



ESSA courier

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The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

The last General Assembly at Bucharest was a meeting that the present members will never forget. Not because of the meeting itself, were the participation was little less than last time at Le Pin, but because of all the efforts made by the Romsilva representatives, from the General Director Mr. Valerian Solovastru and Mr. Robert Bartha, head of the horse breeding department, with his team, to all the studs employees who travelled from all parts of Romania in order to present us many horses, mostly stallions of the different breeds. We need to find a way to help and promote some of these breeds not so well known in other European countries, like Gidran, Nonius, Furioso North Star or Hucul. Ideas to exchange genetics, to contact foundations, to propose a study or a seminar about European endangered breeds or to cross knowledge and information are welcome.

Some of the stallions were coming from far away. They were presented first at the hand, then under the saddle for jumping exercises or in front of carriages for driving presentations. That means a preparation that we can be very grateful for. All the efforts from the Romsilva directors and staff are more than valuable and have to be saluted with a very strong "BRAVO" on behalf of the ESSA board and members!

With my very best regards,

Bernard Maurel

Review: General Assembly 2012 in Romania

Questions for the most interesting horse country of Europe will most likely provoke answers including Great Britain, Germany, France or Spain. Who at all knows, that Romania with its 19.5 million inhabitants counts 9 million horses? Who has heard of Nonius, Gidran oder Furioso North Star horses? Even the stud directors of other countries, excellent horsemen- and women specialised in



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horse breeding, so far had little insight into the horse world of Romania. Therefore, the invitation of the National Forestry Administration Romsilva, managing all 12 breeding farms and the four stallion depots of the country, to host this year's conference of the European State Studs Association (ESSA) was very welcome. More than 30 of the most renowned breeding institutions of the continent are part of this network and their representatives travelled to Romania to keep in touch, to plan joint activities, but also to discover virgin soil.

Since due to time restrictions a round trip to all stud farms was out of question, the hosts organised a presentation at Jegalia National Stud, where horses from all across the county gathered. Noble Lipizzaners, dark black Nonius and elegant Gidrans delivered a brilliant performance in front of carriages. Romanian Warmbloods proved their talent for show jumping, while Furioso North Stars enchanted the audience with their energy and expression. Diligent Huculs and powerful Ardenners were further highlights of the show. Also classical breeding is held in high esteem by the Romanians and was represented by Shagya and Pure Bred Arabians, Trotters and English Thoroughbreds.

The diversity of the Romanian horse world responds to the diversity of the Romanian landscape. It ranges from Transylvania and the Carpathian Mountains to the wide plains and the Danube delta at the Black Sea. Some of the still existing studs such as Radautz or Simbata de Jos were founded by the Habsburg monarchy and belong to the cultural heritage of the former Austria-Hungary. Horse lovers who plan a trip to Romania should reserve time - there is a lot to discover!

You find images of the General Assembly on the ESSA website www.europeanstatestuds.org

Review: Equimeeting tourism at Saumur

From May 9th to 11th the international symposium "Horses, Tourism and Leisure: continuities, transformations and change" was held at the French National Riding School. A truly international community had gathered in Saumur: the organisers counted 150 participants from 15 countries, some even came from Australia, the United States or Iceland. The symposium stimulated debate between researchers specialising in the different spheres of social and human sciences and the public and private stakeholders concerned with the development of equestrian-based tourism and leisure.



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The European State Studs were represented with a presentation titled *“The national and traditional studs as sites of touristic attraction for local and socio-economic development”*. Some studs already have a tradition as tourism site others just start to implement this field of business. The offers for visitors range from guided and carriage tours, to visitor centres, collections and museums. Some studs also run hotels and restaurants or special programmes for children. Shows, music festivals, trade fairs and other less horsey activities in the setting of historic stud premises attract thousands of visitors every year.

The book of abstracts is available on <http://equimeeting-tourisme-english.blogspotcheval.net/>

ESSA activities at Eurocheval

From July 25th to 29th, 2012 the “Eurocheval” horse fair will open its gates. Besides the mounted quadrille of warmblood stallions, which fascinates the spectators again and again, the European state studs present a tandem-quadrille. The tandem is one of the most demanding harnesses and part of the traditional driving culture, preserved and continued in the national studs. Besides promoting the art of classical riding and driving the historic breeding institutions are actively involved in the preservation of endangered horse breeds. This aspect is presented by three cold blood breeds. The Suisse National Stud Avenches travels with Freiburger stallions to Offenburg, the Baden-Wuerttemberg State Stud of Marbach hitches up Black Forest coldbloods and the French National Stud Rosières-aux-Salines shows Comtois horses.

