

Heritage Sheep Breeds – WP3+4

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WP3:

Development and evaluation of strategies for *ex situ* conservation

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Aim of WP3

1. Identification of collection and cryopreservation strategies through a detailed survey.
2. Comparison and evaluation of the practicalities involved in various collection & freezing methods of semen, embryos and tissues.
3. Development and implementation of strategies for *ex situ* conservation, tailored for HSBs in Europe.

Main conclusions

- Selecting procedures differ per country
 - Ejaculated semen
 - Epididymal semen
- Freezing procedures may differ per country
 - Freezing media contain egg yolk and glycerol as cryoprotectants.
 - No clear preference for a particular freezing medium or freezing procedure.

Deliverable

- Report entitled 'Survey of organisation, actual stocks, and procedures of *ex situ* conservation of Heritage Sheep Breeds'
- Published: August 2008



WP4:

Collection and storage of semen

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Aim of WP4

1. Identification of breeds for *ex situ* conservation
2. Construction of the optimal *ex situ* conservation method of HSBs for each country
3. Collection, freezing and storage of semen (or other genetic material) from the prioritised HSBs

Selected breeds per country

- **France:** Rava, Limousine, Bizet, Causses du Lot
- **Greece:** Frisarta, Boutsiko, Katsika
- **Netherlands:** Kempen Heath, Milksheep, Black Blazed
- **Slovenia:** Bela Krajina, Istrian Pramenka, Bovska
- **UK:** Lonk & Shetland

What's done so far?

- France: Collection completed for all breeds
- Slovenia: Collection completed for all breeds
- UK: Collection completed for all breeds
- Greece: Boutsiko completed, Frisarta not fully completed yet, Katsika will be collected in July
- Netherlands: Kempen Heath and Black Blazed are finished. Milksheep not yet fully completed

What has still to be done?

- Greece: Collection of ejaculate semen of Frisarta and epididymal semen of Katsika in July
- Netherlands: Collection of ejaculate semen of Milkshoop planned in July & August 2009



Numbers

Country	Breed	No. of rams	No. of doses
United Kingdom	Shetland	15	3,275
	Lonk	21	4,995
Greece	Frisarta	20	470
	Boutsiko	10	1,355
	Katsika	10	
France	Causse du Lot	22	2,827
	Rava	5	967
	Limousine	10	1,934
	Bizet	3	525
The Netherlands	Kempen Heath	15	2,500
	Milksheep	20	800*
	Black Blazed	4	300
Slovenia	Istrian Pramenka	6	225
	Bovec	4	442
	Bela Krajina Pramenka	5	314

Report – technical part

- First draft ready
- Finishing in August/September
 - When collection in all countries is finished



Report – comparison media

- Medium shared - UK vs. NL
- Semen of Milkshoop will be used (July, 2009)
- Henri Woelders & Kees Zuidberg



Report – interviews

- France: not yet
 - Greece: to be finished
 - Netherlands: ok
 - Slovenia: to be finished
 - UK: ok
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- Rachael promised to finalize them all before July 31st, 2009

Report – form per ram

- One form per ram
- Will be stored in database, and not in report as Appendix
- Amanda sent this to everyone on June 23rd, 2009

Planning

- Collecting last semen (Greece & Netherlands)
- Finishing report
 - Technical part, including comparison medium
 - Interviews
 - Forms per ram



Thanks for your attention



Any questions?



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HERITAGE SHEEP

France, Greece, Netherlands, Slovenia, UK

