

General Assembly 26/09/2025
Bucharest



Presentation of ERPA & Activity Report 2024/25



Presentation of ERP

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 raise awareness** of European rural poultry production and **to represent** it to European and national administrations and other organisations
 - To contribute to the preservation of rural poultry production and its genetic diversity in Europe **by having its specificities recognised in European legislation**
 - **Defend the values** of rural poultry production: free-range, extensive and family farming, as well as slow growth
 - To be a **forum for exchange and consultation** between European rural poultry stakeholders

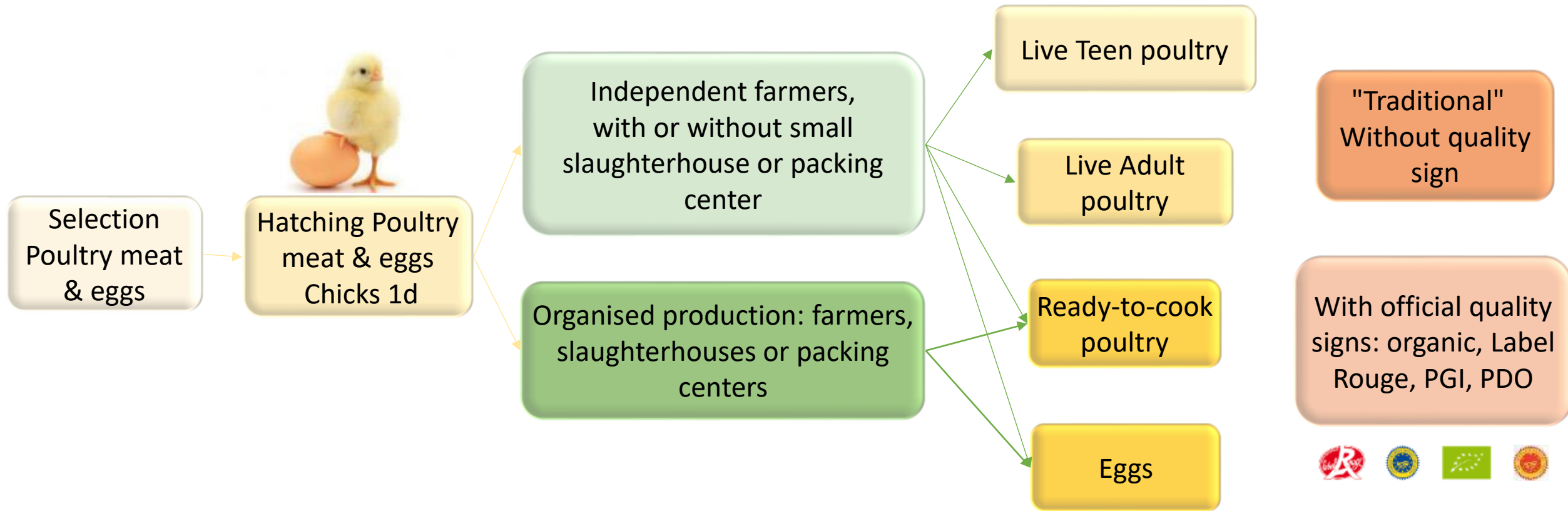
What are rural poultry?

Very varied productions and types of producers, with common points

- ✧ Hardy, slow-growing, "colourful" strains
- ✧ **Free-range & extensive farming**, use of poultry adapted to free-range
- ✧ **Farms and poultry houses of limited size**, on a human scale
- ✧ Local origin of animal feed
- ✧ **Economic sustainability of rural areas, even the poorest:** family capital, human investment
- ✧ **Quality** products (traditional, Signs of quality)



A wide variety of productions and producers



ERPA members

- 🐔 **Members:** National producer associations or companies
- 🐔 **Associate members:** Breeders (poultry for meat or laying hens), who collect the contributions of the hatcheries
- 🐔 Many countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Romania, Spain.

Aim to increase the number
of members and countries
represented at ERPA!



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



- **Rural Poultry $\approx$ 5 % of European poultry**
 - But in some countries, rural poultry = important consumption (ex : Label Rouge in France = 2/3 of whole chickens consumed)
 - Rural poultry = **thousands of producers**, including family farms, allowing farmers to live on and from their territory
- & a **large number of stakeholders**: breeders, hatchers, feed producers, farmers, slaughterhouses, packing centres, transporters, veterinarians, etc

How ERPA works

- ❖ ERPA operates with a **Board of Administrators** where all members are represented.
- ❖ The Board is supported by a **President** and a **Bureau**



President
Louis Perrault



Carlos Terraz



Franck de Pierpont



Benoit Drouin



Catherine Colot



Bruno Briand

- ❖ ERPA relies on a **Secretariat**: Marie GUYOT & Armance BRISEDoux

- ❖ And for the past 7 years, ERPA has been working with the Public Affairs Consulting Agency

ERPA: a well-know structure at the European level



Recognition as a **European interlocutor** by the European institutions:

- The European Commission (DG AGRI, DG SANTE)
- The European Parliament
- Member States' national authorities



Presence in the European Commission's bodies:

- Member of **4 civil dialogue groups of DG AGRI** (poultry/eggs, organic farming, quality/promotion, sustainability)
- Member of the **platform on Animal Welfare of the EC**
- Member of the **Animal Health Advisory Committee** of the DG SANTE



Work with other European organisations: COPA-COGECA, AVEC/ELPHA, EFFAB, EUWEP..

