

SAVE eNews 1/2013

Quarterly e-mail service of the European SAVE Foundation
(Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)



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20th Anniversary of the SAVE Network – The Early Years

2013 is the 20th anniversary of the SAVE Network. To mark this important milestone in the conservation of endangered livestock breeds and cultivated plants, this year's eNews will look back at the events that led to the SAVE Network and, subsequently, the SAVE Foundation being established, and provide an overview of the events of the last 20 years.

This issue will cover the first five years, when SAVE moved from an idea to a Foundation.



As a part of the 20th anniversary celebrations and so SAVE Foundation can continue to work professionally as an umbrella organisation, SAVE is also running a fundraising campaign.

20 for 20 is a fund-raising campaign that lets everyone join in – all donations are welcome however big or small!

Help us to raise money by donating to our fund! The more money that is raised the more we can do to raise the profile of our traditional livestock breeds and cultivated plants!

You can donate via paypal – find out more on our dedicated Variety Savers 20for20 page:

<http://variety-savers.net/page/20for20>

or go direct to paypal:

SAVE Paypal Account:

<http://tinyurl.com/brhnucb>

The period 1993-1997 saw Europe changing rapidly as new countries emerged, the single market of the European Union came into force and conflict in the former Yugoslavian countries escalated. The Convention on Biodiversity, signed in Rio in 1992 came into force in 1993, creating an international framework for the task of conserving all forms of biodiversity. Alongside these political events, the world was changing in other ways: the rise of the internet heralded a new way of life for many. And the implications of genetic modification, cloning and “mad cow disease” (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE) led consumers to begin to take a closer look at the systems behind the food they eat.

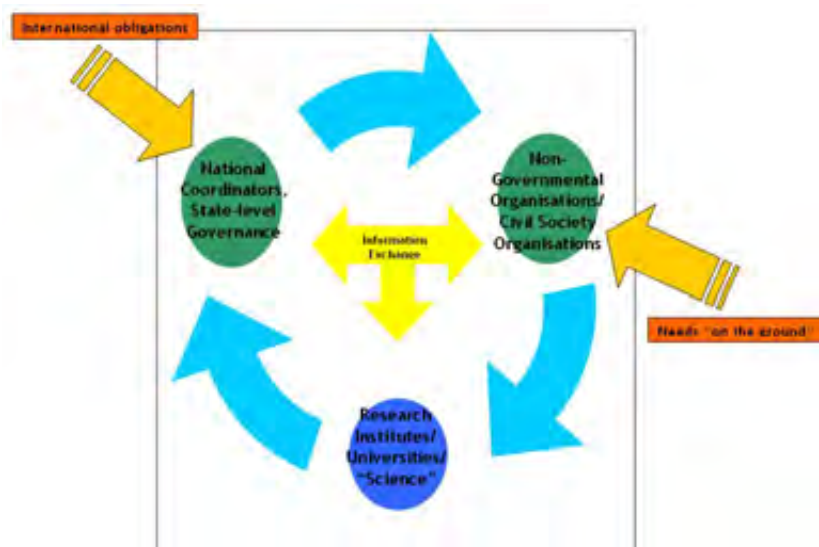
The fall of the Iron Curtain was a turning-point for the economic structures of the Eastern European countries and, of course, in agriculture. Whilst in the West the conservation of endangered livestock breeds and cultivated plants as genetic resources and cultural heritage was mainly undertaken by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), in Eastern Europe various state-level institutes had already carried out exemplarily work. However, after the structural changes, it was no longer possible for states to continue financing these projects. Many were discontinued, some started on a new basis (e.g. for grazing and as tourist attractions in national parks), others were aided by western NGOs. These NGOs, which had previously worked together informally, saw the need for a better, cross-border

coordination of the work. This coordination needed to be institutionalised and with a broad European basis. The Lake of Constance Meetings had already started in the mid 1980s with representatives of organizations working for the conservation of endangered livestock breeds from Germany, France and Switzerland meeting together. Soon, representatives from Austria, the Netherlands and even Norway joined in. The meetings were usually held once a year near the Lake of Constance. The meetings served to exchange experiences, for mutual consultation and networking.

