

# 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 ROMANIA

[www.eunethorse.eu](http://www.eunethorse.eu)

# WHO ARE THE ROMANIAN FARMERS INTERVIEWED?

In Romania, 40 equine farmers were interviewed.

## LOCATION

- 3 of the farms surveyed are close to a major city
- 4 are close to suburbs
- 5 are in rural areas, of which 19 are close to a village and 1 are isolated
- 20% are in sensitive areas

## FARM SIZE

- Utilised agricultural area from 1 to 450 ha, average 53% of it is composed of permanent meadows
- From 1 to 270 horses per farm, the median is 11, average is 27
- From 0,2 to 100 births per year on farms, median is 1, average is 10

## FARM WORKERS

- There is an average of 3 employees per farm
- 35% are woman

## ECONOMIC AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- For 58% of farms, this is their main activity
- Economic objectives: 35% aim to achieve economical balance, 43% aim to make a profit, 23% have no economic objectives
- Economic performance (including salaries): 23% are in deficit, 50% break even, 28% make a profit



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

In Romania, more than 60 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

- Need for highly specialized veterinarians and med technicians: Romania is well undercapacities when it comes to veterinarians specialized in large animals, and even worst for equines
- Regulation of reproduction of equines: need for advocacy
- Control of medication given to equines
- Better define and communicate to the sector the definition of health and welfare, underlying the clear distinctions between the 2
- Control and strengthen the rules of animal welfare: the legislative framework exists, but there is no practical way of implementing it

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMS

- Materials and workshops on rotational grazing: access to land or good quality hay meadows, and alternative grazing methods should be identified and made known
- Need for solutions to respond to climate changes: droughts, floods, extreme temperatures
- Information on and funding of investments made for developing alternative energy and water sources
- Identify new streams of income incentivizing small scale farmers to maintain their traditional land management practices generating complex ecosystem services

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE OF FARMS

- Training classes, practical workshops with external trainers (not found in Romania) of competent people for jobs related to the equine sector
- Recognition from the Romanian state of the jobs related to the equine sector
- Need to define a functional structure accepted by all stakeholders: there is a severe lack of trust and cooperation between farmers and authorities/ state own organizations.
- Identification and translation of relevant literature (books, manuals, articles etc.) and defining of valid resources of relevant and real information.
- Database with farmers, specialists, competent organizations.

## MORE INFO

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