ERPA thanks its sponsors

They support ERPA



Lucta



The activities of ERPA 2024/25

Main topics followed by ERPA in 2025



HPAI

➤ **Monitoring of the HPAI situation and sharing of information between members** ⇒ Upcoming meeting for members on measures to protect free-range poultry according to the level of risk AI + will for more communication on free-range poultry with the EC and EFSA

➤ **Speech by the President of ERPA at the MEPs' conference on vaccination:**

- ⇒ Sharing the French experience in **vaccination of species at risk**
- ⇒ And request for a European co-financing of **monitoring costs**



➤ ERPA has been asked by EFSA for an opinion on their communication on biosecurity launched on 15/09/25 :

ERPA does not recommend the dissemination of these documents because they are not specific enough for producers. ERPA continues to recommend the use of its **biosecurity data sheets**:

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 **ERPA** EUROPEAN RURAL POULTRY ASSOCIATION

Recommended biosecurity measures for rural poultry

Manage your production units

You must manage your farm with production units (PU) that are sanitarily independent.

Each PU :

- must be physically limited by walls for barns and nestings for ranging areas
- must contain only one type of poultry: palinipeds or gallinaceans
- should only contain poultry of the same age
- must have a changing room in good shape, which allows the independent sanitary management of the PU.

Examples of production units (PU) :

Farm with open air area
PU = changing room + barn + ranging area

Early rearing farm
PU = changing room + barn

In the case of a barn with several pens
PU = changing room + barn (pens and corridor)

Delimitation of the PU zone

Separate poultry species

Palinipeds (ducks, geese) and gallinaceans (chickens, guinea fowls, turkeys) must not be reared in the same production units.

They must not come into contact with each other because they don't react in the same way with the avian influenza virus.

Protect feed and water

If you have a free-range farming system, the ranging areas must not have water or feed points because that could attract wild birds.

ERPA recommends to feed and water only inside the buildings. If impossible, protect these water/ feed points from wild birds with a roof and nesting.

Protect your poultry

In case of an important risk of introduction of avian influenza by wild birds, it is recommended to keep the poultry inside the building (if animal welfare allows it), or to reduce the size of the ranging area (water points must be excluded from the ranging area).

It is important to follow the recommendations of your veterinary authorities on the most appropriate approach for your case.

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 **ERPA** EUROPEAN RURAL POULTRY ASSOCIATION

Recommended biosecurity measures for rural poultry

Pay attention to visitors' entrances/exits

Your farm must have a clear border that customers or other visitors should not cross.

No visitors or other people who are not essential to the farm should enter the production unit.

The use of chains and warning signs is highly recommended.

In case an outside person has to enter the production unit, it is imperative to use the changing room following the protocol described below.

The steps to use the changing room

Use of the changing room TO ENTER the production unit :

Use of the changing room TO EXIT from the production unit :

1 In the external zone :
Take off your shoes and clothes.
Place the feet only in the inner zone or on a closed floor, e.g. by placing on the separation bench or passing over the separation board.

2 In the inner zone :
Wash hands with soap or hydro-alcoholic gel.

3 Put on the suits and shoes specific to the production unit, put a hair-net on top of the hair.

1 In the inner zone :
Remove clothing and shoes specific to the production unit and take the hair-net off.

2 In the inner zone :
Wash hands with soap or hydro-alcoholic gel.

3 Place on the separation bench or pass over the separation board, then, in the inner zone, put on your clothes and shoes.

Example of changing room :

Access to the house

Changeable towels

Quilt specific to the production unit

Outer clothes

Shoes specific to the production unit

Personal equipment of external / inner zone

Changeable towels

Liquid soap

Shoe

Apply a waiting period

Between the depletion of a flock and the placement of a new one, you must wait for a period of time called "waiting period" that begins after cleaning and disinfection of the houses.

ERPA advises a **period of 15 days on average** the houses must be completely dry before the placement of a new house.

This recommendation cannot replace the official regulation that applies in your country.

For any information : contact@erpa-ruralpoultry.eu

Keep bird flu OUT!

REDUCE THE RISK OF VIRUS ENTRY

Outdoor areas should be fully fenced or netted — including the roof — to keep wild birds out.

Always wear clean clothes and wash your hands and footwear every time you enter the farm.

