

BABROC* Newsletter no. 3



European
Association for
Animal
Production



* Support to the restructuring and strengthening of cattle producers' and breeders' associations as business representative organisations in CEEC-Phare contract No. 00-0308.00.

A EU funded project started on the 17th January 2001.

Dear Partners,
Our first Newsletter has covered initial activities in the implementation of the Project Operations: project inception workshop, national inception workshops and national workshops on *acquis communautaire* in fields of the organisation and functions of producers' and breeders' Associations. The Project was new and a challenging experience for all of us. The first results were impatiently expected, also as an indicator of the capacity of EAAP to act as a leader in such a complicated operation and of the cattle breeders and producers from the EU candidate countries to accept and to implement *acquis communautaire*. You and the evaluators engaged by the PHARE Programme have given a favourable view regarding the first six months of the Project activities. It was a great encouragement for EAAP as the Project Leader and for the Project management team to do its best to ensure the quality of the Project operations in the second phase of the Project. The period between July and December 2001 is marked by the further intensification of

national and international activities. The Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Slovenian Partners organised eight national workshops. An international workshop on the future of the livestock production services in Europe was held in Budapest in August. The Project Steering Committee had its first meeting also in Budapest. The PHARE Programme of the European Commission undertook an interim evaluation of the Business Support Programme which included the evaluation of our Project. The Lithuanian, Slovakian and Estonian Partners already selected experts for internship and in co-operation with the German, Italian and Austrian Partners started to implement this part of the Project. The German and Italian Partners are well advanced in the preparation of the international workshops on the financial management of breeders' associations and on the dissemination of information, respectively. The purchasing of the office equipment for our CEEC

Partners will be completed by the end of this year.

We are entering into the second and the final year of the Project. This is the right moment to think of the 'exit strategy' or what will happen after the end of the Project. Our efforts must be, more than in the past twelve months, focused towards the attainment of the basic Project objectives: functional and representative cattle breeders and producers associations capable of providing services to their members and of representing their interest within the society. The better knowledge of the EU norms and practices – *acquis communautaire* – by our Partners from the EU candidate countries will contribute to the integration of their cattle industries into a broader system of the enlarged European Union.

Your Project Leader is inviting you to intensify your efforts in the coming year. Do not hesitate to request from us our contributions and support. Together, we can make it a success!

Prof. Jean G. Boyazoglu
Project Co-ordinator

1. Meeting of the Project Steering Committee

The Project Steering Committee at its meeting of 29 August 2001 held in Budapest, Hungary, approved the Report by the Project Co-ordinator on the Project activities from 18 January to 18 July 2001, the programme of activities July 2001 - January 2002 and the financial report for the first six months of the Project operations. The Committee noted that the Project was gaining a momentum and that

all CEEC Partners, which organised activities in the period under review, in their evaluation reports underlined the relevance of the themes and activities with regard to their major policy objective: the EU accession. In approving the programme of activities for the next six months, the Committee expressed satisfaction with the announced intensification of activities in the Czech Republic and agreed to support activities of the Romanian breed association 'Bruna'. The meeting supported the conservative budgetary policy carried out

by the Project Leader and underlined the need for careful use of financial resources. The Project Partners financed a good part of local costs, but, in view of scarcity of resources, they would strongly rely on the grant funds for the secondment of experts, internship and international workshops.

The Committee invited all Partners to actively participate in the evaluation of the Project undertaken by the OMAS consortium upon the request of the European Commission.

2. Symposium on the future of the livestock services in Europe

European livestock breeding and service organisations have had a stormy development over the past 150 years due to technical progress, economic development and political events. Now, at the eve of creating a European Union of 27 member states or more, and at the outset of further integration into the world market, the livestock producers must decide which services they need and how they want them to be delivered; existing breeding and service organisations must

develop strategies for their future activities and organisation. Governments and the EU administration have to make up their minds of how to regulate and support the industry.

This was the main theme of the International Symposium held on 24 August 2001 in Budapest, Hungary, during the 52nd EAAP Annual Meeting. Out of the 42 selected participants from 18 countries there were nineteen young scholars who attended the symposium as a part of their programme financed by the European Commission. In the evaluation of current developments in the

European, American and African livestock breeding industries and the related services, a special reference was made to the situation and developments in the EU candidate countries from the Central and Eastern Europe. Based on the legal EU-framework for livestock breeding and service organisations and for government subsidies, an assessment was made of the dairy cattle breeding and service organisations of the future. Representatives of the Project Partners from the candidate countries actively participated at the round table discussion.

