

GA 2020  
Brussels



# 2020 annual report



EUROPEAN RURAL POULTRY  
ASSOCIATION

# 2019 annual report

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Who is ERPA?

What are rural poultry?

Who are ERPA members?

What are ERPA activities?



Who is  
ERPA?

🐓 ERPA is the first European network representing (professional) producers of **rural poultry** in Europe

🐓 European association, created in 2007, headquartered in Paris

🐓 Our missions:

- **To make the European rural poultry production well known and represent it** to European and national administrations and other organisations
- To help to **preserve and develop the production of rural poultry** in Europe by recognizing its particularities
- **To defend free range, extensive, and family-based methods of farming, and slow-growth**
- To be a **forum of exchange/dialogue** between European rural poultry stakeholders

🐓 Our main challenges:

1. To allow rural poultry to continue to exist in Europe
2. To make the specificities of these rural productions well known

🐓 Since early 2018, ERPA works with the consulting agency  Alienor EU



What are rural  
poultry?



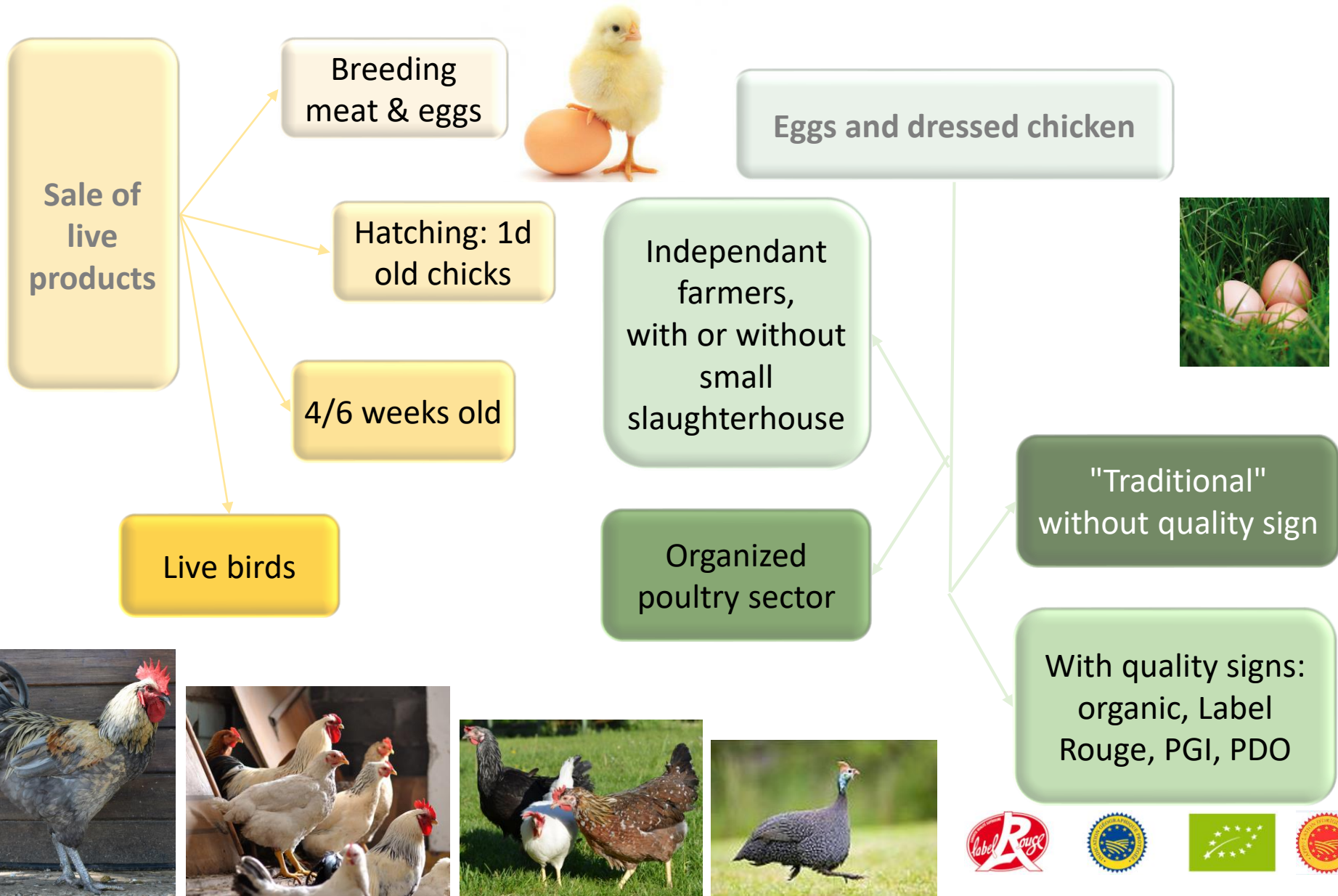
# Diversified productions, with a common ethic