In October 1993 the participants of the “Lake of Constance Meetings” gave the go-ahead for the founding of SAVE (acronym of “**S**afeguard for **A**gricultural **V**arieties in **E**urope”).

The first SAVE Meeting took place in November 1993 in Lindau, Germany. Here the basic structure of SAVE was established, the working principles for projects, the logo was decided upon and the location of the SAVE office discussed. Right from the beginning, SAVE had an office in Germany and one in Switzerland. The location of the Swiss office remains the same to this day but the first office in Germany was in Witzenhausen reflecting the close cooperation with one of the original the SAVE Network partners: GEH (Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung alter und gefährdeter Nutztierrassen e.V.) .

The task of SAVE was, and remains to this day, to promote or build up national organisations at the grass-roots level. As long as such organisations are missing or are not able to run projects alone, SAVE should run projects itself. Because of this, many of the early projects were rescue activities, such as the live conservation of the last Polish Red Cattle (Podgorska), the rescue of the Turopolje pigs from between the war-lines in what is now Croatia, the support of the Karakachan horses in Bulgaria, the combining of the last Valachian sheep into new breeding herds etc. Alongside this, extensive, cross-border monitoring activities were carried out. SAVE and the, closely connected, Monitoring Institute for Rare Breeds and Seeds in Europe, and data collected from the whole of the Carpathian area and the Balkans together with local experts and using old literature resources where the breeds and varieties were still listed.



In order to place conservation activities on a sustainable basis it was and still is important to network and organise all the stakeholders involved. In the conservation work, the “3 pillar principle” is always maintained. This refers to the division of tasks between the State, the universities and civil society. All three pillars are represented and active in the SAVE Network in order to achieve a sustainable conservation effort.

Important events in the early years of the SAVE Network

November 1989	At the Lake of Constance Meeting in the French Jura, it was decided that a European umbrella organization should be created. During the meeting, the news of the fall of the Wall in Berlin was received. Emotions were high and the participants rejoiced and wept together with German colleagues.
1989-93	Time of the "uncoordinated contacts" with players in the East. Construction of various bilateral projects especially for those organizations in the German speaking countries. Pavel Beco and Hape Grunenfelder established 1991 the "Eko-Team", based in Prague, a coordinating body to coordinate the proliferation of projects and drive the monitoring in the Eastern countries ahead. The Eko-Team was then substantially supported by the SAVE Network member ProSpecieRara until end of 1993 when the Prague office was dissolved and the tasks moved to Switzerland to be coordinated from St.Gallen.
1991	At the RBI / DAGENE meeting in Budapest Hape Grunenfelder introduces the idea of a "Euro-Fund" to stimulate the discussion about the networking of stakeholders in Europe.
22 – 24 May 1992	The well-attended Lake of Constance meeting in St.Gallen (including Arche Noah to represent the interests of plant conservation) is dedicated to the main theme of "building the Euro-Fund". Subsequently, a joint press release about "the agreement on the establishment of a European umbrella organization" was sent to the press in different countries and a preparatory group is established. The preparatory group members were: <i>Laurent Avon (FR), Jeremy Cherfas (GB), Hape Grunenfelder (CH), Jürgen Güntherschulze (DE), Antoinette Kooper-Nelemans (NL), Piet Oehmichen (DE) and Franz Punz (AT).</i>
August 1992	An organizational structure for the Euro-Fund is created.
16 September 1992	Consultation on Euro-Fund and search for a suitable name.
3 - 4 April 1993	Working meeting of the preparatory group in St. Gallen: the name "SAVE" is chosen as acronym for " S afeguard for A gricultural V arieties in E urope".
25 September 1993	Working meeting Utrecht: preparation of financial plan and activity program 1994-95
9 October 1993	The foundation of the SAVE Network – the Lake of Constance meeting in Imst formally decides to build a foundation called SAVE as an umbrella organization and to set up an office in Wittenhausen (c/o Piet Oehmichen).
27 November 1993	first SAVE meeting in Lindau to discuss the draft constitution of SAVE and the project work that should be undertaken.
21 December 1993	Founding of the "Swiss Association for the preparation of the SAVE Foundation" – needed so that the office infrastructure could be built up.
15 - 17 July 1994	SAVE meeting at the Zoo Warden, Schleswig-Holstein.
26 October 1994	Establishment of the office in St. Gallen with Waltraud Kugler (parallel to the office in Germany)

The preparation for the SAVE Foundation and early project work was only possible through the generous financial support of: the Erlenmeyer-Stiftung, Hans-Peter Grunenfelder, Pavel Beco, Markus Stadelmann, Peter Goop, Paul Friedlos.