3. Interim Evaluation of the PHARE Business Support Programme

The PHARE Programme of the Enlargement Directorate General of the European

Commission launched a Business Support Programme aimed at establishing and strengthening the business support organisations in the EU candidate countries. In 2000, the Programme

approved our BABROC Project together with nine other projects covering co-operatives, small and medium enterprises, chambers of commerce and industry and business support organisations

from the textile, metal, electronic, chemical and food processing industries. The evaluation of the Programme undertaken in 2001 has shown that:

'the Programme is performing well and the following positive characteristics emerge:

- Selection of participants based on the quality of their proposals and their credibility in their sector;
- Autonomy given to the participants whilst not originally foreseen, has revealed a dynamic element;
- Business Support Programme revealed to be a good mean to reach key players of the market economy – the business support organisations (BSO);

- The business support organisations from candidate countries are very motivated to learn about EU and the role of BSOs in EU countries;
- Improvement of the knowledge of what is happening in candidate countries;
- Benefits rapidly implementable.

These are the main conclusions of the debriefing of the interim evaluation of the Business Support Programme held in Brussels on 09 November 2001. The debriefing was attended by Mr. A. Izquierdo from PHARE, Ms. Sophie Papalexidou and Mr. Jean van Kerchove from the EMS (evaluation) and representatives of all ten

business support projects. Participants agreed on the need for further improvements in the management of projects and approved a set of recommendations regarding reporting, logframe matrix, benchmarking and exit strategy. They also reviewed experiences from specific projects and discussed possible implementation of these in other projects. J. Boyazoglu and M. Zjalic, the Project Co-ordinator and the Chief Technical Officer, presented the experience of our project, particularly in ensuring the ownership of the project by Partners through an appropriate financial management.

(for more information see the web site of the BABROC in www.eaap.org)

4. International workshop on the financial management of breeders' associations

The international Berlin workshop on the financial management of breeders' and

producers' associations will be held in Berlin, Germany, 11-16 January 2002, under the organisation of our German Partner. The Project will cover travel and accommodation for two

participants from each of the CC Partners. The first announcement with the programme of the workshop and the invitation for application was sent to all Partners on 05 November.

5. International workshop on information and communication – public image of the sector ('workshop for journalists')

Our Italian Partner is preparing the workshop on

the content and flow of information from associations to farmers and from farmers and associations to the general public. The main themes will deal with the efficiency of the associations in ensuring the positive image of the cattle industry as the

base for healthy and sound consumption of cattle products – an issue of particular relevance after the recent crises which affected the cattle industry in Europe. It is expected that the workshop will be held in March 2002, during the Verona Fair.

6. Networking and joint operations

All activities so far implemented within the Project contain some elements of networking and joint operations. The first practical step towards the establishment of a formal network for cattle production in Europe will be undertaken at the Verona workshop. The National Project Co-ordinators, members of the Project Steering Committee and experts in information and communication will discuss various options regarding the scope and the profile of such a network, including the

possible future institutional arrangements between Project Partners after the closure of the Project.

7. Internship

The first ten professionals from our Czech, Estonian, Lithuanian and Slovakian Partners will start the internship programmes in Germany and Italy during January-February 2002. It is expected that the major part of the internship programmes will be completed in the first half of the 2002.

8. Purchasing of office equipment

Requests for the purchasing of office equipment received from five Candidate Country Partners were reviewed by the Assessment Group established by the Project Co-ordinator. The Group composed of three persons (EU Partner, CC Partner and the Project Leader) recommended changes in several requests so as to meet the Project's budgetary limits.

9. From our evaluation reports

9.1 Milk and fertility recording for herd management

"The aspects of herd management, especially possibilities of analysing herd fertility problems and the importance of milk recording data in this context seemed to be new for participants. Fruitful discussion came up while referring about the herd owner as an important factor of management and economic evaluation and potential of A.I out of the farm view."

trained in fertility and breeding management questions. This impression is based on comments of technicians and veterinarians who recognised that the knowledge of herd managers did not grow the same way as the number of cows and their genetic quality did."

experiences gained with the privatisation of the Animal Breeding Combinat of the former German Democratic Republic were of particular interest to the participants."

9.2 Knowledge of herd managers

"Another result of this seminar was that farmers or herd managers especially from increasing herds need to be

9.3 Transfer of business support functions from the state to breed societies

"The discussion was lively, because the issue of imminent closure of the Central Animal Breeding Office of the Government and the further privatisation of and the breed society participation in AI centres is pressing for decision. Therefore,

9.4 Conditions after entering the European Union

"But also the conditions that (the country) will find after entering the EU met special attention. In this context it was pointed out that there will be room for local cattle breeding activities even in the presence of more powerful and better organised global and European breeding organisations."

