



ESSA courier

No. 7 – August 2010

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The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

During this summer time, with some holidays for many people, and with breeding shows and horse events for most of the studs, I hope you will find time enough to go through this bulletin of our association. This number 7 of our newsletter will give you a lot of information. I have to say that all ESSA members should be very proud to see the success of our network: the last General Assembly at Neustadt/Dosse confirmed it.

Now, we start the presentation of ESSA at Brussels, thanks to the wonderful support of the Ministry for Rural Affairs, Food and Consumer Protection of Baden-Württemberg and thanks to the work of our Marbach dream-team under the leadership of Astrid von Velsen! All member studs are welcome on 10th of November in Brussels. Some concrete help to show what we are and to present our cultural heritage is also needed. Volunteers and contributions are welcome!

To be able to better represent our colleagues in all European countries, ESSA needs more members, but we are now just strong enough to make our association living. The possibility of supporting members should reinforce our projects. All the planned actions presented in this bulletin are very positive, and it's a pleasure for me to thank all of you for your support.

With best wishes,

Bernard Maurel



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Welcome to our new member: Đakovo National Stud, Croatia

The National Lipizzan stud in Đakovo is one of the oldest stud farms in Europe. First written records about the breeding originate from 1374. This year the Bosnian Banus Tvrtko married the Bulgarian princess Doroteja and donated 10 Arabian mares and one stallion to the bishops of Đakovo. The name of the stud farm was first mentioned in 1506 and that year is considered to be the foundation year of Đakovo stud.

In 1806 the Lipica stud was evacuated to Đakovo when Napoleons army approached. When the Lipizzan horses departed, three stallions stayed at Đakovo and breeding of Lipizzan horses started. In 2006 the stud celebrated 500 years existence and 200 years organised breeding of Lipizzan horses.

The stud is home to 180 horses including 64 stallions, 46 mares and their offspring. Seven stallion lines and 13 original mare families are bred.

Stallion lines are SIGLAVY, FAVORY, CONVERSANO, NEAPOLITANO, TULIPAN, PLUTO, MAESTOSO.

Mare families are MIMA, TOPLICA, MARA, BATOSTA, GAJTANA, ALLEGRA, KRABBE, SANTA, SLAVONIJA, TROFFETTA, MONTENEGRA, ZENTA, MUNJA.

Today, the stud operates in two locations: "Ivandvor" is the name of the stud farm. It accommodates breeding mares, breeding sires and the foals. The stallion station is located in the centre of Đakovo town. Here the young stallions are trained.

On the agricultural land all the necessary forage is produced. Additional forage is only bought in exceptional situations. The stud is financed with about 65% by the state. Other sources of income are agriculture and tourism.

Together with Đakovo cathedral the stud is the most important cultural and historical monument of the city and the region. In Croatia Lipizzan horses are considered to be living monuments. Thus, the stud is an important visitor attraction, welcoming approximately 20.000 tourists per year.



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The stud plans to build an indoor riding arena to provide conditions for the continuous work with horses all year round. In addition to the arena with a riding space of 45 x 75 meters and capacity for 1000 visitors, 18 boxes, gastronomy, a museum and a souvenir shop are in preparation. The new facility will give Croatia the first large indoor riding venue meeting actual European standards.

ESSA wishes Đakovo stud all the best executing this huge task!

General Assembly and Reception of the European State Studs. Supporting members needed!

In June the European state studs' directors met at the Principal and Federal Stud Neustadt/Dosse (Germany) for their annual general assembly. Due to an alteration of the statutes it is now possible to join ESSA as supporting member. With an annual membership fee of 50 Euros everyone can make a contribution to the preservation of European stud culture.

Dr. Tomi Rumpf, director of the Slovenian national stud Lipica, was elected for the ESSA board where he replaced his precursor Matjaž Pust and joined Bernard Maurel (Les Haras Nationaux), Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck (Principal and Federal Stud Marbach), Dr. Dominik Burger (National Stud Avenches) und Lenka Gotthardová (Hippological Museum Slatiňany).

