



### *Belgium*

## The non-profit organization 'Steunpunt Levend Erfgoed'(SLE) is building a qualitative and sustainable network of Living Heritage Farms in Flanders



**Old livestock breeds to look and touch - at the Bokrijk open-air museum in Genk, Limburg, Belgium**  
(<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/bokrijk-limburg>)

SLE has been making efforts to preserve our living heritage for more than 25 years. These are the old breeds of domesticated animals that used to be kept on the farm or the farmyard. Many of these breeds have become rare, some already extinct. They include species "from pigeon to horse": pigeons, rabbits, bantams, dwarf and large fowl, turkeys, ducks, geese, dogs, sheep, goats, pigs, cattle and horses.

Many authorities, associations, organisations, companies and individuals are willing to work together to save those old breeds. To structure and anchor those efforts and actions and enable appropriate support, SLE developed and launched the 'Living Heritage Farm Label' (LEHL) at the end of 2018. This quality and guarantee label has the first objective of preserving the authentic rare breeds in a qualitative

and sustainable way and also to continue to inform and raise awareness among the general public about the importance of our living heritage.

The award of this 'Living Heritage Farm Label' is a recognition of selected initiatives that qualitatively and sustainably put the objectives of SLE into practice. It is an incentive and support for the recognised living heritage farm to continue their efforts to keep, preserve and/or display our authentic rare breeds to the general public. They keep living heritage in a way that can serve as an example, promotion and inspiration for other interested parties. In any case, old Belgian breeds are kept or bred on this farms in an extensive and animal-friendly way.

It is a quality label that gives the Living Heritage Farm additional charisma and authority. The recognised Living Heritage Farms meet specific conditions that benefit the institution of living heritage and provide the necessary guarantees for animal welfare. The recognition is valid for five years and is partner- and site-specific.



The „Living Heritage Farm“ label of the SLE  
<https://sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel>

The label clarifies that at the 'Living Heritage Farm' (LEH) involved, work is being done to preserve our original breeds. It is a place where this genetic heritage is kept alive. The Living Heritage Farms are the ambassadors to whom reference can be made to learn about our living heritage everywhere 'in the field'.

They are SLE's privileged partners, they are supported by SLE, can call on SLE's communication tools and are given a permanent presence at [www.sle.be](http://www.sle.be). They receive formal recognition and a shield from SLE and may use the Living Heritage Farm label (LEHL) in their communications.

SLE promotes the 'Living Heritage Farm' and its associated activities and gives it extra exposure. It also supports the sale of their breed-compliant animals. SLE provides a forum to exchange information and experiences. And SLE also helps find solutions in case problems arise.

Since its launch, the Living Heritage Farms network has been carefully expanded step by step. During Heritage Week in April this year, dedicated to animals, the 'Living Heritage Farm Label'(LEHL) was awarded to two new places. Besides the urban petting zoo De Zeven Torentjes in Bruges, the provincial domain Bokrijk was included in the network of inspiring examples where living heritage is highlighted and whose participants can create added value through a win-win action. This brought the number of living heritage farms awarded the LEH Label to 11.

SLE hopes to add the Puyenbroeck domain in Wachtebeke to its network of living heritage farms in the near future. Through the 'Living Heritage Park', the Province of East Flanders, in constructive cooperation with SLE, has been working since 2004 to preserve authentic local breeds of farm and farmyard animals. Very nice to see how young and old are made aware of the importance of living heritage. The largest collection in Flanders of our original local breeds is permanently presented to the public. The park displays a collection of different breeds of local breeds of pigeons, chickens, ducks, geese, goats, sheep, cows and draft horses. The educational approach of the Living Heritage Learning Path also contributes to this.

Companies, governments or other bodies that do not keep living heritage animals themselves, but still actively work to preserve our Living Heritage, can become 'Living Heritage Farm promoters'. Finally, there is also the 'Living Heritage Farm (LEH) - product holder'. Eligible for this are institutions, organisations or companies that market products derived from Living Heritage Animals, originating from an LEH. It is the intention of SLE to be able to preserve heritage breeds genetically sustainable through all these initiatives so that future generations can still admire them in the flesh

SLE will continue its efforts to further expand the Living Heritage Farms (LEH) network and to keep this initiative alive and promote it to the general public.



