



EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK
Board meeting - 25th July 2022
SPOGA Horse Fair, Koln

Minutes

Attendees – Board members

Mark Wentein
Florence Gras
Amandine Julien - IFCE
Roly Owers - WHW
Peter Bollen - EEHNC
Nadine Brandtner - WBFSH

Also attending:

Haike Blaauw - FNRS
Filip Vande Cappelle - ATA
Thibault Delattre – Hippolia
Christian von der Recke – European Trainers Association

Excused ;

Paull Khan – EMHF
Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt – FITE
Nick Elssas – EFTBA
Joe Hernon – EFTBA
Astrid von Velsen - ESSA

Mark Wentein welcomes the attendees at SPOGA Horse Fair.

1. Minutes of the last Board meeting – 3rd May 2022

Minutes have been modified taking into account Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt's remarks. They are validated without further modifications.

2. Follow-up on sub-groups meeting on European Equine Sustainable Tourism Label

A subgroup meeting took place on the 3rd May. This label should be created for "horse destinations" (different possible areas/locations/initiatives: cities, territories but also events) with a strong horse identity. Existing national labels have been identified and will help with the setting up of criteria.

Other projects and initiatives must be studied: the project of European Cultural Equine Route, State Studs Heritage, Euro-equus, Route d'Artagnan...

Catherine has defined a table for criteria (with examples):

Partners
2 minimum
Territory
area town/city region
Sustainability
itineraries (French Geocheval and Grands itinéraires équestres, Dutch Buitenrijden , Spanish Turismo Ecuestre , German Pferdaktuell)
Equestrian clubs (Cheval Etape French labeling:, Sustainable development awards , FITE labelling Label Equestrian Tourism Center and Label Horse Friendly Lodging)
show
festivals
racing
national schools (French Cadre Noir , Andalousian Royal School Club , Equestrian Educational Network (EEN))
equestrian competition (FEI and FITE)
inclusion
use of animal mediation (French initiative Cheval & Diversité , label Equi Handi Club)
Tradition
schools (French Cadre Noir , Andalousian Royal School Club)
culture (working or traditional equitation (camargue, doma vaquera, maremmana), tradition recognised by the UNESCO (Equitation in the French tradition , Classical horsemanship and the High School of the Spanish Riding School Vienna))
know-how
studbooks
stud farms (European State Studs Association)
historical monuments and/or areas and/or museum (Saumur Castle)

Roly informs members about the latest updates in the framework of the European Animal Welfare Platform. The equine subgroup sets up 2 focus groups on 1) equine and tourism, 2) equine and therapy. Discussions of the first focus group should be included in the future criteria.

The group will meet again in September.

Regarding the other two EHN sub-groups:

- The subgroup on the European statistical study could meet in November.
- Literary prize: Claire Cordilhac (IFCE) met the EU national contact point to identify a potential programme. The project does not seem to fit with European Creative or ERASMUS+ programmes. To obtain fundings, EHN need to find another way.

3. Update on EU projects

- EUNetHorse (European thematic Network – Horizon Europe programme) has been accepted by the European Commission. The project will start in March 2023. It is a 4-years-project. EHN and some of its members will be part of the European Advisory Board (opinion on orientations and deliverables). This project will produce content that EHN will be able to valorise. The final conference will be organised in collaboration with EUNethorse and EHN and will be paid by EUNetHorse.
- EHIP: to re-submit the proposal, the new leader could be the Swedish trotting federation. According to the evaluation report, updates are necessary on educational modules.
- Nutrition project: phase B has been finalised. After the study of the different systems, the new phase aims to develop a formula and a toll to easily convert information from a system to another one. It would take 1,5 year before to be able present results. Peter Bollen has to provide an abstract describing the project for the website.
- Request from Barbara Padalino to finance a study “How does transport stress affect behaviour and welfare in horses?” in 2023. This study wants to prove that feed and water is necessary to improve horse transport and that new technologies would help in monitoring horse welfare (a short description will be sent to board members).
 - Remarks: Roly Owers asks if it is an objective for EHN to finance academic work. It could lead to a precedent. If we want to finance project, we must clearly define what kind of project. Thibaut Delattre proposes that one of the criteria could be the link with manufacturers to be sure that academic results lead to innovation.
- Animal welfare platform: the focus group on equine and tourism will address 2 audiences (authorities and tourists on responsible use). The responsible care guides are declined in factsheets for horses and donkeys.
The European Commission intends to publish its final decision on the animal welfare strategy by the autumn. The EFSA opinion would be released in September. The EC’s consultant is currently contacting organisations and companies to collect their feedback.

4. Prepare EHN General Assembly – date and agenda

Next General Assembly meeting: **30 November in Belgium/Zaventem.**

Agenda: Presentation of financial statement, report of working groups activities, notification of the different membership applications and invitation of applicants with a favorable opinion from the board.

5. Prepare EHN annual Conference/MEP Horse Group in Autumn 2022 – joint to GA meeting

- 1st December (following GA) - 2 hours-conference - Possible topic: social licence
- Potential speakers: FEI on its equine ethic and welfare committee, someone from the racing industry, the European Commission to present the animal welfare framework review.
- To do: an EHN manifesto dedicated to welfare issues

6. Membership application – Conseil et Observatoire Suisse de la filière Cheval

The Swiss Council and observatory for the equine industry wants to apply to EHN.
We will have 5 applications in total.
For next board: a short document about each application will be made.

7. Next Board meeting in September

Next board meeting on 19th September at 10.00 am CET (online).

Agenda: presentation of the 5 applications and opinion from the board. The opinion will then be notified to applicants. Applicants with a favorable opinion will be invited to the GA in November.

TO DO LIST:

- Send the description of Babara Padalino's project.
- Prepare the annual conference with Hilde Vautmans
- Prepare the General Assembly meeting
- Organisation of subgroups meeting: welfare, label on sustainable equine tourism and statistics