In the evening the stud directors' assembly was followed by the „Reception of the European State Studs“. Representatives of politics, equestrian organisations and media came to Neustadt, such as the Hungarian Attaché for Agriculture Péter Dull, Peter Stier, member of the German parliament and the breeding referees of different states. The German Equestrian Federation (FN) was represented by its secretary general Soenke Lauterbach and Dr. Klaus Miesner, head of the breeding department.

The welcome words of host Dr. Jürgen Müller and ESSA-president Bernard Maurel were followed by greetings of State Secretary Rainer Bretschneider, Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture in Brandenburg. Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck gave a presentation about the cultural significance of the European state studs and the cooperation of the ESSA-network.



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After the theoretical part the Neustadt studs entertained the guests with a varied show programme, before the evening ended in the historic atmosphere of the freshly renovated sire stable. For the next general assembly in April 2011 director Franck Le Mestre invited the ESSA members to the French National Stud Le Pin.

ESSA promotion material and online presence

To better communicate ESSA's objectives and to attract supporting members, posters and leaflets have been designed. The promotion material was presented at the General Assembly and can be obtained at the ESSA office and all member studs. In the first step the leaflets and posters are available in English, French and German. Further languages are possible when the members provide translations.

The new ESSA website "www.europeanstatestuds.org" is in preparation and expected to go online by the end of August. It will contain actual information, links to the websites of all member studs and a member section.

On the social community site "facebook" ESSA is already present. Take a look and invite your friends at

<http://de-de.facebook.com/pages/ESSA-European-State-Studs-Association/128392653847939>

ESSA at the European horse fair "Eurocheval"

With a sulky quadrille ESSA took part in the show programme of the European horse fair "Eurocheval" at Offenburg (Germany) from 21st to 25th of July. The network was represented by Avenches and Marbach stud with 16 Freiburger and Blackforest stallions. Both breeds were endangered to become extinct after the motorisation of agriculture, but could be preserved thanks to the engagement of the traditional studs. Today, both breeds are increasingly popular, especially for carriage driving, leisure riding and as school or therapy horses.

The ESSA partner studs Dillenburg, Le Pin, Marbach und Topolčianky contributed to the „Euroquadrille“, which is traditionally part of the Eurocheval show programme. Information



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about the network could be obtained at the information stand of Marbach stud, where the new ESSA posters and leaflets were placed.

For 2011 ESSA plans to be present at the French horse fairs „Cheval Passion“ in January at Avignon (France) and at the „Equitana“ in March at Essen (Germany).

ESSA reception and exhibition at Brussels in November 2010

From November 10th to 25th ESSA has the opportunity to present the national and traditional studs of Europe, their network and its objectives in the heart of the European Union. In cooperation with Marbach stud and the responsible Ministry of Rural Affairs, Food and Consumer Protection several events will take place at the seat of Baden-Württemberg at Brussels.

An exhibition about the cultural heritage of the European state studs will be shown for two weeks. It will be opened on November 10th with a reception including a presentation and a podium discussion. On this Wednesday of a parliamentary week the EU-politicians are expected to be in the city and the relevant people from the sector of agriculture and culture will be invited.

The reception and the exhibition are supported by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Rural Affairs, Food and Consumer Protection and the Seat of Baden-Württemberg offers its location without charge. The ESSA-members are invited to make use of the facilities for meetings and European lobbying. We are grateful for the generosity of the institutions involved and hope that all partner studs use the opportunity to get in touch with the authorities in Brussels.

Day of European Stud Culture

During the two weeks of the ESSA exhibition at the Brussels Seat of Baden-Württemberg a symposium on European stud culture is in preparation with lectures and discussions about the material, intangible and living heritage of Europe's national and traditional studs.



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Lectures about the studs' architecture and cultural landscapes, as well as presentations about typical stud traditions, old professions and the culture of horse riding and carriage driving shall give an overview on the cultural values preserved at the national and traditional studs of Europe.