The 11 living heritage farms that successfully completed the accession procedure and proudly display their living heritage label are:

### 1. 't Poldrietje - West Flanders

't Poldrietje was the first Living Heritage Farm to obtain the recognition. They keep poultry and sheep on a fairly extensive area, almost all of it is living heritage.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/t-poldrietje-west-vlaanderen>

### 2. Hof ter Hoeven - Flemish Brabant

Hof ter Hoeven is a small square farm developed as a nature project and holiday home. The animals they breed are: Mergelland sheep, Blue of Ham rabbit, Stone rabbit, Goldbrakel chickens, Yellow of Haspengouw chickens and Flemish goose. Other breeds on their farm are the rabbit breeds Pearl Grey of Halle and Belgian Silver and the poultry breeds Basette, Flemish Cuckoo and Silverbrakel.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/hof-ter-hoeven-vlaams-brabant>

### 3. De schaeperie - West Flanders

De schaeperie is an old restored farmstead. The farmyard is in the middle of the Houtland, so which breed of sheep suited it better than Houtland sheep to graze the land. Some 20 ewes have now been bred there since 2012 and are selected according to the breed standard. A beautiful Houtland buck provides the offspring. Of course, all animals are registered in the studbook of Steunpunt Levend Erfgoed as they should be.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/de-schaeperie-west-vlaanderen>

### 4. Aan de lange Haeg - Limburg

Frans Creemers owns a herd of Ardennes fox head sheep and he keeps them on the property 'Aan de lange Haeg' in Oudsbergen. The Ardennes fox heads are used for grazing in the Itterbeek valley nature reserve.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/aan-de-lange-haeg-limburg>

### 5. Kinderboerderij Rivierenhof - Antwerp

The Rivierenhof petting zoo is part of the park of the same name, a green area owned by the Province of Antwerp. The children's farm was established in 1975. For several years now, it has focused on keeping local breeds. A Belgian draught horse, a Belgian warmblood horse, Kempen cattle, a flock of Kempen

sheep, a flock of Malinois chickens and Red Ardennes turkeys have been running around the farm for quite some time. With the attainment of the Living Heritage Farm label, even more effort is being put into heritage breeds. Thus, Malinois turkey heads and Antwerp bearded bantams have also arrived, and in the future they hope to welcome Kempen goats and Antwerp smierels.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/kinderboerderij-rivierenhof-antwerpen>

#### 6. GO! Atheneum Heist - Antwerp

GO! Atheneum Heist started with the study of agriculture and horticulture in September 2018. Since the school has to keep several animal species for this department, they choose to contribute to maintaining living heritage. The school has five Kempen sheep ewes, six Flemish sheep ewes and three Kempen cows. All these animals are bred. As poultry, there are breeding Malinois turkey heads, Malinois grouse, Tournai bantam, Zwalm Valley grouse and Flemish geese. Local breeds of rabbits, Flemish goats and Belgian landrace pigs will be added in the future.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/go-atheneum-heist-antwerpen>

#### 7. Kinderboerderij De Bogaard - Antwerp

De Bogaard Children's Farm was completely renovated in 2022. With the renovation of the infrastructure in 2022, a resolute choice was made to change

the animal stock to a stock of Living Heritage breeds with extra attention for the breeds from the province of Antwerp and the Kempen region. In this way they want to introduce both the general public and students of the Animal Care department to Living Heritage.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/kinderboerderij-de-bogaard-antwerpen>

#### 8. Ferme NeElke - Antwerp

What started with three sheep and a few chickens has grown into a small farm, a living heritage farm. Most of their animals are part of a breeding programme because they are living heritage. They have a unique "Kempen quartet" running around: Kempen goats, Kempen sheep, Kempen poultry and Kempen cattle.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/ferme-neelke-antwerpen>

#### 9. Hof te Weyenbrouck - East Flanders

Hof te Weyenbrouck is an old square farmstead that was already mentioned in the 13th century as a leasehold farm of the abbey of Affligem. The current buildings date from 1751. The animals enjoy a free range on the orchard. They have a nice number of Brabant poultry, Red Ardennes turkeys and Laeken sheep.





