Podolic cattle. On behalf of the University of Debrecen, Andrea Radácsi and Professor Imre Bodó gave a short introduction on the project and asked

the contribution of all the invited scientists and professionals. As a result of the discussion, the participants agreed to elaborate a questionnaire containing all the most important details of data collection.

Participants of this meeting:

Francesco Filippini	ANABIC (Italy)
Imre Bodó	Association of Hungarian Grey Cattle Breeders (Hungary)
Ákos Maróti-Agóts	Szent István University (Hungary)
Andrea Radácsi	University of Debrecen (Hungary)
Andreas Georgoudis	Greece
Christina Ligda	Greece
Matassino Donato	NFP FAO (Italy)
Giovanni Fornataro	NFPFAO (Italy)
Roberto Gatto	Marche Region (Italy)
Riccardo Negrini	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)
Fabio Napolitano	University of Basilicata (Italy)
Ada Braghieri	University of Basilicata (Italy)
Antonio Girolami	University of Basilicata (Italy)
Edmondo Suran	AZRRI (Croatia)
Graziano Prekalj	AZRRI (Croatia)
Gordan Šubara	AZRRI (Croatia)
M. Ihsan Soysal	Turkey
Igor Guziev	Ukraine

Results of the first meeting are the following:

- discussion on the present status and possible opportunities of the Podolic cattle breeds with the representatives of the countries breeding Podolic cattle
- the elaboration of a questionnaire which is to be filled by all the countries having Podolic cattle
- include in the project the countries having Podolic cattle (Greece, Turkey, Ukraine, Croatia) and ask them to send the relevant information (data collection, sharing information)
- Szabolcs Truzsinszki (breeder from Serbia) wishes to organize the second meeting on local products

The third workshop will be held in Austria. The planned program of this workshop includes the followings:

- discussion on genetic diversity, literature, historic and scientific data
- description of breed standards

The final workshop will be held in Hungary. The task of the final meeting will be to accept the final report i.e. a book ready for printing. Moreover, a decision will be made on the methods of disseminating the results among all Podolian cattle breeding countries.

We **expect** to have the **following outputs** of this project:

- Summary of genetic and phenotypic characteristics, similarities and differences between Podolic breeds.
- Recommendation for the maintenance of genetic diversity within the Podolic group.
- Methods for breeding strategies, economic evaluation, including the possible subsidies.
- Development of relations among Podolic cattle breeders.
- Recommendation for local products and niche markets.
- A book on Podolic cattle breeds.