



EUnetHorse project: phase 1 – Identification of needs

Nine European priorities

Health and welfare

- **What practices can be implemented in order to promote biosecurity measures and prevent emergent diseases?**

- 1) How to prevent piroplasmosis? What measures should be taken in terms of biosecurity?
- 2) How to prevent Herpes Virus? What are the biosecurity measures?
- 3) How to prevent West Nile virus? What are the biosecurity measures?
- 4) OCD, hoof problems: there is a need for good treatment practices based on scientific knowledge to promote good limb conformation. How to prevent these orthopedic developmental diseases?
- 5) Pain management: What are the tools to recognize pain and take it into account more effectively?
- 6) Parasitism and reasoned deworming: How to implement reasoned deworming? What are the tools to use?
- 7) Health of breeding horses: what are the solutions to improve the quality of breeding horses? (use of healthy horses with good temperament only; elimination of individuals with genetic disorders and diseases; good physical condition is also required)
- 8) How to genetically improve the robustness of horses?
- 9) Reproductive performance issues: discreet heat, resorption of the embryo, miscarriages... How can I improve reproductive performance on my farm?
- 10) Regulation of equine reproduction: need for awareness
 - > Legally, stallions must be approved for reproduction,
 - > There is no disadvantage for breeders in using approved stallions (the products are still full of papers), so they do not do it. The authorities are informed of the situation, but do not take any measures or incentives to encourage breeders to practice breeding according to the rules.
 - > How can we encourage the practice of properly breeding equines? Which models to use?
- 11) Biosecurity/health prevention: how to implement it?
 - > How to improve the implementation of biosecurity on farms?
 - > How to access the right tools?
 - > What health protocols should be put in place?
 - > How to define and promote good health practices?
- 12) How to avoid systematic veterinary treatments? How do I implement prophylaxis in my farm?





13) Supervision of equine health practitioner professions other than veterinarians (farriers, osteopaths, etc.), what models?

14) Control of medications administered to horses: veterinarians do not always record medications administered to horses and there is therefore no clear traceability. What solutions can be implemented?

- **How to accommodate horses while ensuring their well-being?**

15) How can we better characterize the nutritional needs of horses (Obese horses, old horses, etc.)? How to avoid overfeeding?

16) What are the solutions for feeding horses with a tendency to be overweight?

17) How can we ensure the quality of food (hygiene, nutritional quality), especially hay?

18) What tools or solutions to manage climatic stress in horses?

19) Practical solutions: applying on-farm knowledge to ensure well-being

> What concrete solutions to improve well-being on the farm?

> How do I ensure that my practices meet the fundamental needs of horses? (Lack of basic knowledge about health care and physiological needs of horses)

20) How to manage stallions in non-dedicated farms?

21) What support to improve practices? How to identify good practices in terms of equine welfare on farms? What solutions to highlight professionals who do their job well? (e.g. with labels)

22) How to manage equines' end of life?

23) More time in open access: How can we encourage people to let animals spend more time outdoors? What are the solutions for horses to be freer? (even in small spaces)

24) How to guarantee health and well-being on limited surfaces?

25) How to link performance and well-being (performance and training levels; training methods and conditions; harnesses and equipment)?

26) Communication and image in society:

> How can we improve the image of the equine sector, given that equine activities can be associated with animal abuse?

> How to influence public perception? (e.g. sporting use is not necessarily a source of mistreatment or discomfort for the horse)

27) Training:

> How can we limit the anthropomorphization of horses (overprotection) or, conversely, the objectification of horses?

> The definition of health and well-being: there is a feeling of confusion when we separate the 2 notions





- > Training of veterinarians on the behavior and needs of horses.
- > Mandatory specific training for farmers to enable them to keep horses: “normal” agricultural training is not sufficient.
- > Mandatory training for horse owners, so that they know better how to care for horses, which should reduce conflicts between horse owners and keepers (= equine farmers)
- > Are there models where specific training is mandatory to allow horses to be raised?