<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/hof-te-weyenbrouck-oost-vlaanderen>

#### 10. Bokrijk – Limburg

This open-air museum focuses on heritage in all its forms: movable and immovable, intangible, natural, documentary ... and of course living heritage. In collaboration with Steunpunt Levend Erfgoed, they participate in a breeding programme for the preservation



of local animal breeds. This is bearing fruit: a lot of living heritage is regularly born in the Dove House,

the beautifully restored museum farm, such as Ardennes fox head lambs, Entre Sambre et Meuse lambs, Blue of Ham rabbits, Kempen red and Red West Flemish calves and many more.

<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/bokrijk-limburg>

#### 11. De 7 Torentjes - West Flanders

Children's farm De Zeven Torentjes is an established value in Bruges and far beyond. Today this 14th-century farm is home to a cheerful, active children's farm. The poultry and small animals you find there give a good impression of what rural life once looked like. If you visit the meadows and stables, you will discover the Living Heritage breeds: the Red cow of West Flanders, Ronquière turkeys, Goldenbrakel chickens, Flemish Giant rabbits, Blue ham rabbits, Belgian Hare Rabbit and Belgian Landrace/Pietrain pigs. In this way, they aim to introduce visitors to Living Heritage. In this way, they learn about the issues surrounding the preservation of these breeds.



<https://www.sle.be/wat-doen-we/levend-erfgoedhoflabel/de-7-torentjes-west-vlaanderen>

*Jan Martens, Steunpunt Levend Erfgoed, Belgium*

### European Union

## Proposals of the European Commission on the new Seed Regulation and on new genetic engineering techniques in plant breeding

Just published at the beginning of July 2023, there is already a debate about the proposals for the new EU Seed Regulation and new genetic engineering techniques. What are the proposals about and are they a cause for concern? Our partner Arche Noah from Austria and the Swiss Commission for the Conservation of Cultivated Plants have compiled information that sheds light on various points of the proposals.

# Seed law reform and new genetic engineering: double attack on our seeds!

*EU proposals fuel monopolisation at the expense of farmers and consumers*

*Press release 5 July 2023*

**Brussels, Vienna, Schiltern – Today the European Commission presented the a package of legislation in relation to "sustainable use of natural resources", which includes the new "EU Seed Regulation" and a legislative proposal to deregulate the "New Genetic Engineering". "We are dismayed by this attack on our seeds and crop diversity in Europe," says Magdalena Prieler, policy officer for ARCHE NOAH in Brussels. "With these proposals we run the risk of global corporations gaining complete control over our food. Agriculture Ministers and the European Parliament must act to protect farmers, consumers, and biodiversity!"**

According to ARCHE NOAH, which has hands on expertise in the cultivation and sustainable use of the cultivated plant diversity, the proposed seed marketing regulation burdens the transfer of diverse seeds with excessive rules, to the detriment of agriculture and crop diversity. Any transfer of seeds outside the private sphere is classified as "marketing" and subjected to strict bureaucratic regulations. Even the transfer of seeds for the preservation of diversity, which has so far been freely possible in Austria for example, is to be tightly restricted. "Seed initiatives, gene banks and farmer networks all over Europe preserve the genetic diversity of cultivated plants. This valuable work must not be endangered by bureaucratic and impractical requirements," demands Magdalena Prieler of ARCHE NOAH.

Today is also a dark day for farmers who want to preserve their independence from the big seed corporations. According to the current draft, they are only allowed to exchange their own seeds in small quantities and under certain conditions. Selling is no longer possible. Public gene banks, private collections and seed initiatives are also no longer allowed to give their seeds to farmers. "The draft denies farmers their right to seed! Important alternatives to industrial seed are being destroyed. Our farmers want to be able to decide for themselves which seeds they buy and cultivate, not least in order to adapt their fields to the climate crisis," says Prieler.

ARCHE NOAH demands that the dissemination and sustainable use of crop diversity be expressly permitted and that all regulations that hinder this work be deleted from the seed law. Furthermore, the right of farmers to harvest, use, exchange and sell their own seeds, as enshrined in international law, must be implemented. ARCHE NOAH welcomes the fact that the sale of seeds to hobby gardeners is exempted from the obligation to certify varieties. Private exchange and sale should remain completely free, but this concession to diversity does not mitigate the serious shortcomings in other parts of the legislation.

