

EUnetHorse

HOW TO IMPROVE THE
PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE
OF EQUINE FARMS IN EUROPE?

RESULTS of the EUnetHorse EUROPEAN PROJECT
PHASE 1: IDENTIFICATION of NEEDS in PORTUGAL

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WHO ARE THE PORTUGUESE FARMERS INTERVIEWED?

In Portugal, 40 equine farmers were interviewed.

LOCATION

- 1 of the farms surveyed are close to a major city
- 3 are close to suburbs
- 36 are in rural areas, of which 7 are close to a village and 5 are isolated
- 17,5% are in sensitive areas



FARM SIZE

- Utilised agricultural area from 2 to 5000 ha, average 30% of it is composed of permanent meadows
- From 3 to 520 horses per farm, the median is 30, average is 52
- From 3 to 55 births per year on farms, median is 6, average is 10



FARM WORKERS

- There is an average of 5 employees per farm
- 19% are woman



ECONOMIC AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- For 50% of farms, this is their main activity
- Economic objectives: 22% aim to achieve economical balance, 71% aim to make a profit, 7% have no economic objectives
- Economic performance (including salaries): 34% are in deficit, 20% break even, 46% make a profit



WHAT NEEDS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND PRIORITIZED TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE IN PORTUGAL?

In Portugal, more than 75 needs were identified through interviews and the national workshop. Here are the ones shared with the European partners during the first European Workshop:

ANIMAL WELFARE AND HEALTH ON FARMS

- Reduction of Piroplasmosis impact
- Promotion of better management practices regarding limb conformation and Developmental Orthopedic Diseases (DOD's)
- Prevention of West Nile outbreaks
- Decrease of the Equine Herpes Virus impact

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMS

- Improvement of forage and pasture production
- Promotion of sustainability awareness among breeders
- Enhance energy efficiency of farms

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE OF FARMS

- Increase of engagement from stakeholders
- Commitment of public policies
- Overcome the resistance of people to change
- Reduce high production costs
- Improvement of specialized and differentiated training

MORE INFO

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