

4th Dialog Forum, Wachtebeke, Belgium , 25. August 2019 Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Rules: What does ABS mean for conservation research and use of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR)?

The 4th IMAGE Dialog Forum took place at the occasion of the “Levend Erfgoed Expo 2019” of rare Belgian breeds at the Provinciaal Domein Puyenbroeck in Wachtebeke, Belgium.

The challenges arising from access and benefit sharing for exchange of genetic material are subject of WP1 Task 1.4 (Implementation of access and benefit sharing regulation). Information on ABS rules and their relevance for breeding, conservation and science are rarely known. Therefore this Dialogue Forum was laid out as a information platform on Access and benefit sharing.

A comprehensive introduction to Access and Benefit sharing in animal breeding, conservation and research was given by Elzbieta Maryniuk, Faculty of Animal Sciences, Department of Genetics and Animal Breeding at the Warsaw University of Life Science (SGGW) and IMAGE partner.

The Policy Officer of the European Commission and EU ABS National Focal Point at the Department: Global Sustainability, Trade & Multilateral Agreements, DG Environment Alicja Kozłowska explained obligations and rules within the EU and the rules for the exchange with other countries, the key provisions of the EU ABS regulation, user obligations like Due Dilligence obligations and Due Dilligence declarations and an explanation of the tools to use on internet.

It became clear that the ABS rules do not play a role in most of the cases of the exchange of material for breeding. But on the other hand, science is heavily affected by the ABS rules. The provider countries may draw up their own regulations. Therefore sometimes it seems to be impossible to get material for scientific issues. In general ABS in animal breeding is less relevant than other sectors due to phyto-sanitary measures in the EU, the limited import of animal material to the EU and mostly no legislation on animal breeding and ABS in the member states. But it attention should be paid to the fact that new products are in the scope of the EU regulation.

Among the conservation NGOs it is known that there is an ABS regulation and if the countries signed the Nagoya Protocol. The National competent authority is hardly known among NGOs. In the recognition of best practice examples the national or regional acting conservation NGOs are mostly not involved.

Detailed information including the most important weblinks to ABS are available on the IMAGE webpage <http://www.imageh2020.eu> .

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