ARCHE NOAH sees the planned deregulation of new genetic engineering as a further burden for the (GMO-free) conservation of cultivated plant diversity. "Our farmers would be at the mercy of powerful agrochemical corporations like Bayer, BASF, Corteva and Syngenta, which already control more than half of the global seed market." Patents on GM plants provide exclusive rights to the use of certain important traits and block the development of new varieties," warns Magdalena Prieler of ARCHE NOAH. "The use of disease resistances that are essential for survival must not be privatised. New genetic engineering is first and foremost a tool for corporations to squeeze their competitors out of the market and expand further their control over our food system."

The EU Seed Regulation proposed today will replace ten existing directives. It regulates the production and marketing of seeds and other plant propagating material (potatoes, fruit plants, etc). With the new regulation, the European Commission intends to adapt the outdated seed legislation to the goals of the European Green Deal. "We urgently need more diversity in our fields and on our plates to counteract the climate and biodiversity crisis and to produce tasty, healthy food. Unfortunately, this draft does not achieve that," Prieler notes.

In the coming days, the European Parliament and the Council of Agriculture Ministers will start their work on the draft legislation. A first exchange is planned for the Council meeting on 25 July. "Agriculture Ministers and the Parliament have a lot of work to do: They must demand farmers' right to

seeds and protect crop diversity from overregulation and patents! Because genetic diversity is our insurance against the challenges of tomorrow ", Magdalena Prieler summarises.

*Axel Grunt, ARCHE NOAH, Association for the Conservation and Dissemination of Cultivated Plant Diversity, Austria*

*The Swiss Commission for the Conservation of Cultivated Plants (SKEK) goes into more detail about new genetic engineering methods in plant breeding:*

## Proposal on the new genomic techniques



On 5 July 2023, the EU Commission published the "Food and Biodiversity Package", including its proposal for the deregulation of New Genetic Engineering (NGT).

The proposal provides two different routes for marketing of plants produced using NGT:

**1. Plants from NGT that could also be obtained naturally or through conventional breeding techniques:** These plants are treated like plants from conventional breeding techniques and are therefore exempt from the requirements of GMO legislation. No risk assessment is carried out for these plants and they can be labelled as plants from conventional breeding technique.

**2. All other plants derived from NGT:** are subject to current GMO legislation. They are therefore subject to a risk assessment and have to go through an approval procedure.

It is interesting to note that route 1 only refers to plants produced by targeted mutagenesis and cis-genesis (and their products intended for human or animal consumption). Plants produced using NGTs that introduce genetic material from another species with which crosses are not possible (transgenesis) are regulated by existing GMO legislation.

The EU Commission justifies route 1 with the fact that the changes brought about by NGT can also occur naturally or be produced by conventional breeding techniques.

The EU Commission argues that NGT can contribute to the sustainability goals of the European Green Deal and the farm-to-fork strategy. The EU Commission hopes that thanks to the relatively simple and rapid applicability of NGT, new plants will be bred that are less susceptible to pests and diseases and better adapted to the effects of climate change. A positive economic effect through more innovations and easier and faster marketing is also expected.

The NGT proposal has been strongly criticised by many stakeholders, from NGOs working to promote crop diversity and nature conservation, to small farmers and researchers specialising in the issue of GMOs in agriculture, to politicians. The Greens Conference on 6 July 2023 brought together many of these stakeholders in the presence of Claire Bury, Director General for Health and Food Safety at the EU Commission. The following comments and arguments were raised against the proposal:

- **The proposal redefines the term GMO**, which has been in force for about thirty years. Route 1 specifies that genetically modified plants using NGT will be treated as conventional plants. Due to the lack of risk assessment and labelling, it will no longer be possible to determine whether a plant not labelled as GMO is a plant from conventional breeding or a plant genetically modified by NGT. Ultimately, modified plants will be mixed with conventional or natural plants.
- **This raises the question of consumer freedom of choice.** The abolition of the labelling obligation undermines consumers' freedom of choice. In the long term, they will no longer be able to avoid plants modified by NGT.