Eko-Team Prague, forerunner of the SAVE project office (1991-93)



After the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 Pavel Beco, owner of the model farm of ProSpecieRara, and Hape Grunenfelder, founder and then CEO of ProSpecieRara decided to travel to Czechoslovakia. The first to re-visit his old homeland, the latter to meet keepers of endangered livestock breeds, who he had sporadic correspondence with.

Many contacts had also arisen from personal acquaintances with young people, who Pavel had enabled to visit and stay in Switzerland – for many of them it was the ever first visit to the West. The gratitude for this – and the resulting hospitality – yielded some strange harvests. During a visit to the family of a young agronomy student in Moravia, the Swiss visi-

tors were entertained with an 8 course feast. While Pavel could make himself scarce thanks to an invitation to a scouts' jamboree, Hape and a companion remained and were forced by the mother, despite vehement protests, to serve themselves food, again and again. In the end, they did not know what else to do but to jump out of the window into the garden, as the hostess briefly disappeared into the kitchen. They followed Pavel to the Scouts and suffered a shock when they found themselves confronted by a large, cold buffet – to which they were invited, most emphatically, to partake in.

More journeys followed.

The most important finding was that the breeders in the East, whilst having individual contacts to people in the West, did not know each other. Pavel and Hape, both already active across borders due to the "Lake of Constance meetings", were aware of the importance of project coordination. They decided to set up, on their own costs, a coordination office for Eastern Europe in Prague. Wages were low and office rents affordable. In the search for a suitable office they were offered a whole university department! Finally, they rented an office space with the Environment Department in Prague-Ruzyne and employed Dr. Hanka Marshikova, an environmental scientist, as a coordinator. In order to have an operating body they founded the club Eko-Team in Prague, which was later co-financed by ProSpecieRara.

The need for action in the East was huge, and the keepers of endangered livestock breeds who in the Communist era were left undisturbed in their niche, were suddenly confronted with the market economy. The cancelled state subsidies and the far cheaper foreign products (e.g. wool) made the keeping of animals immediately unprofitable. The changes to agriculture that had taken decades in the West, were completed - in a hurry - in a few years, almost months. With the closure of collective farms whole herds were slaughtered to make money to pay the wages of workers that were no longer paid by the state. So many cows were slaughtered that there was an acute milk shortage in the Czech Republic. Of thousand-headed sheep flocks found during the first trip, there was, one year later only hundreds remaining, a few months later there were, at best, only a few dozen animals left. Pavel and Hape travelled East each year for several weeks to cor-

ners and valleys of the Carpathian Mountains in search of relict groups of Valachian sheep and Tatra cattle. With the aid photos from old publications they asked veterinarians and village leaders for information.



Pavel Beco (left) and Hape Grunenfelder looking for Valachian sheep in the Slovakian mountain valleys

The targeted search in outlying areas, which were inhabited mainly by ethnic minorities proved its worth. While, in the central locations, collectivisation led to very consistent breeding results, in these remote regions the old, local breeds are still well known. But often Hape and Pavel got to hear that they had come a few years too late, the last animals had been slaughtered recently. Sometimes, due to false information, hours of fruitless journeys were undertaken. And the border officials had little sympathy for foreigners who travelled for kilometres on small side roads along the border. But then there were moments when the original Walachian sheep were suddenly found - at the penultimate farm in the back lanes of the last village before the border to the Ukraine.



Urgent projects to be tackled were:

- Sumava sheep
- Valachian sheep
- Tsigaja Sheep
- Establishment of a large fruit-collection in the Moravian town of Zlin

The Eko-Team made big waves, and Pavel and Hape gained direct access to government offices in Prague. Deputy Environmental Minister Bartak did not miss the opportunity to pay a visit to Switzerland and the model farm of Pavel Beco in Dicken (see picture).