Provide disinfectant footbaths or disposable overshoes at the farm gate. Disinfect vehicles and tools on arrival at the farm or when moving between farms.

Protect your farm
#NoBirdFlu

Marketing standards



Marketing standards for poultry meat

- 🐔 This is the European text defining the types of farming for poultry meat with a voluntary labeling
- 🐔 Since the publication of the Single CMO Regulation at the end of 2013, the marketing standards should be revised. In 2023, the European Commission proposed a text liberalising farming methods ⇒ important work by ERPA to change the EC proposal.
- ⇒ Reaching a compromise, proposed by the EC and validated by the member states, with:
 - The **maintenance of the exclusivity of the 3 farming methods referring to outdoor farming**: « free range », « Traditional free range », « Free range - total freedom »
 - **Protection of illustrations** referring to outdoor farming on labels
 - The **possibility of new terms** but with an important framework: no confusion for consumers, controls by the Member States and registration by the European Commission.
- ⇒ The text still needs to be sent by the European Commission to the Parliament and the Council by the end of the year for adoption. Vigilance!

Indication of origin

ERPA has joined with other European organisations in requesting indication of origin (country) **for all poultry and egg products** (not just fresh meat and shell eggs)



JOINT STATEMENT: “Buy European food” starts with transparency - mandate clear origin labels now

A photograph of several brown chickens with red combs standing in a lush green field. In the background, there is a large, dense tree with green leaves. The scene is bright and natural.

Review of EU animal welfare legislation

✦ **Consideration of ERPA:** Animal welfare is **fundamental** to rural poultry farming, with **hardy** and **slow-growing** poultry, **low densities** and **free-range farming** for most of their lives.

⇒ It is important to **make rural poultry and their specificities known** so that they are better known to legislators and that they are well taken into account in future legislative texts.

✦ **ERPA Actions:**

- Participation in the **European Commission's Animal Welfare Platform** since 2017

 - ↳ Participation in several sub-groups, including one on indicators of welfare

- **Active follow-up** of the discussions and proposed texts:

 - ↳ TRANSPORT text under discussion. Proposed amendments. Conducting a study on the usefulness of the hydrating gel during long-term transport.

 - ↳ Follow-up of other topics (in ovo sexing, end of the cages, on-farm, slaughterhouses...). Contribution to the EC public consultation in July 2025.

- **Meetings with key people** (with the help of ALIENOR) to present our positions: Commissioner for Agriculture, Commissioner for Health and Animal welfare, MEPs, Representatives of Member States. And work with other organizations (AVEC/ELPHA, EFFAB, COPA-COGECA).



European Regulation on organic farming





The new regulations of 2022 have brought many new constraints and have greatly weakened the organic egg sector

Alarming situation: many organic farmers stop because of the too many constraints that lead to technical underperformances and very low revenues.

- Obligation to **specialize organic pullet farms** ⇒ few farmers agree to commit to such restrictive production.
- **100% organic feed for laying hens** ⇒ decrease in the technical performance of hens and increase in the cost of organic eggs.
- **New withdrawal period** for organic eggs **after use of antiparasitics** ⇒ strong economic losses for the sector, without health justification.
- Threat: **end of derogation "5% non-organic protein materials"** in young poultry feed in 2027
- Threat/**parentals** : they can be non-organic for now. But the EC must report on this by 2029.

Many actions by ERPA to change the regulations

- **On antiparasitics in organic layers:**
 - Carrying out a European study by an ERPA member (SYNALAF)
 - Presentation of the study to COPA-COGECA and EUWEP ⇒ great support
 - Presentation of the study to the EC Civil Dialogue Group + sensitization of the Commissioner for Agriculture ⇒ awareness of the EC
 - Awareness-raising of MEPs
- **On organic feed for laying hens and young poultry:**
 - Organisation of a European movement of support on this subject with FEFAC and COPA-COGECA
 - Presentation of the issues with FEFAC to the EC Civil Dialogue Group + sensitization of the Commissioner for Agriculture ⇒ awareness of the EC
 - Awareness-raising of MEPs
- **Problematic :** **We need a re-opening of the regulations. The European Commission announced it on 24/09 ! ⇒ many actions to come for ERPA!** (But BE CAREFUL to reopen the text on all subjects: age of chickens, size of farms, surface off free range areas, etc...)



A photograph of a flock of brown chickens in a grassy field. A large tree with green leaves is in the background, and a cow is visible in the distance. The word "Sustainability" is overlaid on the image.

Sustainability

Launch of ERPA work on sustainability in 2025

Objectives:

- ✓ **To better highlight** the **sustainability strengths** of rural poultry
- ✓ **To be able to respond to attacks** on rural poultry, in particular their **impact on the environment**
- ✓ To be able to make proposals on possible **environmental labelling**

⇒ All members can contribute to this work.





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