- **Loss of on-farm biodiversity management** induced by farmers' inability to distinguish between conventional and NGT crops and seeds.
- **The future of the organic sector and other labels:** is it assured if one cannot distinguish between a natural and an NGT product?
- **The omission of risk assessment for NGT plants negates the precautionary principle:** "The so-called new genetic engineering is and remains a risk technology with an uncertain outcome and must undergo a strict approval procedure with risk assessment. In times when no vacuum cleaner can be put on the market without a test label and no public building can be approved without a fire safety certificate, no company and no laboratory should be allowed to make changes in the genome with a free pass, the unintended effects of which cannot be controlled," explains Martin Häusling, member of the Green Party in the European Parliament.
- **GMOs promote the concentration of large multinationals in the seed market,** according to a [study presented by Dominic Glover of the University of Sussex](#), which takes into account the experience of patented GMOs in the USA and other countries. This concentration limits farmers' choices and means a reduction in the varieties used, especially in the organic sector.
- **The issue of patenting NGT plants is not addressed in the proposed legislation.** According to non-profit organisations, deregulation could lead to an increasing monopolisation of the seed market by multinationals through patents on NGT seeds.
- **Licence fees:** Small companies with few resources are dependent on the big ones to profit from the technologies..

- **Deregulation affects not only agricultural plants,** but also algae, trees, etc..

Another key point of criticism concerns the lack of an opt-out option for EU member states: The proposal would not allow cultivation to be restricted at national level.

In light of these comments, Claire Bury replied that the proposal is due to come into force in 2026 and NGOs have until then to provide facts that could perhaps influence the content of the proposal.

*Swiss Commission for the Conservation of Cultivated Plants, Bern*

[https://www.cpc-skek.ch/articles-detail.html?tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bcontrol%5D=News&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bnews%5D=2029&cHash=ba0a96b5cda50dca09313a2f56a2b55b](https://www.cpc-skek.ch/articles-detail.html?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontrol%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=2029&cHash=ba0a96b5cda50dca09313a2f56a2b55b)

#### Further information:

##### FAQ:

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/de/qanda\\_23\\_3568](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/de/qanda_23_3568)

##### Proposal (English):

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/genetically-modified-organisms/new-techniques-biotechnology\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/genetically-modified-organisms/new-techniques-biotechnology_en)

##### Press release BUND:

<https://www.bund.net/themen/aktuelles/detail-aktuelles/news/neue-gentechnik-regeln-der-eu-opferwahlfreiheit-und-vorsorgeprinzip/>

##### Study of the University of Sussex:

The possible deregulation of certain GMOS in the EU : What would the implications be? A pathways analysis, Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament.

## Austria

# New patent law makes Austria a pioneer in Europe

Free availability is a key factor: if all plant varieties available on the market are freely usable for further breeding, this gives a powerful boost to plant breeding in Europe. However, the practice is different. In recent years, the European Patent Office (EPO) has granted around 300 patents on conventionally bred plants. Without the consent of the patent holders, the varieties concerned cannot be used to bring better varieties onto the market and to market them. Even the Federal

Association of German Plant Breeders has already expressed concern about these patents. On 20 May 2023, the long-awaited new patent law came into force in Austria. This amendment brings us a big step closer to ending the abuse of patents throughout Europe.

"The new law explicitly excludes all methods of classical plant breeding from patentability," says Katherine Dolan, Head of Policy at ARCHE NOAH,



Association for the Conservation and Dissemination of Cultivated Plant Diversity.

Even if the Austrian law is not binding for future EPO decisions, it is a clear signal for a general Europe-wide ban on patents on conventional breeding. Patents on malting barley or maize, as they have been granted in recent years, are now no longer possible in Austria. "A good day for the Austrian and European brewing industry," says Nikolaus Riegler, owner of the private brewery Hirt and spokesman for the Independent Private Breweries of Austria, welcoming the reform. "This way, raw material security as well as diversity of taste and variety can continue to exist sustainably and for future generations."

Conventionally bred plants - without the use of genetic engineering - may not be patented in Europe. However, corporations such as Bayer, BASF, Syngenta and Corteva have been able to circumvent this ban due to weaknesses in patent law. The amendment now corrects these weaknesses. First, the definition of "essentially biological processes of breeding" has been expanded to include "non-targeted mutagenesis" and the use of "random genetic modifications occurring in nature". These processes and their results are excluded from patentability. Secondly,

the effect of patents on genetically modified plants and animals was restricted. To this end, a general research privilege was introduced: Breeders are thus allowed to work with patented plants in research and breeding even without a licence agreement. In addition, patent rights are limited to technical processes and the plants directly resulting from them. Thus, genetic engineering patents can no longer hinder conventional plant breeding or endanger farmers' livelihoods.

