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Int. Agrobiodiversity Seminar: Innovative Aspects for In-Situ Conservation August 21st, 2009, Ghent

# European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net: the second year and future perspectives

August 2009


Elli Broxham, ELBARN Project Manager



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# What is ELBARN?

- A 3 year NGO-run project
- Under Work Programme of EC 870/2004

## Aims:

- To build up a network of *existing* establishments that do in-situ conservation of autochthonous breeds
- To record these in an online database containing information for both the public and the professional
- To establish breeding programmes and herdbooks where they do not already exist
- To motivate towards the establishment of "Ark and Rescue Centres"
- To secure the future of in-situ/on farm conservation
- Possible linkage with EFABIS?



# Project Partners

- **Coordinator:** The European Nature Heritage Fund, Germany
- **Manager:** SAVE Foundation, Germany
- The Society for the Conservation of Old and Endangered Livestock Breeds (GEH), Germany
- Steunpunt Leven Erfgoed (Living Heritage Centre, SLE), Belgium
- Razze Autoctone a Rischio di Estinzione (RARE), Italy



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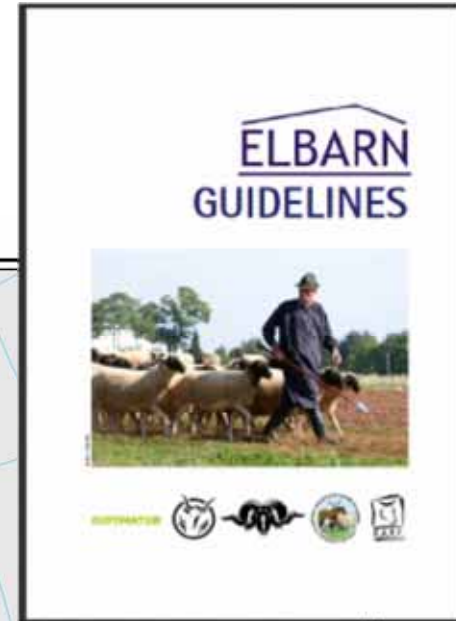
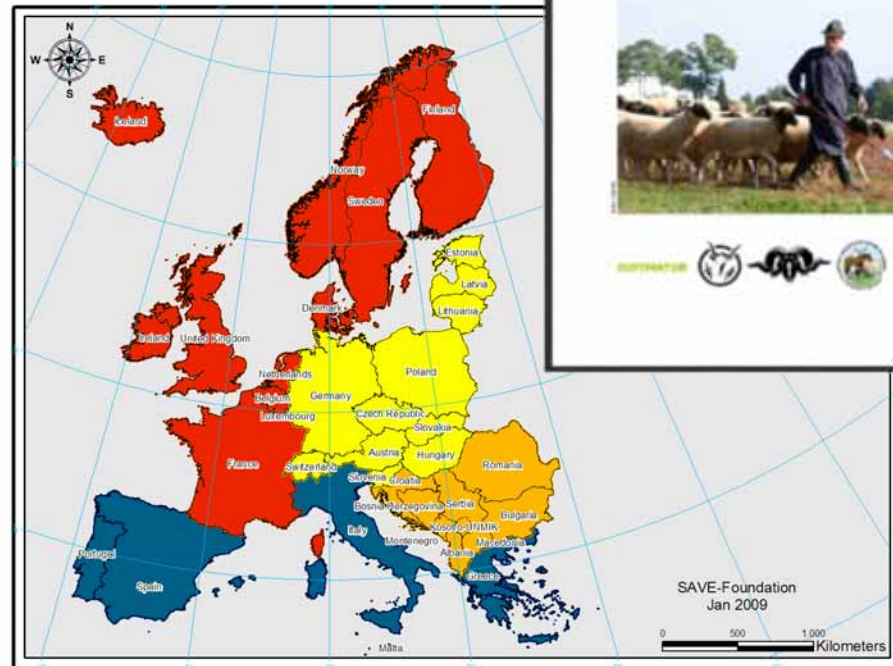
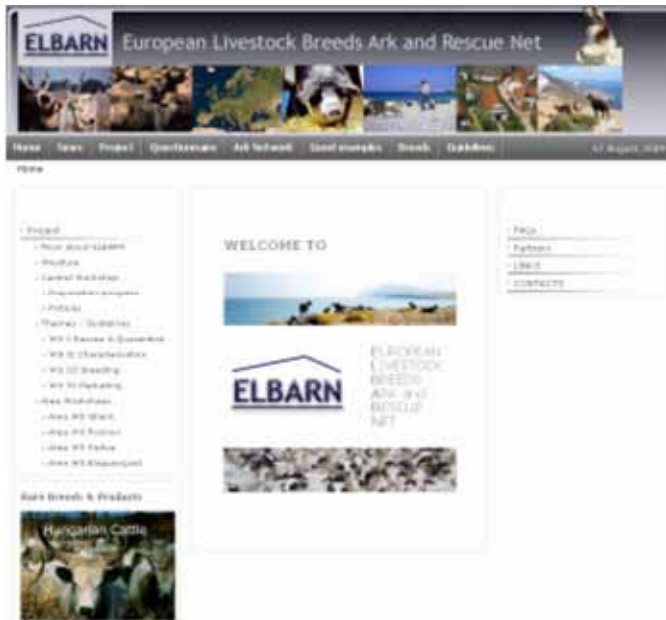
# 2nd Year of ELBARN