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- ✿ **Free range** farming, **extensive farming** respecting animal welfare, use of poultry adapted to free range
- ✿ **Colored birds** from rustic **slow-growing strains**
- ✿ **Farms and poultry houses with limited size**, on a human scale
- ✿ **Local origin of feed** (polyculture)
- ✿ **Family capital**
- ✿ **Quality** products



# Diversified productions and producers:





# Rural poultry support a large number of producers, mainly in the South and East of Europe

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- ✖ Approximately **400,000,000 rural poultry** produced annually in Europe  
= **thousands of producers**, including **family farms**
- ✖ A **large number of stakeholders** live directly and indirectly through this sector: hatchers, feed producers, farmers, slaughterhouses  
+ indirect ones: transporters, tools, veterinarians, etc.





## Estimated volumes of colored chickens produced in Southern and Eastern Europe

|          | Estimated production<br>of colored birds<br>(2015 estimation) | Including specifically<br>the organized poultry sector<br>(2017 estimation)          |
|----------|---|--|
| France   | 153 M   | 130 M Label Rouge « traditional free range » (81d)<br>& 11 M organic (81d)           |
| Italy    | 40 M  | 5 M organic  |
| Portugal | 33 M  | 10 M « traditional free range » (81d)  |
| Spain    | 30 M  | 1 à 2 % of the national production: < 10 M as « free range" (56d)<br>& < 1 M organic |
| Hongary  | 30 M  |  |
| Romania  | 19 M  |  |
| Greece   | 7,5 M   |  |
| Belgium  | 3 M   | About 3 M as organic and traditional free range                                      |
| Slovakia | 0,5 M   |  |

*Sources: ERPA members and experts*

## « Rural » laying hens

2016/17 estimations

|                | <b>Estimated production<br/>of rural laying hens<br/>for backyards</b> | <b>&amp; Estimated production<br/>of rural laying hens<br/>in organized poultry sector</b> |
|----------------|--|--|
| United-Kingdom | 3,2 M  | 1,2 M organic  |
| France         | 2,7 M  | 2,5 M Label Rouge<br>& 7 M organic   |
| Czech republic | 1,7 M  |  |
| Italy          | 1,4 M  | 1,6 M organic  |
| Spain          | 1,5 M  | 450,000 organic  |
| Poland         | 950,000  | 180,000 organic  |
| Germany        | 300,000  | 4,5 M organic  |
| Portugal       | 200,000  |  |
| Belgium        | 150,000  | 430,000 organic  |

= about 3% of the  
European market

*Sources: ERPA members and experts*



Who are ERPA  
members?

# ERPA members

- ✎ National associations of producers or companies
- ✎ Breeders, for meat and eggs
- ✎ From many countries: Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Romania.







What are ERPA  
activities?