The coordination centre of Eko-Team in Prague was, from a PR-point of view, a great success. Without expensive commercials on television, the importance of agricultural biodiversity could be made known and became politically "acceptable".

Even so, officials made it clear that in talking about agrobiodiversity this was the "jam on the bread" and that, for countries in the East, this could only become a real concern once the bread and the butter had been secured.

Eko-Team became known in the countries neighboring the Czech Republic and representatives were also invited to attend meetings to Poland and Hungary. But it turned out that the local project partners could not be coordinated from Prague. Initiatives to conserve the Podgorska red cattle, the Swiniarka sheep and Bialogrzbetka cattle in Poland could not be started. The Eko-Team was dissolved in 1993 and the tasks moved to Switzerland to be coordinated from St.Gallen, in the new SAVE project offices. In 1994 the SAVE Project Office, together with the German rescue GEH and partners in Poland, was able to secure the last remnants of Podgorska red cattle in the Carpathians.

The launch of the SAVE Foundation



In December 1997 the first annual meeting of the SAVE Foundation took place in Utrecht. With a list of 33 potential cooperation partners ready to be contacted SAVE Foundation began with the two founding partners GEH and Arche Austria. The offices in Witzhausen, run by Karola Stier and in St. Gallen, run by Waltraud Kugler took on the work of coordinating the newly established umbrella organisation. This included:

- Exchange of contact details of international organisations and authorities
- Information about European/International legislation, treaties and financial support mechanisms
- Organisation of international expert workshops and seminars
- Logistical help for national and regional activities
- Exchange of knowledge between partner organisations
- Coordination of cross-border conservation projects

The next edition of the eNews will cover the early days of the SAVE Foundation and take a closer look at some of the organisations and individuals that have worked together with SAVE over the years.



SAVE Projects 1993-1997 – an excerpt

A list of priority projects was made by the SAVE preparation group in 1993. Whilst some of these projects – such as the creation of a collection of wild fruit varieties – remain on the “wish list”, others count amongst the main activities of SAVE in the last 20 years. Other projects were added to the list as the need became apparent. The following are a small selection of the projects started in the first five years of the SAVE Network.

Valachian Sheep

Romanian Wallachian shepherds took sheep with them when they migrated west during the Wallachian colonisation and settled in the Beskides, a range in the Carpathian Mountains. The sheep remained isolated in this Moravian mountain range from the 13th to the 16th century and developed into an independent breed. This original sheep breed was bred only in Slovakia, and Czech Republic.



Large flocks were kept mainly for milk but also for meat, sheepskins and wool. Under state direction of the former Czechoslovakia, the Valachian was improved by cross-breeding, which eradicated most of the original breed. In the 1980s, when various initiatives were started for the conservation of this impressive sheep breed, only a few remnant sheep could be located.

In order to coordinate the conservation of this breed, SAVE began to locate and network stakeholders. During the project, sustainable breeding groups were created that have, over the past 20 years of work, seen this breed move from highly endangered to a trend towards a reliably increasing population.

Turopolje Pig



The Turopolje pig came close to extinction during the war in former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. The rescue of the pigs from between the lines of battle by members of the SAVE network is probably one of the most dramatic rescue operations SAVE has ever conducted. As the war in Croatia broke out in 1991, the pigs could no longer be left to roam on the pastures. Keeping the pigs inside incurred higher costs for farmers. The meat market had collapsed and pigs were being shot by soldiers for food. SAVE, together with the Schönbrunn Tierpark

in Austria and EuroNatur, were able to remove some animals to safer places during the winter of 1993/94 whilst marking others so that a herdbook could be started. The interest shown in the pig breed helped to bring hope in a difficult time for the local farmers.

Turopolje pigs are excellently adapted to the floodplains of the Sava river and are, thus, unique. They are able to look for food in the water and sometimes even dive for mussels. The breed is descended from the lard-type pigs of Croatia crossed with local meat pigs, then crossed with English Berkshire pigs in the 19th century.

