



EHN

Activities

2014 - 2015

2014 - 15 Activities

- 3 Board meetings
 - New members
 - European Commission
 - Stakeholders
- 2 MEP lunch + 2 leaflets produced
 - Horses and Education (March 2014)
 - The Horse and Veterinary Medicinal Products (Jan 2015)
- Horse conference in Caen. Three EHN speakers + leaflet (Sept 2014)
- General Assembly (Oct 2014)

MEP Lunches (2011-2015)

- 8 Lunches were held in the European Parliament so far
- Audience: 6 MEPs attending (on average), 2-3 representatives of the European Commission.
- 20 MEPs are active members, 70 interested
- 8 thematic leaflets were produced
- 10 topics discussed being
 - CAP reform,
 - Sport,
 - Health and Welfare incl Transport of horses ,
 - Education and Research,
 - Financing and Taxation
 - Veterinary Medicinal Products

Horses and Education



Horses & Education

Sport and education with horse

- Being disabled
- a family sport
- women and men compete together
- has an influence on the personal development
- Improves the physical fitness during the whole life
- gives the possibility to include people with handicap into the regular competition and education systems
- is an important part of our European traditional heritage
- Protecting values of integration, volunteering, mentoring

Key figures

- 76% of the riders say that they have a strong leadership (compared to 46% of non riders)
- 83% of the riders say that they have a strong capacity to deliver (compared to 74% of non riders)
- 98% of the riders say that they are nature connected (compared to 74% of non riders) *nr: SCHNEIDER, 2012*
- More than 80 % of questionnaire respondents reported that horse riding made them feel "quite a bit" or "extremely cheerful, relaxed, happy or active". Qualitative data suggests that horse riding can play a role in managing negative feelings relating to anxiety and depression.
- Asked to rate different motivations for going horse riding 82 % of questionnaire respondents rated the motivation of "interaction with horses" as either "very important" or "extremely important". *nr: BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY 2011*

Experiences within "Leonardo Da Vinci Partnerships"



Maria Charlotte Wist (Germany)

"The idea was to have a project where a great possibility for me to check my abilities concerning working in the international horse business. Furthermore I can say that I grew with my challenges and became more and more confident at what I had to do. I really enjoyed a development in myself after these three meetings. I had made for being a responsible part of the horse and also education, to teach the right contents in the right way. The feedback we received in all three days helped me a lot to develop myself from a student to a horse instructor."

With many thanks to Prof. Dr. Harald Lange (University of Würzburg) who has provided the pedagogical background out of a research project about the impact of horses within school program

The contact with horses and its impact onto the self-concept

The nature of the horse and its individual characteristics and behavior provides a unique learning arrangement. Within a communication a horse gives feedback and shows a mirror image of the way it is treated. This mirror function of the horses provides an important influence on the self-concept of human beings.

In general self-concept is understood as a mental model of a person themselves. This self-concept takes an important role in the development of someone's personality. In terms of the work with horses the support of the self-concept of children has been very successful already - although the physical self-image generally is a special strengthening factor. This reason becomes a trigger for the development of a personality structure of young people in an advantageous way of way.



Robin Redolat (France)

"The training course in Norway was a very good experience. I learned about the other schools in Europe and about it was so much. I improved my English too because I had to do with other people. That was very good! Thanks for the nice days in my school to give me the chance to go there!"

Bruno Vaninca (Portugal)

"In recent days, 25/27 February I had the pleasure of being a riding instructor in the Normandy Department. It was a very pleasant experience, and I managed to learn enough level of horse and equestrian riding. The "European" idea, I feel really has a method of working and I hope that we can bring some of these methods to Portugal. Not to forget also in the English, where I had some difficulties, and I think that another thing to be improved in Portugal."



Assistance of the empathy skill through the contact with the horse

To be able to handle horses it is necessary to understand the horse and its behavior. To have empathy for the horse, the so-called "feeling" of the horse within different situations is a key and for a successful communication between human and horse.

"Empathy" itself is of special relevance for horses, and not only for a successful interaction, especially in regard to the development of such own personality. The quality of empathy plays an important role in the training of the "feeling" and for the development of the horse's personality. Empathy is also important for the self-development and for the development of these principles. Contact with horses provides the need to understand the ability to empathize just because this helps for the development of social competences.