If you want to make a contribution, please send an abstract of your topic to the ESSA-office by 15th September.

Vocational schools visit the Czech Republic (by Erika Belz)

As part of the international collaboration of vocational schools from France, Slovenia, Hungary, Germany and the Czech Republic, the second meeting took place at Kladruby nad Labem. The project is funded by the EU programme for lifelong learning "Leonardo da Vinci" and aims to exchange experience for the education of future horse professionals. Trainees from Bábolna, Kladruby, Lipica, Marbach and Pompadour stud are involved.

At the Czech partner institution „Stredni skola chovu koni a jezdeckvi“ at Kladruby the system of educating horse professionals in the Czech Republic was presented. The students pass through a three year full-time learning programme. The practical training takes place at the national stud Kladruby nad Labem, which is located in close proximity to the school. The students come from the whole country and are accommodated in a student residence.

Besides the Czech education system, the "Kladruher" horse stood in the centre of attention. Different horses were presented and Lenka Gotthardová, the former director of Kladruby stud and an expert for Kladruher horses, gave a presentation about history, breeding programme and use of this special breed.

The participants could observe the use of Kladruher horses for carriage driving life at the „International Driving Event“ which took place on the stud's premises these days. The Czech students additionally demonstrated the abilities of Kladruher horses for riding and vaulting.

Guided tours through Kladruby and Slatiňany stud, the hippological museum of Slatiňany, a visit of the famous Pardubice Steeple-Chase race grounds and a day in Prague completed



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the programme. The next meeting will take place at France in September. For more information on the project see <http://www.horsebreeding-partnership.eu/>

Situation at the French National Studs

Following the general review of the public policy started by the French government in June 2009 the merge in between the French National Studs and the French National Riding School is effective since February 1st 2010. The general director is Mr Philippe de Guenin. He was nominated on 30th March, the board and its president should be known shortly. With his two assistants Mr Robert d'Artois, former director of Saumur National Riding School and Mr Emmanuel Rossier, former vice director of Les Haras Nationaux, they already visited all the French sites and informed all people involved about the new organisation.

The new IFCE (Institut Français du Cheval et de l'Equitation = French institute for horse and equitation) will work in close connection with the horse industry in order to support this economic sector. It will keep minimum eleven sites of the 19 existing ones and will manage the other sites, the stallions and the technical centres, former covering stations, in partnership with a new public company, France Haras, where the breeders and the regions will be strongly represented.

Country in focus: Romania

Romania might not belong to those European countries famous for their horse industry, but nevertheless, it has a long history of horse breeding and horses still play an important role in the Romanian society.

Today, all 12 traditional stud farms and 4 stallion depots are under the authority of the Romsilva Forest Administration, an institutional member of ESSA. In spring 2010 Mr Dipl. eng. Robert Bartha has replaced Dr. Mohanu as director of the breeding department. He participated in the ESSA general assembly at Neustadt/Dosse and introduced himself to his European colleagues.



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The effective number of horses in the state stud farms and stallion depots is about 3620 horses. Among those 1534 belong to the national genetic inheritance. Besides horse breeding, National Forest Administration Romsilva offers riding lessons, training and housing of private horses, equestrian tourism and experts for special consultation. The equestrian sport activities of Romania were developed through the Romsilva Equestrian Club, which is affiliated to the Romanian Equestrian Federation.

The stallion depots are located at Arad (Arad County), Dumbrava (Neamt County), Tg. Mures (Mures County) and Ramnicelu (Braila County).

