



## **On-going policies, programmes and activities of the SAVE Foundation and Network - Status Quo and Outlook for 2009**

**SAVE Foundation** acts as European umbrella organization for the promotion and coordination of activities for the conservation of endangered breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties in the form of live populations. The SAVE Network comprises of 20 NGO organisations in 15 European countries. Project involvement currently takes place in 36 European countries.

### **Running projects:**

#### International Networks:

- **Balkan-Network** - cross-border coordination of conservation measures, establishment of rare breed centres. Workshops and knowledge exchange with local partners
- **“Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in the Carpathians”** continuation of the project – Phase III: Intensification of search for lost, establishment of Ark network, continuation of collections of fruit specimen, focus on rural development and remote areas.
- **European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net (ELBARN)** – [www.elbarn.net](http://www.elbarn.net) A three year coordination project co-funded by the European Commission, the aim of the project is to produce clear guidelines and action plans, through discussion in international work groups, to promote “Ark Centres” for coordinating and promoting in situ/on farm coordination of autochthonous breeds and to work out strategies of protecting these breeds in the case of epidemics or other emergencies (rescue). The marketing of products and services of the breeds is also an integral part of the project.
- **Arca-Net** extension and promotion – [www.arca-net.info](http://www.arca-net.info) the online travel guide to institutions that are open to the public and show a range of traditional livestock breeds and cultivated plants
  - Arca-Net offers correct but understandable background information as a complement to the information already available through international databases such as EFABIS.
  - Arca-Net acts as a “tourist guide” for anyone interested in seeing interesting animals and plants
  - many interesting excursions for families are on offer as well as farm holidays and educational outings for schools or a chance to see how traditional products are made.
  - All Arca-Net institutions are open to the public.

#### Monitoring Projects:

- **“Alpine Knowledge”** feasibility study - conservation of traditional knowledge about agrobiodiversity, documentation within a searchable database. The one-year-feasibility study includes

- Development of an information platform
  - Development of a systematic for collection of knowledge by different sources (Libraries, Internet, Museums, Persons)
  - Development of categories and contents
- **Conservation of Agrobiodiversity and Management of Ecosystems in Greece** - aims and problems for conservation, breeding concepts, herdbooks or registers
  - **Animal Genetic Resources in Romania** - Monitoring, Networking, Conservation, *in preparation*.

#### Rescue Projects:

- **Pig breeds in Velipoje**, Albania – creation of a breeding group, raising public awareness. Together with local partners.
- **European Buffaloes** - Rescue Action is running in Transcarpathia, network of experts is developing

### **In addition there are a number of projects that are not yet (fully) funded:**

#### International Networks:

- **Fruit Net** extension - addition of wild fruits and berries. To save the genetic diversity of "forgotten" fruit and berry varieties for future needs, specific efforts are required. The last still existing diversity of varieties has to be recorded, the individual conservation efforts have to be linked and co-ordinated. New activities and an exchange of information are stimulated by information that is made accessible for everybody.
- **Network for the management of feral populations** – survey of feral populations in Europe, collection of best practice and experiences in management, investigate status of populations, network of experts and stakeholders, impact assessments (ecology, disease etc).

#### Monitoring Projects:

- **Long-Term Monitoring in the Alpine Region** – the next phase of the successful monitoring of the agrobiodiversity of the Alpine region is due to start. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> monitoring project in the Alpine region and will take the form of assessing the risk status of the traditional Alpine livestock breeds and cultivated plants. An address list of stakeholders will be published online, as requested by stakeholders in the region.

#### Basic Projects:

- **Register of Synonyms of Fruit Varieties** - continuation of the project. In the multilingual Europe the diversity of names is often a handicap for cross-border co-operation. Even in the same language, an old variety may have many different regional names and synonyms, which hinders the conservation efforts. Thus SAVE-Monitoring launched an online-dictionary and synonym-register for fruit varieties. In the first step, several thousand names and synonyms of apple varieties should be listed online in seven languages (English, German, French, Tscheque, Slovakian, Russian and Polish). Some of this work has already been achieved and temporary access to the data can be granted on request.
- **Development of a Trademark** for products of autochthonous breeds and plants – the promotion of these products is the basis for the reintegration of autochthonous breeds and plants into agricultural production. In order to add value to these, often special and/or niche, products a trademark is being developed to help consumers identify them in the marketplace.