The exciting rescue of the Turopolje pig breed was a success story – but this success was only possible because there was somewhere to place the pigs at short notice. Rescue stories such as this led to the concept of Ark and Rescue Stations, which resulted in the projects Arca-Net (see: www.arca-net.info) and ELBARN (see: www.elbarn.net)

Podgorska Red Cattle

Representatives of the European SAVE Foundation purchased 1994 some of the last purebred Podgorska Red Cattle in southern Poland to save the breed from extinction.

The Polish red cattle is Poland's single autochthonous cattle breed. It is from the Central European red type. Since 1960 it was crossed with Danish red and since 1980 with Angeln blood. The lowland variety (Dolinowa) is not available any more in purebred form. Only the upland variety (Podgorska) has survived pure in small numbers.



The Polish red cattle was a victim of the economic structural changes in the country. The population, which until the sixties represented ca 20% of the entire cattle population of Poland, was reduced first to just 200 animals of the Podgorska strain. This last purebred herd was placed at the state farm of Hanczowa in the Beskidy mountains.

As the Polish government had no more budget for keeping genetic resources in live populations, SAVE Foundation and the German GEH bought the most important breeding lines in a rescue action in 1994 when the herd sized dropped to 50. An in situ conservation project was initiated. The animals remained in the then privatized state farm and the farmer committed himself to keep the cattle in accordance with SAVE's instructions.

In co-operation with the Zootechnic Institute in Balice/Krakow (Prof.J.Trela) and the Genetics Institute in Mrokow (Prof.Z. Reklewski) the scientific and technical supervision and the fertilization with purebred semen was guaranteed. In 1999 the herd needed to be displaced because of problems with the farm. As the situation in Poland had changed fortunately and again financial means were available for live conservation of genetic resources, the herd could be given back in Polish hands in Spring 2000 and is situated now in Gladyszow nearby the old place. Thanks to the SAVE engagement a national genetic and cultural heritage of Poland is still alive. The core breeding group of Gladyszow is still in property of SAVE Foundation.

Mangalitsa Pigs



Since the Middle of the 19th century, Mangalitsa pigs (woolly pigs) were bred in Austria-Hungary. The Mangalitsa enjoyed great popularity as a lard pig until after the Second World War. However, as the demand for lard decreased massively, breeding was reduced or stopped at all. The Mangalitsa exist in 3 variations: blonde red and swallow-bellied (with a fair belly). Mangalitsas are robust, resistant against diseases and stress and are capable of moving safely in any type of terrain. Even during wintertime, they like to stay outdoors.

The SAVE Focus, published in 1997, highlighted the need for international coordination for the conservation of the Mangalitsa pig. Conservation breeding was established in Hungary, Austria, Switzerland and Germany. However, problems related to inbreeding became apparent. This problem could be solved through international cooperation in breeding. Furthermore, rare and very rare breeding lines could also be spread. Through this coordination an international breed standard and herdbook could be built up. These days Mangalitsa pigs are to be found all over the world as the quality of the meat, including the fat, is now appreciated.

Karakachan Horses, Dogs and Sheep

The Karakachan sheep, horse and dog are local breeds that have been developed in Bulgaria as a result of the most primitive type of livestock keeping - nomadic livestock keeping. The Karakachans are a Balkan nomadic people of livestock breeders, who are considered by many historians to be descendants of the ancient Thracian livestock breeding communities. It is considered that, thanks to their extremely conservative livestock breeding traditions, Karakachan people have saved the most primitive and pure domesticated forms of animals - a sheep type "tzakel", a mountain horse and a livestock guarding dog.



In collaboration with SAVE, the Bulgarian Biodiversity Preservation Society "Semperviva", a nongovernmental, biodiversity conservation organization founded in 1997, established a conservation programme for the three breeds. This included buying and establishing a nucleus herd of sheep, establishing a "Rare Breed Centre" to keep them, buying a group of horses and stimulating and supporting the reintroduction of the Karakachan dog to the natural environment of the breed - among flocks of livestock. The Rare Breed Centre in the Pirin National Park is now the home of all three breeds plus flocks of Kalofer screw-horn longhair goats.