# ERPA: a well known structure

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In a few years: a recognition as European Interlocutor with:

- the European Commission (DG AGRI, DG SANTE)
- the European Parliament
- national authorities of member-states



Representation of rural poultry in the European institutions:

- Member of **3 civil dialogue groups** of DG AGRI (poultry/eggs, organic farming, quality/promotion)
- Member of the **Animal Health Advisory Committee** of the DG SANTE
- Member of the **platform on Animal Welfare** of the EC

# Main topics followed by ERPA in 2019

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# European Regulation on organic farming



# Context: review of the Regulation launched in March 2014 by the EC

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What do we wish? An organic farming which gives confidence! And technically consistent!

- 🐔 To have a **“traditional” and “human-scale” type of farming**, by limiting the farm size:
  - For laying hens: 24 000 maxi per farm and 12 000 maxi per poultryhouse
  - For poultry for meat: 1600 m<sup>2</sup> maxi per farm and 480 m<sup>2</sup> maxi per poultryhouse
- 🐔 To **preserve the current genetic diversity in Europe**. For this, it is necessary to let the possibility to use one-day-old chicks from non-organic breeders, waiting for the market to become more mature.
- 🐔 To ensure the **quality of chickens** with the obligation of a real **slow growth**, and the same criteria all in Europe: ADG of 35 grams/day maxi, with a minimum age of 70 days
- 🐔 To have rules on **organic feed** taking into account technical constraints for poultry and supply possibilities:
  - Local sourcing is important
  - Need to have a clear and homogeneous European definition of « local sourcing »
  - Need to have the possibility of 5% of non-organic protein feed, to give a balanced feed for poultry
- 🐔 To have rules for **organic parents**, compatible **with technical and sanitary requirements** for this type of production = no mandatory access outdoors, and veranda instead.

# Many lobbying actions done by ERPA and their members since 2014

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- ✋ With the **European Parliament**: vote of a large number of amendments proposed by ERPA in the report of the Parliament in October 2015!
- ✋ With the **Commission**:
  - Meetings with the Commission and the team of Commissioner Hogan
  - Intervention on slow growth at the civil dialog group in December 2015
  - Support of the particular work of ELPHA on production rules for organic breeders
- ✋ With the **Council of Ministers**: diffusion of our positions through the ministries and permanent representation in Brussels
- ✋ Contacts with **European organisations: ELPHA, COPA-COGECA, IFOAM UE**
- ✋ Follow-up of trilogues in 2016 & 2017 until the adoption of Regulation 2018/848 in June 2018
- ✋ Follow-up of secondary acts on future rules of production for poultry in 2018 & 2019
- ✋ Common letter of European Parliamentarians to Commissioner Hogan in December 2018 on problematic topics highlighted by ERPA

# State of play in February 2020

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- ✿ The implementing act, with the production rules, has not yet been adopted, while producers will have to apply this Regulation in 2021! = **uncertainty to date for producers, and difficulties in anticipating** the implementation of the new Regulation, even if some transition periods are planned.
- ✿ The new Regulation has **some positive aspects** - ex : access to outdoors from an early age
- ✿ HOWEVER it presents a lot of additional constraints for producers, and a net increase in the cost of production in the future - **Will consumers accept this increase of prices?**
- ✿ ERPA considers that some evolutions of the Regulation are not good for the organic sector - ex: end of the maximum sizes of poultryhouses regarding poultry for meat : **Risk of confidence crisis, image of industrialisation of the organic production...**
- ✿ Some **problematic issues remain**: what solution for the B2 vitamin ?

**ERPA hopes that this new Regulation will help the organic production to develop.**

# Other actions of ERPA in 2019

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## Letter to Commissioner Hogan about the issue of B2 vitamin:

- ✦ Context: lack of B2 vitamin certified for organic production, but no serious alternative available in the world for the moment
- ✦ B2 vitamin is essential to the life and the welfare of poultry!
- ✦ ERPA asked the Commissioner to activate an exceptional production rule, which is allowed by the current Regulation
- ✦ But the EC has decided not to give a derogation and to let each Member State manage the situation as they wish ⇒ different situations between countries.