The influence of the horse contact for the bonding behaviour

The relationship between a child and its attachment figure can suffer greatly concerning its quality. It will show in the end adult children with unusual and disturbed bonding experiences. The quality of bonds defines the self-esteem of the child and has great impact on all other relationships that the child establishes in its life. Therefore positive bonding experiences are of central importance for any young person. Soon it is a need of an insulating bonding with regard to a healthy development. Interpersonal relationships have a significant influence on the physical being, the personality and the identity formation of a child. The contact with horses enables children to collect different positive bonding experiences.



Experience of the French Equestrian Federation - Pony Ecole - Spring 2013

Horse riding is the 3rd sport in France and the 1st sport for women. The French Federation organized in 2012 an operation to develop horse riding at school from April to July. 417 horse riding schools identified their needs for children. 1 100 different grant schools. 53 000 children from 8 to 10 year old discovered equestrian activities. 1 500 teachers, 150 000 parents, teachers and adults were involved. More than 1 000 stages learned how horse riding can be good for education, health and social activities. www.equestrie.fr/act

Experience in Sweden - which did the stable? Study made in 2005 by Lena Forsberg and U

Sweden is one of the most horse-possessed countries in Europe. 230 000 individuals visit riding schools every year. 80 percent of these are women, half of them younger than twenty-five. Riding is an important leisure activity of young girls. The aim of the study was to describe young girls' creation of identity in a stable world. The results are based on ethnographic study of 6 girls, aged 18-16, joining a riding club. The stable can be seen as a cultural arena, which is characterized by internal rank and categories. While this is the girls' domain, responsibility and authority. The young girls learn to learn through certain values, which give them the strength to enter gender levels and to explore another way of femininity than the one given by their outside the stable. Girls commented on the image when they were there, as image about identity, care giving riding not being self, in their own view. They rather experienced power and competence in the stable as their own challenge and risk in the sport.

EU Institutions' activities



Sporting organisations and educational institutions can benefit greatly by working together to promote greater participation in sport. Through sporting activities, young people can learn to be part of a team and accept the principles of the club, as well as establish healthy behaviour and lifestyles. This kind of collaboration also helps to increase the numbers of qualified coaches and professionals in the sector. The European Commission has acknowledged that the quality of physical education programmes and the qualifications of the teachers and trainers involved are a concern in a number of Member States. More extensive interaction between sport and education actors is needed to promote the mutual sharing of best practices. The EU Expert Group on Education and Training is exploring ways of promoting qualifications gained by coaches, instructors, and other athletes through non-formal sport-specific courses by formalisation and informal training in sports of methods, leading to the European Qualification Framework (EQF).

The second EU Work Plan for sport (2014 - 2020) planned to be adopted in May 2014, includes a proposal for future European actions in the field of education and training in sport. Sport Strategy Groups will be active during the period, one on Sport & Society with a specific task: to develop an education strategy.

Erasmus+ - the new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth, and Sport for 2014-2020

The Erasmus+ programme aims to foster skills and employability, as well as understanding Education, Training, and Youth work. The seven year programme will have a budget of 14,7 billion, a 60% increase compared to current spending levels, reflecting the EU's commitment to investing in these areas.

Erasmus+ will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad.

Erasmus+ will support transnational partnerships among Education, Training, and Youth institutions and organisations to foster cooperation and bring the worlds of Education and work in order to tackle the skills gap we are facing in Europe.

Erasmus+ will for the first time provide support for Sport.

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Horses and Veterinary Medicinal Products



End of a horse life – The horse as part of the food chain.

Concern of the welfare of the horse throughout the entire lifetime of the horse must be guaranteed at all stages. It is inevitable that the horse will die at some point, whether this be due to slaughter or euthanasia. Slaughter of the end stage of a horse's life therefore always will be a part of responsible horse ownership and part of horse welfare.

The need for humane slaughter and disposal of horses as a welfare, consumer and a matter of public interest has been the subject of many conferences, seminars and public discussions. The need for humane slaughter and disposal of horses as a welfare, consumer and a matter of public interest has been the subject of many conferences, seminars and public discussions.

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Without animals of good health status there is no horse industry in Europe, whether it concerns sport, pleasure or breeding. Good health status however requires the availability of a sufficient number of veterinary medicinal products. Transparent and non-discriminatory veterinary medicinal legislation is vital for horse owners and professionals working with horses.