Future meets Past: BushaLive Project 2013

Seen as being an “urgent” subject right from the beginning of SAVE in 1993, the dwarf cattle of the Balkans have always been a part of the SAVE project work. Since the beginning of SAVE, various projects have been undertaken to conserve this special cattle breed and its varieties as part of the Balkan Network for Rare Breeds.



The Busha is particularly endangered by the changes in agriculture in the Balkans as well as crossbreeding with larger breeds. A further problem with the breed is the changing national structures in the Balkan region. This means that crossborder cooperation is a very important part of its conservation. Thus, the International Workshop on Shorthorn Cattle of the Balkans, held at Pogradec, Albania (11-13 September 2008), brought together the partners for a crossborder regional co-operation for indigenous livestock breeds of the Balkans region based on Shorthorn cattle (Busha, Illyrian, Brachyceros).

Under the UN-FAO Funding Strategy for the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources the project “BushaLive” has been accepted. Together with partners from the universities of Sarajevo and Munich, SAVE will run this project for the “determination of different types and strains of Busha Cattle in the Balkans through collection of existing information from projects and meetings e.g. of ERFP and SAVE, phenotypical characterization of different types and strains and molecular genetic analysis including the estimation of the purity of distinct subpopulations”.

A comprehensive overview in the field for the collection of Information about the situation, production, conservation and market possibilities of Busha cattle will be done as well as discussion and determination of best practice methods. The development of a crossborder in-situ conservation and data management model shall ensure a sustainable

conservation. This reflects the need for information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building within the Balkans.

The first step, a collection of the actual available information is already running. A list of the different types and strains of Busha cattle in the Balkans is in preparation. The next activity will be a phenotypical characterization on a cross-border interdisciplinary basis. A kick-off meeting will take place in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, on the 18 - 19 April 2013 before the field work starts. The aim is to discuss exact requirements for the collection of blood samples, the phenotypical characterization and detecting of the situation, production and market possibilities in the single countries and regions. Following the meeting the SAVE staff will make a short field trip. Most of the necessary field trips will take place through the experts in the respective countries. Later on in the project a workshop that is open to a wider field of stakeholders will take place. Persons with an interest in the project or who have information about Busha cattle should contact the SAVE office on office@save-foundation.net

Sustainable Agriculture in Remote Areas of Romania: Conservation and Adding Value to Fruit Varieties



Within the Swiss-Romanian Co-operation Programme, Partnership and Expert Fund, Partnership Block Grant, 1st call for proposals, the Mihai Eminescu Trust and SAVE Foundation form a partnership of a project proposal "Sustainable Agriculture in Remote Areas of Romania: Conservation and Adding Value to Fruit Varieties". With this project the conservation of fruit varieties in Transylvania will be continued with sev-

eral practical measures: A workshop with stakeholders and experts, the planning of measures and priorities with local partners shall include the local communities from the beginning on. A demonstration orchard and a core collection of traditional fruit varieties shall ensure the conservation of the most important varieties. Educational activities will promote the interest of the public in their cultural heritage and a consolidation of the local fruit expertise shall ensure the conservation activities. Besides this activities in the field there will be an exchange of information.

As it was mentioned in the previous eNews, the first steps for a successful conservation of Transylvanian fruit varieties were already done. Now important steps like the collection of scions of important varieties and their growing will be launched. We are happy to be able to collaborate within this Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme and we are looking forward to start the next important steps toward a sustainable conservation of Transylvanian fruit varieties.

Newsflash

SAVE Network Meeting 2013 and 7th European Seminar on Agrobiodiversity:

The SAVE Meeting 2013 will take place in the Netherlands 19th - 21st September. The seminar topic is **“Agrobiodiversity: a chance for agriculture and rural development”**. More information about the meeting will be published in the next eNews

Association Alparc founded



On January 18th the Association Alparc was created in the National Park La Vanoise. 36 protected areas and partner institutions from all alpine countries joint the association as founding members. This very important participation will allow to the association ALPARC to continue its successful activities which started already 17 years ago with the support of France and the French Regions Rhône Alpes and Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur but as well with contributions of other alpine countries and partner organizations. ALPARC will be as well in the future an international partner contributing to the implementation of the Alpine Convention. More Information see: www.alparc.org