EU-project: Image campaign of the European State Studs

At the ESSA General Assembly the present stud directors decided to apply for European funding for an image campaign of the European State Studs at the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). In cooperation projects of strand 1.2.1 funds between EUR 50.000 and EUR 200.000 are available for actions shared by at least three cultural operators, from at least three EU countries. The deadline for application is October 3rd, 2012. A project meeting with all partners involved will take place on July 24th, 2012 at Offenburg, Germany.



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Survey concerning the research potentials and needs of the European State Studs

These days, a bachelor-thesis, which is implemented in collaboration with ESSA, the school of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) in Zollikofen/Switzerland and the Institut Suisse de Médecine Equine (ALP-Haras and University of Berne) gathers the opportunities, challenges and needs of the European state studs, concerning research. In addition, a concept for networking between research institutions which are interested in equestrian studies will be created.

The objective of the thesis is to establish a network between European state studs and research institutions of the scope. The use of a transparent platform creates a win-win-situation for both parties and thus the collaboration is promoted and simplified. The potentials and needs of the European state studs are investigated with a short questionnaire. Results are expected in September.

Changes at National Stud Bábolna

In May a personal change took place at the Hungarian National Stud of Bábolna. Mr. Béla Müller who headed the stud since 2010 was freed of his duties. The new manager of the National Stud is Mr. Balázs Bérci. We wish to thank Béla Müller for the good cooperation and wish Balázs Bérci all the best in his new position. With his exemption at Bábolna Béla Müller resigned from his involvement in the ESSA board. Board elections will take place at the General Assembly 2013. Despite this change the conference will take place at Bábolna from April 15th to 17th, 2013 just before the 10th Bábolna Derby, the FEI Central European Endurance Cup 2013.

News about the European Heritage Label (EHL)

BACKGROUND

In 2006, a heritage label scheme was started by several European governments, without the involvement of the EU institutions. The establishment of an official EU initiative is currently in process. 2013 the pre-selection process of new sites will start. The full scheme will be in operation in 2015, with labels awarded every two years.



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OBJECTIVE

The EHL shall help strengthen Europeans' sense of belonging to the EU and promote mutual understanding in Europe. The focus will not be on preservation – this should be guaranteed by existing protection regimes – but rather on promoting the European dimension of sites, making them accessible and providing high-quality information and activities.

RELEVANCE FOR THE EUROPEAN STATE STUDS

The EHL ensures being recognised as valuable heritage site and thus helps preserving the studs. Labeled sites gain greater visibility by being integrated in the EU's communication and promotion strategy. Interested institutions may apply with a joint application as "Transnational sites" under a common name and a clear thematic link.

APPLICATION

STEP 1: Pre-selection at national level

Each EU country may pre-select up to 2 sites every 2 years.

STEP 2: Selection at EU level

A European panel of 13 independent experts will select and monitor the sites at EU level.

Candidate sites will be assessed on the basis of their projects and work plans. Sites which are interested in an application need to get in touch with their national authorities. ESSA can help coordinating a transnational application on European level.

Application forms and guidelines as well as the list of relevant national authorities will be provided by mid 2012 on: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/label/european-heritage-label_en.htm

Europa Nostra becomes official partner of UNESCO

Europa Nostra, has been recently recognised as an NGO official partner of UNESCO, having a consultative status. As stated in the paragraph II.2. of the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organisations, "this category of partnership is designed to enable UNESCO to establish and maintain flexible and dynamic partnerships with any organisation of civil



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society that is active in UNESCO's fields of competence at whatever level, and to benefit from its expertise, the representativeness of its networks for the dissemination of information and, if appropriate, its operational capacities in the field."

Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director General for Culture of UNESCO, represented UNESCO at the Europa Nostra Forum and the European Heritage Awards Ceremony in Lisbon in May. On this occasion, the 40th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention was marked. Representatives of Europa Nostra have been invited to an International Forum "NGOs in Support of the Cultural World Heritage", which will be held in St. Petersburg (Russia) on 22-24 June 2012, before the 36th annual Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (24 June – 6 July 2012).

For the European State Studs this is good news, since ESSA is a partner organisation of Europa Nostra. Through this connection the links to UNESCO and to World Heritage are getting stronger.

ESSA dates 2012

July 25 th to 29 th	European horse fair "Eurocheval" at OFFENBURG, Germany
August 27 th to 31 st	EAAP annual congress at BRATISLAVA, Slovakia
September 28 th to 30 th	International Conference "EQUUS- New Horse Industry Prospects in United Europe" at WARSAW, Poland

ESSA dates 2013

March 16 th to 24 th	EQUITANA fair at ESSEN, Germany
April 15 th to 17 th	General Assembly 2013 at National Stud BÁBOLNA, Hungary