Interdisciplinarity, Internationalization, Interculturality: 
Three Challenges 
of Training in Animal Breeding and Genetics 
in Europe

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10th WCGALP, Vancouver, August 17-22, 2014
The context of teaching ABG

- Links with evolutionary biology
- High rate of innovation
- Multi-actors process
- International business
- Diversity of public demands

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Multi-discipline background

Biology

Technologies

Data analyzing, modelling

Economic and social sciences

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Interdisciplinarity

Animal Breeding Industry
- To take decisions
- To find practical solutions
- To manage, to coordinate

Research in Animal Genetics
- To address scientific questions
- more and more at the crossroad of disciplines

To manipulate and combine concepts, tools and methods from different fields

Interdisciplinarity is more than a collection of specialized knowledges

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Internationalization

National curricula

Use of the international knowledge
(more easy for scientific results than for practices in ABG)

International exchanges and networks

• Internships, study trips, ...
• Erasmus/Socrates exchanges: students; staff
• Networks for face-to-face teaching
• Networks for online teaching
EMABG: European Master in Animal Breeding and Genetics

• Coordinated by Wageningen University (NL)
• Involves 5 higher education institutions in 5 countries: NL, AT, FR, NO, SE
• Accredited in 2007
• Total No of students enrolled since beginning = 120 (all around the World)

• A 2-year program
• For a given student: 1st year in a given institution, 2nd year in another one
Joint International Curricula: PhD

EGS-ABG: European Graduate School in Animal Breeding and Genetics

• Coordinated by AgroParisTech (FR)
• Involves 4 higher education institutions in 4 countries: FR, NL, DK, SE
• Accredited in 2010
• Total No of candidates enrolled since beginning = 32, from 22 different countries

• A 4-year program
• PhD projects jointly supervised by 2 institutions
• For a given PhD candidate: mobility between both supervising institutions
• Courses jointly offered by the Consortium during the program
Added values of joint curricula

• Definition of common rules for selection of candidates and awarding degrees
• Mobility: each candidate benefits from a wide range of expertise
• Multicultural touch and good networking opportunities

Photo: Isabelle Laissy
Interculturality

Teaching in the real life

• Field trips and visits
• Internships: experimenting working in a new social context

Interculturality as a ‘by-product’ of internationalization

• Interculturality among students and/or staff
• Different points of view on animals/society issues

Photo: T. Heams
The challenges of cultural diversity

Taking advantage of cultural diversity

• From a pedagogical and scientific perspectives
• From a social perspective

and

Developing a common background

• Knowledge and know-how
• Ethical values

Photo: T. Heams
August 1914

British
Belgians
Canadians

Germans
Serbs

French
Austrians
New-Zealander

Russians
Indians
Senegalese

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One century after...

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