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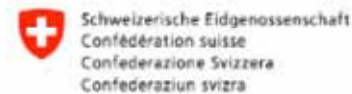
(01.06.2008 - 31.07.2009)

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- Website [www.elbarn.net](http://www.elbarn.net)
- Publication of Guidelines
- Questionnaire
- Four Workshops



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# Website

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- The ELBARN website is online at [www.elbarn.net](http://www.elbarn.net)
- regularly updated with information about the project - have a look!

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# Guidelines



## Requirements for Rescue Centres:

- Free space
- Flexible sanitary status
- Possibilities for isolation
- Readiness for collaboration - contract
- Registration as a rescue centre



## Work Plan for On-Farm Conservation Breeding:

- Monitoring: census, methods of husbandry and usage, breed characteristics
- Result: assessment of needs
- Securing all of remnant population through purchase or support at present location.
- Building up of nucleus herds
- Development of a long-term conservation plan for the breed, taking into account potential to integrate breed into agricultural production and/or other uses

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# Marketing Guidelines

## Conditions for use of trademark by ELBARN A&RCs

### Basic Conditions (all must be fulfilled):

- autochthonous breed (or breed traditional to that region)
- free range, extensive environment
- local, extensive and small scale
- valuable part of the cultural heritage
- animal welfare
- herd book or should be a member of a breeding organisation which runs a herd book

### Additional Conditions (at least half must be fulfilled):

- quality should be guaranteed (seasonal fluctuations are accepted for natural products but feeding guidelines have to be respected)
- traditional, artisan processing should be used
- the distribution should respect rules of fair trade
- manufacturing should regard as minimum EU organic regulations on organic production and labelling of organic products




Quality Guaranteed

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# Fact-Finding Questionnaire

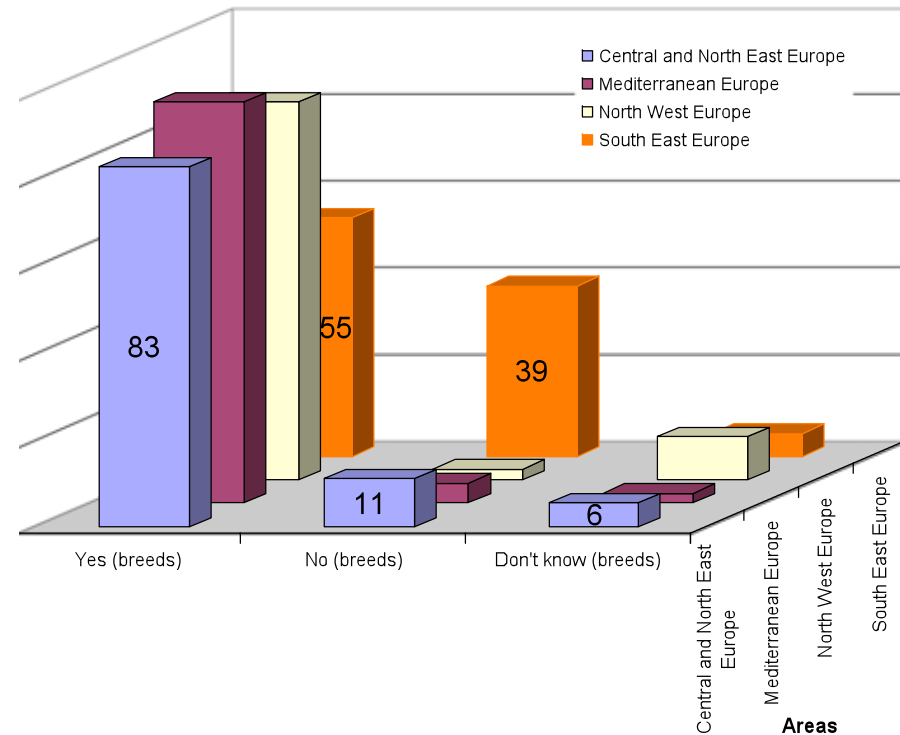
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The questionnaire was used to find out about