28) Control and regulation:

- > Better training of people responsible for monitoring compliance with legislation on the protection of animals on farms
- > Control and strengthen the rules concerning animal welfare: the legislation controls welfare but the authorities responsible for implementation lack appropriate tools: what solutions?
- > How to define welfare standards and how to monitor them on farms?

Environmental sustainability

- **Management of resources and adaptation of practices to climate changes**

29) Ecological footprint of farms: what practices to reduce it on our farms? What are the negative impacts of the sector on climate change, and how can they be limited?

30) How to adapt your activities to extreme heat?

31) How to protect your farm and your horses against extreme weather events?

32) Water management:

- > Lack of management of water resources: how to use water better?
- > How to deal with lack of water?
- > How to manage the quality of rainwater?
- > How to store and redistribute water?
- > How to manage water, quantitatively and collectively?
- > How to deal with drought?
- > How to reduce waste?
- > Information on financing and/or investments to preserve and better manage water resources

33) Energy Management:

- > Photovoltaic energy: How to obtain information and advice on photovoltaic energy?
- > Renewable energies: What solutions for the use and production of non-fossil energies in equine farms (for example biogas, solar energy, etc.)
- > Improving the energy efficiency of farms, how to reduce waste?
- > Information on financing and/or investments for renewable energies
- > Renewable energies: what use and production systems are possible on equine farms?

34) Food resource:

- > Are there financial support mechanisms?
- > Due to droughts, it is impossible to produce fodder and the cost of transport is too high. Search for alternatives to hay: what are they?
- > How to reduce food waste?





35) Support and promotion:

> How can we promote the sector's benefits in terms of sustainable development and demonstrate its strengths?

> What are the best practices to be more resilient and more effective in the face of climate change?

> What support for good environmental preservation practices can farmers expect?

- **How to improve biodiversity while maintaining equine activities?**

36) Predation risk management: Conflicts with large carnivores: in certain regions, farmers are victims of bear attacks:

> How can we preserve these species (wolves, bears, lynx)?

> Better management to receive grants

> How to protect foals, what measures to put in place?

37) Management of conflicts of interest: species conservation, construction, animal protection

> How can we have both: agricultural land and nature reserves that do not conflict with each other?

> Are there examples to draw on?

38) Deterioration of the ecosystem due to massive plantations of non-native species: how to promote the cultivation of native species?

39) Find solutions to reduce the loss of biodiversity (and/or even increase biodiversity) in equine farms (positive and negative impacts of horses):

> How to identify good, practical and biodiversity-friendly methods?

> How to fight weeds without phytosanitary products?

> How to fight against the decline of biodiversity?

40) Introduction of more effective ways to protect native horse breeds and preserve their genetic diversity

- **How to manage grassland in the face of the future challenges?**

41) Forage production: how to limit the effects of climate change on the quality and quantity of forage?

42) Grass stock management:

> How can we limit the effects of climate change on the surfaces of paddocks and pastures in terms of quality and quantity?

> Rotational grazing: equipment and workshops on rotational grazing

43) Manure management: what storage? what use (better use of horse manure, recycling of nutrients)?

44) What solutions to protect soil quality in the long term?





45) Lack of controlled burning for access to pastures: How can we encourage the cleaning of communal forests? How can we take advantage of the environmental benefits of horses to control vegetation?

46) Low access to forest resources: How to use them better?

47) Sharing good practices in grazing management in the face of climate change:

> Grazing practices

> Selection of plant species: Development of new varieties / botanical compositions better adapted to dry summers

> Plant biodiversity

48) What solutions for the management of invasive plants and toxic plants? How to identify and reduce them?

Socio-economic performance and resilience

• How to improve farms profitability?

49) Cost control

> How to pool agricultural equipment?

> How to reduce energy consumption?

> How to control production costs?

> How to avoid food waste?

> How to limit the impact of inflation on operations?

> What solutions to fight the increase in production costs (food, labor and fuel in particular)?

50) Financial support: grants, financing, need for forage, equipment, facilities, labor

> In Romania, other large animals are eligible for certain payments, but not horses.