BABROC MEETINGS (July 2001-June 2002)*

Dates	Meetings	Organisers	Organising Country	Concluded & Report received	Concluded & Report Pending	Meetings in pipeline	Meetings in first stage of planning
09 July, 2001	Inception Workshop (1.2)	Haasmaa	Estonia	X			
10 July, 2001	Training Course (2.1)	Haasmaa	Estonia	X			
24 August 2001	Technical Workshop (Steering Committee 3.1.4)	Boyazoglu	EAAP (Hungary)		X		
25 August 2001	Workshop on Preparing & Presenting Scientific Papers & Reports	Garnsworthy	EAAP		X		
29 August, 2001	1 st SC meeting (6.1)	Zjalic	EAAP (Hungary)		X		
05/06 September 2001	Training Course (2.1)	Haasmaa	Estonia		X		
03/07 September 2001	Breeders workshop	Haasmaa	Estonia	X			
20/22 September 2001	Workshop A.I.(2.1)	Haasmaa	Estonia	X			
05 October 2001	Inception Workshop (1.2)	Liciu	Romania	X			
17/18/19 October 2001	Inception Workshop (1.2)	Kvapilik	Czech Rep.		X		
10/15 October 2001	Identification & Registration (3.3.2.3.)	Uchockiene	Lithuania		X		
17 October 2001	Evaluation of beef cattle	Kvapilik	Czech Rep.				
18/19 October 2001	Conformation of beef cattle	Kvapilik	Czech Rep.		X		
24 October 2001	EU regulations– Milk Quotas	Kvapilik	Czech Rep.		X		
29/31 October 2001	2 nd Workshop	Demeter	Hungary		X		
06/07 November 2001	Organisation & financial management (2.1)	Cholewicki	Poland		X		
18/19 November, 2001	Marketing Cattle & Breeding material (2.2)	Klopcic	Slovenia			X	
22 November 2001	Training Course (2.1)	Liciu	Romania			X	
04 December 2001	EU Veterinary regulations for animal breeding	Kvapilik	Czech Rep.			X	
11/16 January 2002	Financial Management Workshop (3.1.1)	Schmitt	Germany			X	
January 2002	Workshop Identification & Registration (3.3.2.3.)	Demeter	Hungary				X
January/June, 2002	Chief Classifiers Workshop (3.1.2)	Potucek	Austria				X
06/10 March 2002	Editors Workshop (3.1.3.)	Fraddosio	Italy				X
March/April 2002	Workshop on Marketing & Trade (3.3.2.2)	Uchockiene	Lithuania				X
Spring 2002	5 th Workshop Classified	Klopcic	Slovenia				X
May/June 2002	Market Regulations & Sanitary Requirements (3.3.2.4)	Uchockiene	Lithuania				X

* This is a tentative calendar and is subject to changes

10. Human resources of the Project

10.1 Steering Committee

J. Lederer (Austria)
 J. Kvapilík (Czech Republic)
 N. Haasmaa (Estonia)
 F. Schmitt (Germany)
 P. Rafai (Hungary)
 P.P. Fraddosio (Italy)
 A. Svitojus (Lithuania)
 A. Cholewicki (Poland)
 G. Liciu (Romania)
 O. Kadlecik (Slovak Republic)
 F. Habe (Slovenia)
 J. Boyazoglu (EAAP, Italy)
 V. Vigne (EAAP, Italy)
 A. Rosati (ICAR, Italy)

10.2 National Co-ordinators

E. Potucek (Austria)
 J. Kvapilík (Czech Republic)
 N. Haasmaa (Estonia)
 F. Schmitt (Germany)
 P. Rafai (Hungary)
 P.P. Fraddosio (Italy)
 D. Uchockiene (Lithuania)
 A. Cholewicki (Poland)
 G. Liciu (Romania)
 O. Kadlecik (Slovak Republic)
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10.3 Project Leader

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10.4 Project Co-ordinator (PC)

J. Boyazoglu

10.5 Chief Technical Officer (CTO)

M. Zjalic

10.6 Project Secretary (PS)

V. Vigne

10.7 Accountant

E. Couto

10.8 Information and Documentation Officer

C. Mosconi

10.9 Correspondence and Registry Clerk

S. Pistoni