- regulations and legislation
- potential Ark Institutions and Rescue Centres
- where quarantine stations already exist
- breeding programmes
- how products and services are marketed
- networks and organisations that might be interested in ELBARN

It was sent to a wide range of stakeholders throughout Europe: government, research, breeders and keepers, breeding organisations, NGOs

**Register for autochthonous breeds**



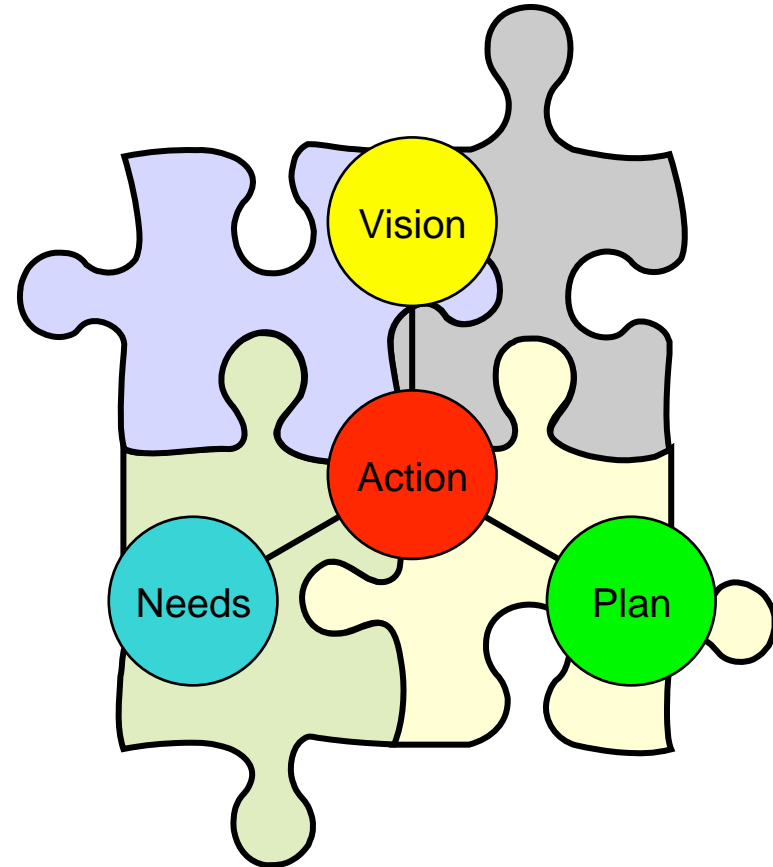
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# Area Workshops

