

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 POLAND

www.eunethorse.eu

WHO ARE THE POLISH FARMERS INTERVIEWED?

In Poland, 19 equine farmers were interviewed.

LOCATION

- 6 of the farms surveyed are close to a major city
- 1 are close to suburbs
- 1 are in rural areas, of which 6 are close to a village and 1 are isolated
- 26% are in sensitive areas

FARM SIZE

- Utilised agricultural area from 2 to 4500 ha, average 13% of it is composed of permanent meadows
- From 12 to 150 horses per farm, the median is 40, average is 50
- From 1 to 40 births per year on farms, median is 4 average is 13

FARM WORKERS

- There is an average of 13 employees per farm
- 39% are woman

ECONOMIC AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- For 15% of farms, this is their main activity
- Economic objectives: 21% aim to achieve economical balance, 63% aim to make a profit, 16% have no economic objectives
- Economic performance (including salaries): 0% are in deficit, 11% break even, 89% make a profit



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

In Poland, more than 50 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

- Lack of basic knowledge about the health of horses, their use and care
- Catastrophic lack of knowledge about rearing and welfare of horses from foal to young horse (also in terms of nutrition)
- Horse riding amateurs, for whom the look of stables and their own are more important than the actual well-being of the horses
- Objectification of recreational and sport horses
- Little care for the psyche of sport and riding horses

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMS

- Trainings on good practices
- Inaccessibility of attractive areas for horse riding (state forests, national parks)
- Introduction of more effective ways to protect the genetic biodiversity of polish native horse breeds (Małopolska and Wielkopolska)
- Negative impact of drought on lower fodder yields
- Improvement of quality of pastures and meadows (irrigation from natural reservoirs, use of renewable energy, retention of water wastes)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE OF FARMS

- Low awareness and level of public knowledge about horses
- Lack of staff (training is need)
- Lack of knowledge of the society (media looking for sensation)
- Lack or low profitability of production/horse breeding
- Not enough practice with horses in horse-related secondary and higher education

MORE INFO

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