The following horses are bred:

- Hucul, Romanian Pony and Bucovina, Half Heavy Horses – Lucina Stud Farm (Suceava County)
- Romanian Sport Horse – Jegalia (Calarasi County) and Izvin (Timis County) stud farms
- English Thoroughbred – Cislau (Buzau County) and Izvin (Timis County) stud farms
- Shagya – Radautzi Stud Farm (Suceava County)
- Pure Arabian – Mangalia Stud Farm (Constanta County)
- Romanian Trotter – Rusetu (Buzau County) and Dor Marunt (Calarasi County) stud farms
- Romanian Half Heavy Horse – Beclean pe Somes (Bistrita County) and Rusetau (Buzau County) stud farms
- Nonius – Izvin Stud Farm (Timis County)
- Gidran – Tulucesti Stud Farm (Galati County)
- Furioso-North Star – Slatina Stud Farm (Olt County)
- Lipizzaner – Sambata de Jos (Brasov County) and Beclean pe Somes (Bistrita County) stud farms

Since not all breeds are well known throughout Europe, here is a short introduction:

Furioso-North Star

The population called Furioso-North Star is a half blood horse with skills for both carriage and riding. They are very lively horses but well balanced.



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Nonius

The Nonius population is, like Furioso-North Star, a half blood breed, established in the beginnings of 19th century, to serve the Habsburgic army. The main goal of establishing this breed was to develop a very powerful, resistant and sturdy horse, able to pull the heavy armament, but also useful for agricultural work.

Gidran

The Gidran is an Anglo-Arabian crossbreed with an exclusively chestnut colour. They are very good jumping horses with a well balanced temperament and sturdy confirmation. These qualities make the Gidran a good carriage horse. It is an excellent competition horse due to its courage and resistance.

Hucul

Is one of the most representative original horse breeds, with a large area of extend on the Carpathians Mountains. The places of birth of this breed are in Bucovina and Galitia regions and it is dated from the 13th century. The Hucul is a very strong and resistant horse. It is powerful, intelligent, patient and also lively horse, very loyal to human. The main use for these horses is packhorse, light traction but also leisure horse and hippo therapy.

Romanian Half Heavy Horse

It is a half breed of Ardenne which has been crossed with Lipizzaner, Trotter, Furioso-North Star and even local Romanian mares. It is a very lovely horse, easy manageable and with a good temper. It is used for heavy traction, in agriculture and forestry works. There are two varieties: Baragan Variety, bred and created in Rusetu Stud Farm and Transylvanian Variety, bred and created in Beclean pe Somes Stud Farm.

Bucovina Half Heavy Horse

It is a crossbreed of Hucul horse, established through crossings between Hucul and Romanian half horses. It has a very good power and it is used mainly for intermediary up to heavy traction.

Ardenne Horse

It is a typical heavy traction horse. It is used for hard work in agriculture and forestry because they are very powerful and sturdy horses. Ardenne horses have a very good temper and are easy manageable.



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Romanian Pony

The breed was established through cross breeding between Shetland Ponies and Hucul horses. It has an average height of 110-120 cm and different colour variety, it can be single-colour or bicolour. Its temperament is lively but easy to handle therefore it is a very good horse for children and even for hippo therapy.

This impressive introduction to the different Romanian horse breeds illustrates the diversity of Romanian horses and provokes curiosity to find out more about the equestrian culture in south east Europe. Perhaps, one of the next ESSA assemblies will take us there.

This year, the stud farm “Sambata de Jos”, specialised in Lipizzan Horses celebrates its 90th anniversary with an event on August 21st and 22nd. We wish our Romanian partners a wonderful event and another 90 successful years of horse breeding!

ESSA dates 2010

- September 22nd: Board meeting at CHANTILLY, France
- October 3rd: Presentation of draught and rare horses at STRASBOURG, France
- November 10th: Reception at the seat of Baden-Wuerttemberg at BRUSSELS, Belgium
- November 10th-25th: Exhibition of European stud culture at the seat of Baden-Wuerttemberg at BRUSSELS, Belgium

ESSA dates 2011

- January 19th-23rd: Presence at the horse fair “Cheval Passion” at AVIGNON, France
- March 12th to 20th: Presence at the horse fair “Equitana” at ESSEN, Germany
- April 2011: ESSA General Assembly at LE PIN, France