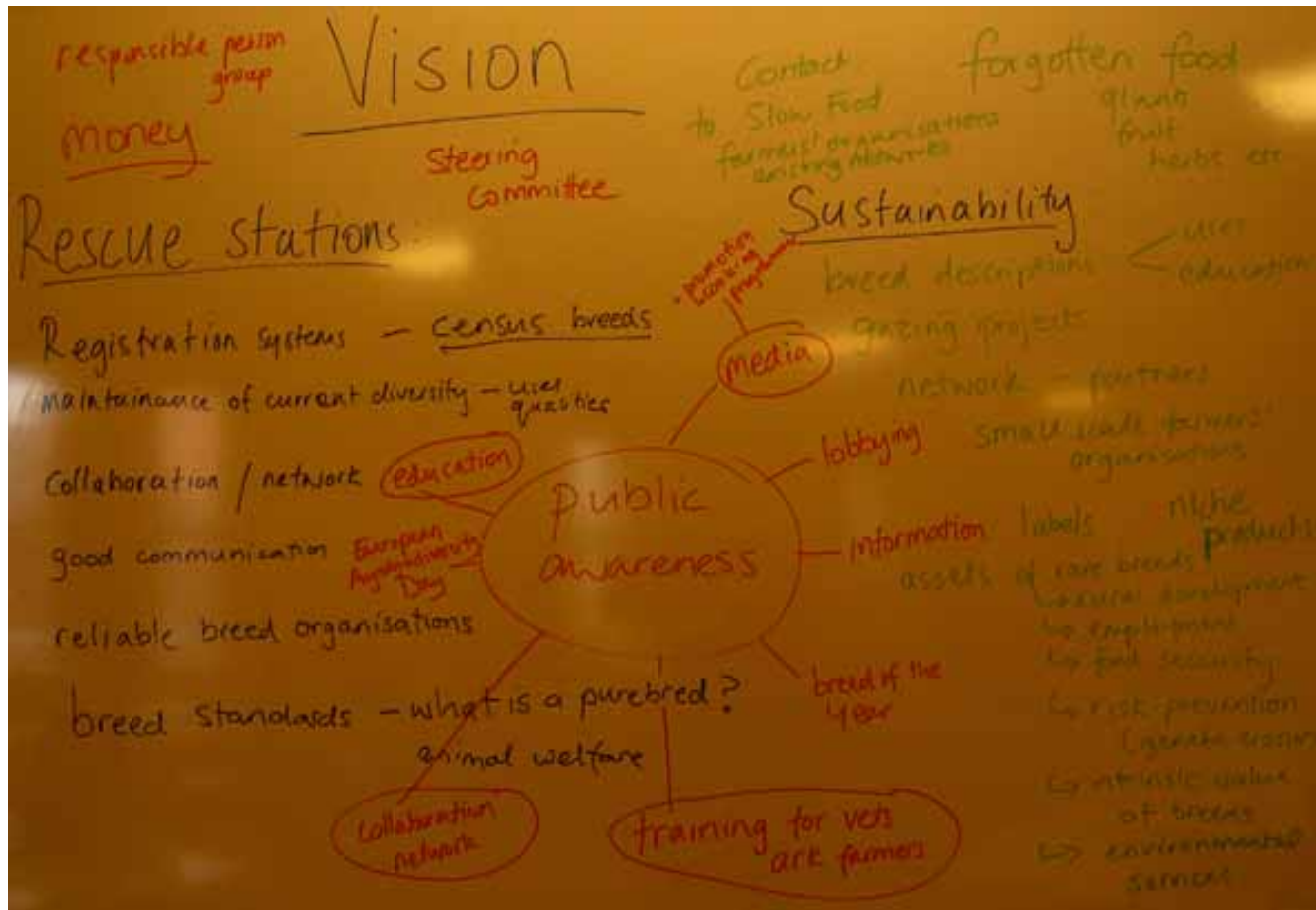
## Aim of the Area Workshops:

- To discuss issues of Area/Regional /National relevance
- To draw up an Area Action Plan
- Four Workshops held in Ghent, Roznov, Legnaro and Blagoevgrad
- Work Groups discussed Rescue, Sustainability, Breeding, Marketing, finding possible Ark Stations and other issues that were relevant in the Area.
- The Area Action Plans are currently being written.



# Photos from the Area Workshops

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## Ghent – Speakers and Plenary


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# Ghent – Plenary and Excursion

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# Roznov – Plenary and Work Groups

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## Roznov - Excursion

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## Legnaro - Plenary


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## Legnaro - Excursion

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# Impressions from Blagoevgrad

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## Blagoevgrad - Excursion

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# Next Steps

- Improving and filling the database
- Contacting and/or visiting potential ark or rescue centres
- Improving the “products” section of Arca-Net
- Publishing Area Action Plans
- Promoting the project through publicity materials, e.g. a book of recommendations and best practice case studies



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# Future Perspectives


- The first phase of ELBARN (EU funded) is in its last year – what comes next?
- Concrete steps for building up new A&RCs or improving existing ones
- Implementing the Action Plans
- Creating the ELBARN Task Force (pan-European)
- Lobbying for legislation changes and improvements

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# Thank you for your attention!



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