

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



MEP Hilde Vautmans (middle right) invited to speak at EHN Board meeting on 15 April 2021



July 2021

- EHN Board Meetings
- Green Assets – follow-up
- EHN supports EU Projects
- Update on EU legislation

Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

Board members met three times online during the first semester to discuss the impact of Animal Health Law legislation, of Brexit and to alert MEPs on future legislation with an impact on equine (antimicrobial, VAT reform).

EHN is also working on relevant EU projects that could benefit the whole equine industry (please read more in this Newsletter). Do not hesitate to volunteer and/or contribute to these projects.

Hoping that the Covid and Rhino restrictions are finally over, the equestrian

sport will come in the spotlights of the postponed Tokyo Olympics in some weeks.

Hope that you all might have inspiring holidays so that EHN can after the summer restart its challenging business at all the levels of our equine industry.

Until we 'really' meet again hopefully in November, I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Keep well

Mark Wenten, Chairman

Next meetings :

7 September – EHN Webinar on Animal Health Law implementation

7 September – EHN Board meeting online

November (Date to be confirmed) – EHN General Assembly and MEP Horse Group in Brussels



EHN leaflets and Manifesto are available

Horses and Sport, Horses and welfare, Horses and research, Horses and Health, Education and Training, Veterinary products, Growth & Environment, Responsible Ownership, Horses in future Agriculture policy (update June 2018), Equestrian Tourism

EHN Meetings

Online Board meetings – 2nd February – 15 April – 8 June

February meeting discussed the budget – many liquidities due to lockdown periods that will be dedicated to support EU projects and a Conference/MEP Horse Group during Autumn.

April meeting was the occasion to meet MEP Hilde Vautmans to ask for support and help on three priorities: finding adaptations for the movement of horses slowing down due to custom and paperwork requirements, delay Animal Health law passport and control implementation to leave more time and money to adapt in a difficult environment due to sanitary crisis, reform VAT low rates to leave the possibility to lower taxes on certain equine activities. Mrs Vautmans is speaking directly to EU Commission President on these issues.

June meeting welcomed Agata Rzekęć in charge of continuing and improving the work around the promotion of the green assets of equines.

Green Assets – Follow-up

Collecting data for a Grass.e Europe !

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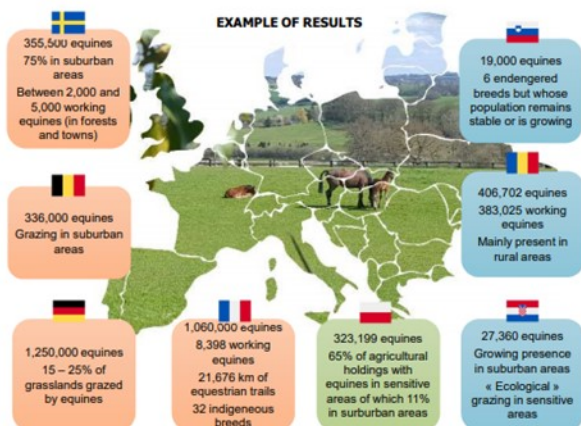
INTRODUCTION

In the absence of centralised statistics on the European equine sector and, in line with the Green Deal, the ODEFI project aims to collect data related to the fields where equines have positive and negative externalities on the environment. The objective is to provide collective knowledge that can be shared between States to better integrate the equine sector into current environmental issues, particularly via the Common Agricultural Policy 2021-2027.

METHOD

The tool consists of 58 indicators divided into 6 groups related to the five green assets identified through bibliographic review: general information, grazing, animal biodiversity, land use, equine work and tourism. The data is filled in by representatives of the sector surveyed and completed by external sources (e.g. Eurostat). Each piece of data should be provided as accurately as possible, specifying the scale, source and other details of its quality.

EXAMPLE OF RESULTS



CONCLUSION

There is considerable heterogeneity between countries regarding the availability of data. However, a first typology can be drawn with three groups of countries: (1) the horse seen as an agricultural tool bred in extensive conditions or intended for meat market; (2) the horse intended for sport or leisure, and a renewed interest in working equines; (3) an intermediate situation: a population composed of draft horses but a sector driven by the sport and leisure market.

JOURNÉES SCIENCES & INNOVATIONS ÉQUINES
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Agata Rzekęć has started the project in 2019 with the aim to define, qualify and quantify environmental impacts of equines. The first leaflet was published in October 2020 and distributed to EU decision makers.

An article was published in the Journal Animals : <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/10/1/106>

In 2020/2021 – Data collection was made in 6 EU countries and around 5 green assets.

Creation of an interactive map: <http://u.osmfr.org/m/487390/> the link can be shared with anyone in the Equine industry. This tool is in constant evolution. It can be used to share knowledge, to communicate with stakeholders, to build arguments to promote equines and to set up projects (like the future equine thematic network).

Next step: Continue to improve the data and the number of countries covered (Italy, Ireland, UK...)

Illustrating green assets through a video report in partnership with ESSA (State Studs Association) and 3 State Studs in France, Slovenia and Germany.

EU Projects to push forward in 2021

EHN supports three European wide projects:



PARTNERS



EHIP – European Horseracing Integrity Project has been submitted for Erasmus+ funding on June 17. News about the submission will be in November 2021. If positive, EHIP starts at the end of January 2022 and involves four EHN members.

HORSENET – Equine Thematic Network (Name to be confirmed). The deadline to submit (Horizon Europe Research Programme) is 15 February 2022. 8 countries should be covered, Partners are starting to be defined. The main objective: Sustainable development/resilience of farms with an equine activity. Specific objectives need to be better defined but could be: attractiveness of jobs related to equine, better integration of equine in agriculture, welfare in breeding.

If successful, the four years project could obtain €3 million and involve around 10 EHN members.

NUTRITION – Evaluate the energy in feed stuffs to help farmers and breeders. Appropriate labelling of the energy and protein content of feed will help owners with their feeding management of horses. To date, there is no centralised system available which brings the various formulae and calculations based on chemical composition together to allow for a valid estimate in converting units quickly, as necessary. It is therefore proposed that a programme should be developed which can be used by the feed industry and equine welfare professionals (veterinarians, nutritionists) to quickly convert from one unit to another. This could be made available at a central community site, such as the European Horse Network and through European Equine Nutrition Societies (e.g. EEHNC, EWEN). Depending on the evaluation, the project should start to give results in November 2021.

Please contact EHN Secretariat if you wish to contribute

EU legislation Update

VAT rates reform - represents a unique opportunity to address the question of eligibility of equine and equestrian activities to reduced rates. Portuguese Presidency has accelerated the debate and Slovenian Presidency could take over in July. EHN has sent his position to both and all Members States authorities to include equine activities.