Now it is the turn of the European level: similar clarifications of patent law are necessary to prevent patents on conventionally bred plants. "The tightening of the Austrian patent law will trigger a new debate on seed patents at the European level," explains Katherine Dolan. Following the Austrian success, ARCHE NOAH is now campaigning together with its European partners in the "No Patents on Seeds!" alliance for a corresponding decision by the EPO Administrative Council. "The development in Austria is being followed very closely by many governments, the EU Commission and the EU Parliament. It is quite possible that some countries will follow suit and follow the Austrian example," Dolan hopes.

*Axel Grunt, ARCHE NOAH, Association for the Conservation and Dissemination of Cultivated Plant Diversity, Austria*

## Hungary

# Haplotype diversity of the Kecskemét sheep

The Yellow-faced sheep of Kecskemét or Sand-sheep, currently known as a variant of Yellow-faced Berke sheep (Fig. 1). This variant lives in small population, which is mainly found in the Danube-Tisza Interfluve, in Hungary as it was reported in a previous SAVE e-News (Edition 1/2021).

Now, our aim is to present the maternal background and maternal genetic diversity of that sheep. For this, the nucleotide sequence of the control region (CR) of the mitochondrial genome (mtDNA) is used. These were compared with data from GenBank and other native breeds from Hungary in order to contrast the differences and similarities between these.

The number of CR haplogroups (HG) and haplotypes (HT) identified were three and 21, respectively (Fig. 2). Haplogroup A has one haplotype (HT), haplogroup B has 19 HT, while haplogroup C



**Figure 1: Hoggets of the Kecskemét sheep**

has also one HT. Figure 2 reveals the taxonomic location of the individuals of the Kecskemét sheep in relation to each other and to the individuals used as controls. The 34 individuals are closely related

to the previously defined HG B of the sheep. The mouflon also belongs to this HG. It can be seen that the native breeds Cikta, Tsigai and Polled Racka also show individuals that are in this HG. Four individuals belong to HG A. Haplogroup C was detected with two individuals. So far, C has only been determined in the Cikta of our domestic sheep. However, it was not possible to detect HGs E and D in the Kecskemét sheep. Urial and Argali, included as out-groups, as distant relatives of the domestic sheep, are clearly separated from all of them.

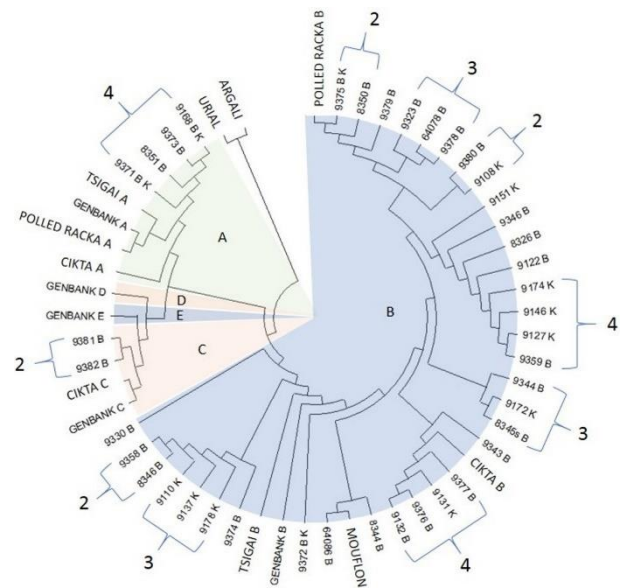
Haplogroup B is the most common among Kecskemét sheep specimens (34.85%). This haplogroup is characteristic of European sheep domesticated in the Middle East, and correspondingly also of other native Hungarian sheep (97% in Tsigai, 81% in Cikta and 86% in Polled Racka). In the case of Cikta and Polled Racka sheep, the proportion of HG A is 12% and 14%, respectively, while this haplogroup is also present in Tsigai, but much less typically (3%). In the Kecskemét sheep, it can be considered a very special result that we observed the occurrence of HG C (2.5%). This haplogroup is characteristic of Inner Asia and in the Indian subcontinent and has so far only been detected in Cikta (9%) of the Hungarian native breeds. In Europe, HG C has only been found in the Mediterranean region. The presence of haplogroup C supports the view that sheep came to Hungary not only from Asia Minor, but also from the interior of Asia in the past.