51) Low profitability of farms: How to improve their profitability through diversification? Identify new sources of income encouraging small farmers to maintain their traditional land management: Diversification of activities? Mixed farming?

52) Breeding:

> How to improve your profitability?

> What profitability for breeding? What models?

> How to achieve financial balance in breeding?

> How to implement a balanced economic model?

53) What solutions to reduce additional salary costs?

54) How to manage the increase in credits?

55) What solutions to manage market uncertainty (seasonal, "fashionable" and very variable) / Product differentiation (difficulty of having a homogeneous product with a fixed value)?



- **How to improve working conditions?**

56) Arduousness of work:

> What mechanization, digitalization and robotics solutions to improve working conditions on my equine farm?

> How to reduce arduousness?

57) Attractiveness of professions:

> Lack of generational renewal: How can we pass on the passion for horses to future generations?

> Improve the image and understanding of the equine breeding profession among the general public.

> How to facilitate hiring?

> How to inspire young people to enter the profession (taking over from farmers, labor shortage)?

58) How to improve the well-being of employees and managers?

> What solutions for replacement?

> How to improve work-life balance?

> What solutions to improve quality of life?

> What solutions to improve the image of equine breeders among breeders of other species? Equine breeders are not seen as real farmers, and are often considered lazy by non-equine farmers.

59) How to improve safety at work?

> What are the best safety practices to implement on a farm?

Transversal

- **How to manage issues related to access to agricultural land?**

60) Land pressure and competition with environmental projects (for example, solar or wind farms) or others:

> How can we promote the environmental benefit of horses in relation to wind and solar farms, or the establishment of non-native species?

61) Land cost:

> Difficulties in acquiring land (price of agricultural land, competition with other sectors of agricultural production), what solutions?

> How to access land with increasing prices?

62) How to manage common/public spaces (provincial land, road and path)?

63) Access to land:

> How to improve access to land for equine farms?

> Give more information to farmers to be able to access communal land, on cooperation between authorities (e.g. construction and environmental services, highway services, etc.), or management of public places with horses (grazing)

> How to deal with the lack of access to land?



64) Land management and procedures

- > How to improve transparency on land allocation?
- > How to facilitate exchanges with the land management organization?
- > How to clarify acquisition and distribution procedures?

• **How to improve training and knowledge transfer?**

65) Training and accessibility to equine veterinarians:

- > How to improve access to good veterinarians, particularly in certain regions?
- > Equine veterinarian shortage, what can be done?
- > Improving the training of veterinarians on well-being in particular

66) Training of equine farmers and their employees

- > Not enough practice with horses during teaching relating to the equine sector: what solutions?
- > Improving agricultural skills, examples?
- > How to improve general knowledge about horses?
- > Online communication training: for example, how to respond to negative reviews on social media, how to communicate proactively, etc.
- > Lack of trained professionals, from grooms to technicians: what solutions to deal with it?
- > Solutions to manage conflicts with horse owners, improve communication, avoid conflicts, set limits to preserve work-life balance, find compromises when the owner and breeder do not have the same opinion on how to take care of the horse, etc.

67) Promote and organize the transfer of knowledge from science to practice:

- > Training workshops and practical workshops with external trainers: which models work?
- > What solutions for better transmission of information?
- > How to ensure good transfer of knowledge into practice?
- > How can farmers obtain scientifically proven information?

68) Increase/consolidation of advisory services:

- > How to have better visibility of the offer of consulting services?
- > How to access advice more easily?
- > Are there structuring models for consulting professions?

69) Training of trainers: What solutions to optimize training professions and have more expertise in teaching?

70) Administration training:

- > How can we promote professionalization given the lack of knowledge of the equine sector by administrations?
- > What solutions to better train people in the administration?

71) How to improve the visibility of the training offer?

72) Peer learning, exchange between farmers:

- > How to facilitate exchanges between farmers?
- > How to implement peer-to-peer learning solutions between farmers?