# Animal welfare



# Animal welfare

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- ✋ **ERPA position:** animal welfare is the core of rural poultry, with rustic & slow growing poultry, low densities, and free range farming the major part of their life.
  - ⇒ Rural poultry production should be promoted in the future discussions on this topic.
  - ⇒ ERPA defends the current marketing standards for poultry meat and for eggs, which help to identify the free range production for consumers.
- ✋ **Actions carried out by ERPA:**
  - Participation to the EU Platform on animal welfare since 2017
    - ↳ Particularly, active participation to the sub-group on pullets set up in 2018
  - Follow-up of the European discussions



A photograph of a group of brown chickens in a farm setting. The chickens are standing on a concrete ledge and a bed of straw. In the background, there is a green field with more chickens. The text "Future CAP" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Future CAP

# Rural poultry and the CAP

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## ERPA positions:

- **Rural poultry meet the European citizens expectations. It is necessary to support the sector better.**
- **Member States should be able to use a part of the direct aids for sectorial interventions:** to enable them to implement operational programs to finance interventions in the fields of animal health and welfare, training, support and exchange of good practices, organic production, promotion, communication and marketing.
- **Eco-schemes:** rural poultry must be integrated in the strategic plans so that they can benefit from the funds dedicated to help the farmers who go beyond the regulatory requirements in terms of environment, climate, animal welfare, quality of products... The layout of outdoors areas for poultry could be included in this measure.
- **Agricultural sustainable practices** should be eligible to the funds for research in the future **Horizon Europe program (2021-2027)**.
- **ERPA lament the lower budget allocated to the CAP** which might mainly affect the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar of CAP and the budget for rural development.
- **ERPA regret the enhanced subsidiarity in the future CAP:** it is important to adapt to the peculiarities of the territories BUT conditions of fair competition between Member States must be maintained. Besides, flexibility should not mean greater complexity for national administrations and farmers!

# Work of ERPA on the future CAP

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In 2019, ERPA studied the amendments adopted by the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and identified the relevant amendments for their members.

ERPA will ensure that they will take into account the specificities of the free range rural poultry productions and that these themes will be implemented harmoniously.

In 2020, ERPA will deepen the work regarding the amendments and book appointments the European Commission, Members of the Parliament and European organizations to define a common position and defend it in the different Member States.





Marketing  
standards



# Marketing standards for poultry meat and eggs

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- 🐓 These are the European texts defining the types of farming for poultry meat (voluntary) and eggs (mandatory)
- 🐓 **Context:** since the publication of the Single CMO Regulation at the end of 2013, the marketing standards should be revised. Objective of the EC: simplification.
- 🐓 **Position defended by ERPA: to preserve the current Regulation, with the existing farming methods,** because they are fundamental for segmentation and clarity with consumers

## For poultry meat :

- To maintain the current rules and definitions concerning the indication of farming methods
- To maintain the obligation of control of these optional farming methods
- To maintain the possibility of additional national rules to indicate the types of farming.

# Marketing standards for poultry meat and eggs

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## For eggs:

- To maintain current rules and definitions on the different types of farming
- To add an annual mandatory control of all alternative farming methods (codes 1 and 2) to check the correct application of the criteria laid down in the marketing standards
- To require the marking of eggs on the farm, unless exception defined and authorized by each Member State

 **Many activities engaged by ERPA since 2013** with the EC to publicize its positions

⇒ To follow closely: a study has been carried out by an independent organization in 2019, for the European Commission, to identify the points of the standards which should evolve. The EC would probably propose a text in the coming years.



A large flock of brown chickens is gathered in a grassy field. In the background, there are several trees with green foliage. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Animal Health Law & traceability of live poultry

# Animal Health Law

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In 2019, ERPA analysed the numerous acts and interacted several times with CE during the redactional process of the texts to get information on topics that might be important for rural poultry.