## Danube region

# DAGENE Annual Meeting

DAGENE, partner of SAVE Foundation, held its 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and Annual Meeting with conference in March 2023 at Babolna Stud Farm, Hungary. 34 participants from nine countries attended the meeting.

The General Assembly elected the Dagene Officials for a fixed period of 4 years, starting 2023: Dr. András Gáspárdy as President, Dr. Ante Ivanković as Vice-President, Dr. Peter Chrenek as Vice-President and further members of the board. The outgoing Vice President Professor Marcel Matiuți was an active member of DAGENE for decades. He enthusiastically organized several DAGENE meetings in Romania. Professor Marcel Matiuți was bestowed the title of Honorary President and DAGENE will maintain a close relationship with him and the Transylvanian Rare Breed Association.



**Figure 2: The composition of the Kecskemét sheep according to CR haplotype and haplogroup.**

*Dr András Gáspárdy, University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest, Hungary*

The project is implemented with the support of the European Union, with the co-financing of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (VEKOP-2.3.2.-16-2016-00012). Project leader at University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest: Dr. András Gáspárdy

DAGENE wishes him a peaceful and healthy retirement!





Prof. Walter Hecker gave the opening lecture of the conference and with an insight into the 225-year history of the Bábolna stud. After that, 20 lectures were given in two sections. From the venue of the meeting, the participants travelled by carriages to Csikótelep (foal site) to visit studs, see breeding mares and foals. By carriages back to the Stud Farm where the program began with a presentation of the breeding stallions of Shagya Arabian and Arabian Thoroughbred, then the program was followed by a guided tour of the Stud Farm, Tattersall, stables, Stud Museum and carriage collection.

*Dr. András Gáspárdy, DAGENE, Hungary*

*Note: For German-speaking readers: there is a great documentary in German television about the Danube which – as it passes 10 countries on its way from the spring to the sea – is the most international river of the world.*

<https://www.ardmediathek.de/video/erlebnis-erde/flussgiganten-2-die-donau/das-erste/Y3JpZDovL2Rhc2Vyc3RILmRIL2VybgGVibml-zlGVyZGUvMjAyMy0wNC0yNF8yMC0xNS1NRVNa>

## Europe

# Livestock and Climate Change

Climate change and the role of local breeds is the topic of an Erasmus+ KA220 project (LIVECLIC – Sustainable adaptation of livestock production to climate change) financed by UE. LIVECLIC aims to develop training courses and strengthen the competences of specific professionals in the agri-food sector, thus making them critical actors for change in promoting specific EU Green Deal strategies, as well as to promote the exchange of best practices among the partner countries (Estonia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Tunisia and Morocco). Competences are related mainly to the role of local breeds and their adaptation to climate change. The Italian RARE Association (Associazione Razze autoctone a Rischio di Estinzione) is a stakeholder of the Italian partner of LIVECLIC, the University of Torino. The number and risk status of small ruminant local breeds in the Mediterranean area shows that 42.7% of the local breeds are endangered or extinct while there is no information concerning the risk status for 19.1% of them. This percentage of breeds classified as “unknown” is particularly high in developing countries, with a mean of 45.5% considering North African countries (i.e. Morocco and Tunisia). Thanks to the specialists of RARE, the

University of Torino organizes and participates to meetings with breeders, farmers and students to explain the genetic and epigenetic mechanisms of climate adaptation for planning programs that increase the production efficiency of local breeds without compromising their adaptive traits.

*Riccardo Fortina, R.A.R.E., Italy*

<https://livecllic.emu.ee/ee/livecllic>



LIVECLIC



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Arca-Deli Award 2023

Show your customers that your products are special!

The Arca-Deli Award is given annually to selected delicacies produced with old livestock breeds or old varieties. Innovative services provided by farmers and breeders of old breeds and varieties can also be awarded. Each awarded product/service receives a certificate and the right to use the Arca Deli® logo in connection with the year of the award.

This year's Arca-Deli Awards will be given on 27 September 2023 at the SAVE Annual Meeting in Fredericia, Denmark. Only institutions registered on Arca-Net ([www.arca-net.info](http://www.arca-net.info)) or members of partner organisations of the SAVE Foundation are allowed to participate.