SAVE Foundation accredited to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage



The General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention, during its fourth session in Paris in 2012, accredited SAVE Foundation as one of 59 new non-governmental organizations to provide such advisory services. With this accreditation SAVE Foundation will be able to bring the concerns of live conservation of old livestock and crops in the bodies of the UN Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Important dates (extract)

7-8 April: "Natural and Organic Products Europe 2013", The Natural Food Show, Natural Beauty & Spa, Health & Nutrition and Natural Living; at Grand Hall, Olympia, London UK. Web: www.naturalproducts.co.uk

11-14 April: „Markt des guten Geschmacks – die Slow Food Messe“ Stuttgart, Germany. Web: <http://www.messestuttgart.de/slowfood>

18-19 April: "BushaLive" Coordination Meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Web: <http://office@save-foundation.net>

23-27 April: Responsibility today for future viticulture – Winegrowers’ Congress 2013; Messe Stuttgart, Germany. Web: <http://www.dwv-online.de/en/information.html>; eMail: cfuchss@dwv-online.de

11-13 May: Peliti - International Seed Festival; Paranesti, Greece. Web: www.peliti.gr
Contact: peliti@peliti.gr

12-16 May: Quantitative traits breeding for multifunctional grasslands and turf; 30th Meeting of the EUCARPIA Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses Section; at Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia. Web: www.eucarpia2013.ikbks.com

29-31 May: Moving for the Future ICAR Technical Workshop 2013, Aarhus, Denmark.
<http://www.icar2013.dk>

3-6 June: Agriculture & Food; International Symposium, Elenite (near Burgas), Bulgaria.
Web: <http://www.sciencebg.net/en/> Contact: agriculture@sciencebg.net

10-12 June: 5th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas; Mittersill, Salzburg, Austria.
Web: <http://www.hohetauern.at/symposium2013> eMail: nationalpark@salzburg.gv.at

12-15 June: 2nd Meeting in Italy: "Let's cultivate diversity" at Azienda Agricola Bio Floridia, Peccioli, Italy (Tuskany). Contact: info@semirurali.net Web: www.semirurali.net

20-24 June: European Federation of City Farms - Conference 2013; in Bodø, Norway:
Contact: ingeborg.tangeraas@4h.no, Web: www.cityfarms.org/events/view/23

29 June: Opening of the seed multiplication garden at the „Kraizschouschteschgaart“, in Leudelange, Luxemburg. Web: www.kraizschouschteschgaart.info

26-30 August: EAAP 2013 Annual Meeting in Nantes, France. Web: www.eaap2013.org

19-21 September: 8th European Seed-Forum "Let's liberate diversity" Basel, Switzerland;
Web: info@prospecierara.ch

12-15 September: Problems and Perspectives of Hilly Mountain Areas; International Symposium; Ohrid, FYR Macedonia. Contact: mgs.symposium@gmail.com Web: <http://ohrid2013.igeografija.mk/>

19-21 September Let's Liberate Diversity; International Meeting in Basel, Switzerland.
Contact: info@prospecierara.ch

19-21 Sept.: Annual Meeting of the SAVE Foundation and the European SAVE Network at Biezenmortel, the Netherlands. Contact: office@save-foundation.net

20-21 September: 7th Seminar on Agrobiodiversity: "Agrobiodiversity – a chance for Agriculture and Rural Development" at Biezenmortel, The Netherlands; Web: www.save-foundation.net, Contact: office@save-foundation.net

28.September.2013: International Alpine Cheese Olympics; Themes: Food and Drinks, Tradition and Culture at Galtür, Tirol, Austria. Web: <http://tinyurl.com/cklgdky>

26-28 September 2013: Interdisciplinary Symposium Biogeography of the Carpathians: Evolution of Biodiversity in a Spatiotemporal Context in Kraków, Poland. Contact: carpathians-biogeography@botany.pl, Web: <http://bio.botany.pl/carpathians-biogeography/>

=> Further dates see: <http://www.save-foundation.net/english/actual.htm>