The EU legal environment on the manufacture, authorization, marketing, distribution and use of veterinary medicines was adopted in 2001.

Over the years, this regulatory framework has been amended in response to scientific advances and the needs of the veterinary sector. However, the current legislation is no longer fit for purpose and stakeholders have reported an overall lack of authorized veterinary medicines for many species, for rare or emerging diseases and for some diseases in major species. This lack of veterinary medicines poses significant animal health and welfare problems, increased risks for human health, and economic and competitive disadvantages for EU farming.

The market for veterinary medicinal products for use in horses is of limited economic value for the pharmaceutical companies, as the practice is rare, hence in the smaller countries will suffer welfare issues because of lack of availability. A significant obstacle therefore for a veterinary medicinal product would be its availability for use in all EU countries, if registered and marketed as one of the EU member countries. The product will then in the legislation, that once a marketing authorization is given, it should be valid throughout the European Union, it is expected that through keeping all the different authorization and distribution channels, this process is unlikely to become reality.

The industry wishes the usual steps would be taken in a single market, such as the extension of the centralized authorization



The Horse & Veterinary Medicinal Products

A leading role for the European Horse Network January 2014

Context and legal environment

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FEEVA point of view's presented at the lunch meeting by Claire Sicluna (Fr) and Marc Bowen (UK)

- ### EHN and its Members
- The EHN is a non-profit network composed of many equine organizations operating in Europe.
- APFEE - European Federation of Therapeutic Equestrian Associations
 - FEI - International Equestrian Federation
 - EEF - European Equestrian Federation
 - EPVH - European Equine Veterinary Association
 - Hippika Cluster and Hippika Foundation
 - FEEV - European Federation of Equestrian Veterinarians
 - EMVA - European Medical Veterinary Association
 - EMSA - European Equine Medical Association
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Availability of medicines

The horse industry welcomes the long awaited EU Commission proposal for new legislation in the field of Veterinary Medicinal Products, but it is disappointed to see that the Commission did not propose more significant steps towards a single EU market for veterinary medicines.

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Responsible use of medicines – Antimicrobial resistance

It is recognized that the regulation proposal of veterinary medicinal products encourages the responsible use of antibiotics in the interest of sustainable animal health, welfare and public health. Medicines should not be used in ways that are likely to cause problems related to antimicrobial resistance in humans, and the correct administration of medicines is generally well understood.

The responsible use of veterinary medicinal products and the prevention of antimicrobial resistance is a major concern of the entire horse industry. Responsible use however is closely linked to availability of newly published data among the members of the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEVA) also showed that the most common reason not to use the appropriate antibiotic in a given situation was lack of availability in the country where the product was to be used.

Responsible use of medicines in horses and in particular of antimicrobials should be promoted. It is especially crucial that critically important antimicrobials (CIAs) should only be prescribed after secondary testing, as a very last resort and when no other options are available.

Caution must be exercised about the sale of veterinary medicines via the internet. In practice it is impossible in a regulated and controlled environment to have internet sales due to legal requirements concerning authorization, due to the characteristics of prescription only medicines and due to the supply of medicines and the control of prescriptions, which are not harmonized in the different countries of the EU for a supplier it will be very difficult as well as often impossible to verify whether the prescription is valid and issued by an authorized person for the horses under his/her care.



Horse welfare

Horse welfare is also human welfare, as sick and unhealthy horses always will be of major concern to the people keeping them and using them for sport and leisure, food, and animal access to appropriate medicines through their welfare matters are also likely to have a beneficial impact on the welfare of the single horse.



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2015 Action Plan

- 3 Board meetings (Jan., April., Sept.)
- 2 MEP lunch + Leaflet
 - June 3rd: Horses for Growth and Environment
 - Nov.: Horse & Social benefits
- EAAP Conference
 - August 2015 Warsaw, two EHN speakers
- Equus conference 2015
 - September, Normandy, Two EHN speakers
- General assembly (Oct)

Future FEEVA & EHN

- Jesper Møller Nielsen stays EHN board member until next GA (Oct. 2015)
 - Is prepared for another year if FEEVA agree
- Nancy De Briyne from the FVE office will participate in as many Brussels meetings and activities as possible to minimize travel expenses.