The following conditions must be met:

- ♦ Livestock and/or crops belong to an autochthonous breed or variety of the region.
- ♦ Production is local and not industrial
- ♦ the livestock breeds and/or crop varieties are valuable for the local cultural heritage
- ♦ No GMOs have been used
- ♦ The farm animal is pure bred and kept according to documented traditional husbandry methods, the applicable animal welfare regulations are complied with (basis is the EU regulation).

Further information and the application form can be found on: <https://save-foundation.net/pan-european/>

**The closing date for applications is 15 September 2023.**

If you are attending the SAVE Annual Meeting, you can bring your products to the venue. Otherwise, you can send your products to our partner organization in Denmark:

Knuthenlund  
Dalbyvej 7  
4943 Torrig  
Denmark

or to the SAVE network office in the Netherlands:

SAVE Network Office  
Gebouw De Valk  
Dreijenlaan 2  
6703 HA Wageningen  
The Netherlands

Products sent by post must be received at one of the two addresses above **by 20 September 2023 at the latest** in order to be considered for this year's Arca-Deli Award.

## SAVE Foundation wild fruit brochure: recipes for the preparation of wild fruits

In 2019, the largest wild fruit collection in Europe was established by the SAVE Foundation in Mogelsberg, Canton St. Gall, Switzerland. Now harvesting can take place. The SAVE Foundation has produced a recipe brochure so that fine food and drinks can be created after the harvest. The brochure can be ordered from the SAVE project office in St. Gall for a contribution towards expenses of 5,-CHF plus shipping costs. Currently the SAVE Wild Fruit Recipe Brochure is available in German language.



### Vorbereitung zum Bearbeiten von Wildobst und -blüten

- 7 Ernte
- 8 Früchte entbittern
- 10 Flaschen und Gläser sterilisieren

### Basisverfahren

- 13 Sirup/Saft gekocht
- 13 Sirup Zuckerauszug
- 14 Sirup Blütenauszug
- 15 Likör
- 17 Gelee
- 18 Fruchtleder und Pastila
- 19 Konfitüre
- 20 Kompott
- 21 Beeren, Blüten und Blätter trocknen
- 22 Kandierte Früchte
- 23 Wildobst pikant eingelegt
- 24 Wildobst in Essig
- 25 Wildobst Chutney

### Rezepte für ausgewählte Beeren und Früchte

- 27 Vogelbeere
- 28 Vogelbeeren kandieren
- 30 Vogelbeer Chutney
- 31 Berberitze Trockenfrüchte
- 32 Scheinquitte/Zierquitte
- 32 Falscher Zitronensaft
- 33 Fruchtmus verwerten
- 33 Falsche Ananas
- 34 Schneeball
- 35 Schneeball-Fruchtaufstrich
- 35 Fruchtaufstrich mit Orangen
- 36 Sanddornquark
- 37 Clafoutis mit Maulbeeren
- 38 Holunderbeersuppe



## SAVE Foundation on Social Media

Would you like to receive news from the SAVE Foundation more often? Follow the SAVE Foundation on social media!



<https://ch.linkedin.com/company/save-foundation>



<https://www.facebook.com/SAVEagrobiodiversity/>  
(NEW Facebook page!)



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VarietySavers>

## FUNDUS Agri-Cultura Alpina - revised website

FUNDUS Agri-Cultura Alpina ist eine Wissensdatenbank in Form eines Wiki, das die SAVE Foundation initiiert und aufgebaut hat. Unser Partner, die Schweizerische Kommission für die Erhaltung von Kulturpflanzen (SKEK), ist für die französischsprachige Seite der Plattform zuständig. Nun wurde die Webseite FUNDUS Agri-Cultura Alpina überarbeitet und die Benutzerfreundlichkeit erhöht.

<https://fundus-agricultura.wiki/>



## *We appreciate your support*

### **Bank details**

Raiffeisenbank St.Gallen, CH-9001 St.Gallen

Account in Swiss Francs (CHF):  
IBAN: CH04 8080 8001 9930 3730 4  
SWIFT: RAIFCH22XXX



Account in Euro (EUR):  
IBAN: CH27 8080 8008 5839 3255 6  
BIC / SWIFT: RAIFCH22XXX

Account holder: Verein zur Förderung der SAVE Foundation Schweiz, Neugasse 30, 9000 St.Gallen

### **TWINT**



***Thank you very much for your support!***