- **DELEGATED ACT regarding animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs** - *Adopted on 17th December 2019 by EC and now awaiting Committee decision at EP level*
- **DELEGATED ACT regarding surveillance, eradication programmes and disease-free status** - *Adopted on 17th December 2019 by EC and now awaiting Committee decision at EP level*
- **DELEGATED ACT regarding rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases** - *Adopted on 17th December 2019 by EC and now awaiting Committee decision at EP level*
- **IMPLEMENTING ACT on the listed diseases subject to Union surveillance programmes, the geographical scope of such programmes and the listed diseases for which the disease-free status of compartments may be established** - *pending*
- **Questions of some MEPs regarding an IMPLEMENTING ACT under Article 86 of the AHL to demand that non-professional poultry keepers be exempted of registration:** ERPA do not welcome this proposition - *No further information on the provisions of this act at this stage, the discussions with Member States have not started yet.*



# Animal Health Law

## Traceability of live poultry

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- **Delegated Act regarding the rules for establishments keeping terrestrial animals and hatcheries, and the traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs** - Released on 5th Decembre 2019
  - **Position defended by ERPA:** wish for harmonization and simplification of the registration procedures regarding the movements of live poultry in the EU
  - ERPA contributed to the Public consultation reminding that for them, **the entire poultry sector must be well supervised and all keepers** and movements of animals must be registered, without exception. Yet, the registration of non-professional operators is not always well done in the different European countries and **a simple and practical system of data transmission up to final poultry buyers has to be set up**, in order to avoid the loss of traceability. ERPA think that the European Commission should recommend a standard system for all Member-States.



# Animal Health Law – traceability of live poultry

- ERPA prepared a **registration form for non-professional operators keeping rural poultry**, and presented it to the Animal Health Advisory Committee at the EC.
- This document aims to **harmonize the implementation** of the AHL regarding the registration of poultry in EU and to **prevent the loss of traceability** / the development of illegal activities while limiting the administrative burden for non-professional farmers.

**Registration form for non-professional operators**

REGISTRATION FORM FOR NON-PROFESSIONAL OPERATORS

Last name and first name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of the establishment and description of its facilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of animals kept/year on the establishment (fill in the table below):

|                                    | Day-old chicks | Young poultry<br>(4-6 week old) | Adults | Other (specify) |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Gallus (meat)                      |                |                                 |        |                 |
| Gallus (eggs)                      |                |                                 |        |                 |
| Turkey                             |                |                                 |        |                 |
| Guinea fowl                        |                |                                 |        |                 |
| Duck                               |                |                                 |        |                 |
| Goose                              |                |                                 |        |                 |
| Quail                              |                |                                 |        |                 |
| Other (including ornamental birds) |                |                                 |        |                 |

Capacity of the establishment: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of establishment: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other aspects of the establishment relevant for the purpose of determining the risk posed by it:  
(including destination of the animals, e.g. own consumption or trade, direct sales, markets, fairs...)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Simple operation: computer file, kept by the professional operators and transmitted to the competent authority (frequency to be determined).

Information on the identity of the farmer and the location of the farm

Information on the poultry produced on the farm

Information on the establishment (e.g. indoor/ free range)

Other relevant information to determine the risk regarding the traceability

The European Commission welcomed and encouraged this initiative.

Unfortunately, at this stage and at their level, they feel that they cannot do more to encourage this approach.

ERPA members must promote this registration form to your competent authorities in order to urge them to implement this document in their Member State.



Communication

- ERPA produced a new brochure presenting their activities, in French & in English.
- ERPA organised meetings with the new Members of the European Parliament in November in Strasbourg.
- More information: [www.erpa-ruralpoultry.eu](http://www.erpa-ruralpoultry.eu)







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