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Importance of having updated equine data and how research can help data collection

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Session 50 "Importance and stakes of the horse industry at the European level"

The current context of the horse industry



**Significant changes : from agriculture and industry
to sports, leisure and consumption**



Development of new kinds of activities



Growth of the whole horse industry



**New questions about the status, place, role and
impact of horses**



A feeling of lack of data



- Little is known
- Few research studies
- Lack of statistics
- Diversity of methodologies, sources, years... -> no possible comparison or sum



Problem often encountered by researchers, institutions, professionals and policy makers



Next CAP EU Agriculture Policy (2020-2024)



But actually, much is known!

However, it hasn't been translated to the language of science and policy

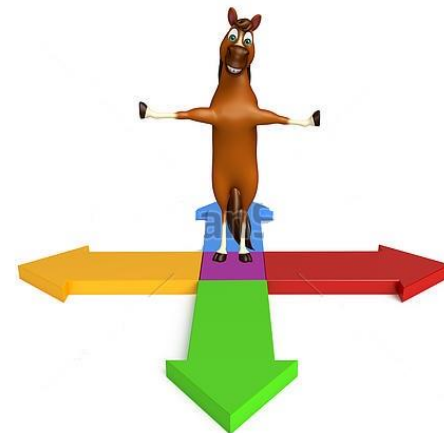
- i.e.**
- benefits of associating with horses**
 - health impacts of associating with horses**
 - environmental impacts**

Further, history and culture conspire against obtaining reliable statistics, making knowing the number of horses and their economic impact in Europe difficult to estimate

- i.e.**
- economic impacts**
 - population studies**



Challenges!



The status of horses is ambiguous as a result of the modernization of agriculture and industry.

Are they a farm animal?

Are they food?

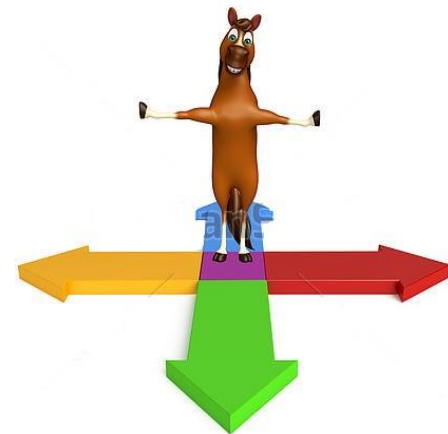
Are they part of the industrial process?

They were all of this, and more, in the past and that past continues to influence how we think today.

In this case, the strong cultural legacy of horses on European society can blind us to their contemporary state



Challenges - Perceptions



There is a need to address old perceptions value of horses in society

There is a need to address old perceptions of the economic value of horses in society

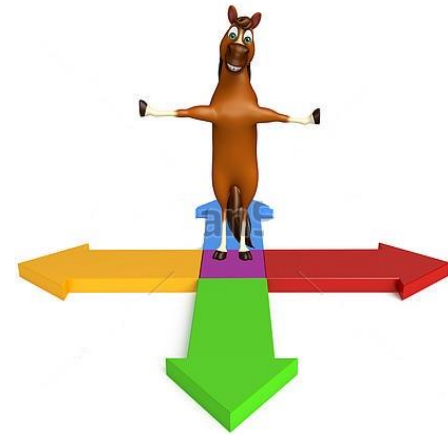
There is a need to address old attitudes towards equine ethology

There is a need to address old attitudes towards horse work

There is a need to address old attitudes towards horses as 'production animals'



Challenges - multidisciplinary



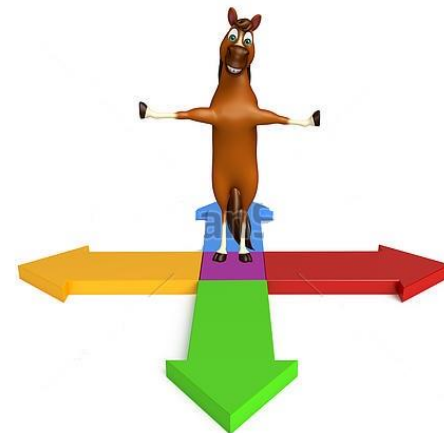
Understanding the world of horses necessarily requires a multidisciplinary enquiry, as the phenomenon of interest cross disciplines

For example, does agriculture encompass all of interest about horses?





Challenges - Multinational issues



Many nations, many jurisdictions, many different systems of regulation, many different emphases and priorities

Yet there is to a an EU approach to horses!

This needs multinational research projects to capture the similarities as well as the differences, and to create an intelligible picture out of such a multivariate environment



Importance of having updated equine data



For researchers, institutions, professionals and policy makers:

- To build research projects, compare different situations and areas, develop international studies

- To define and value the horse industry

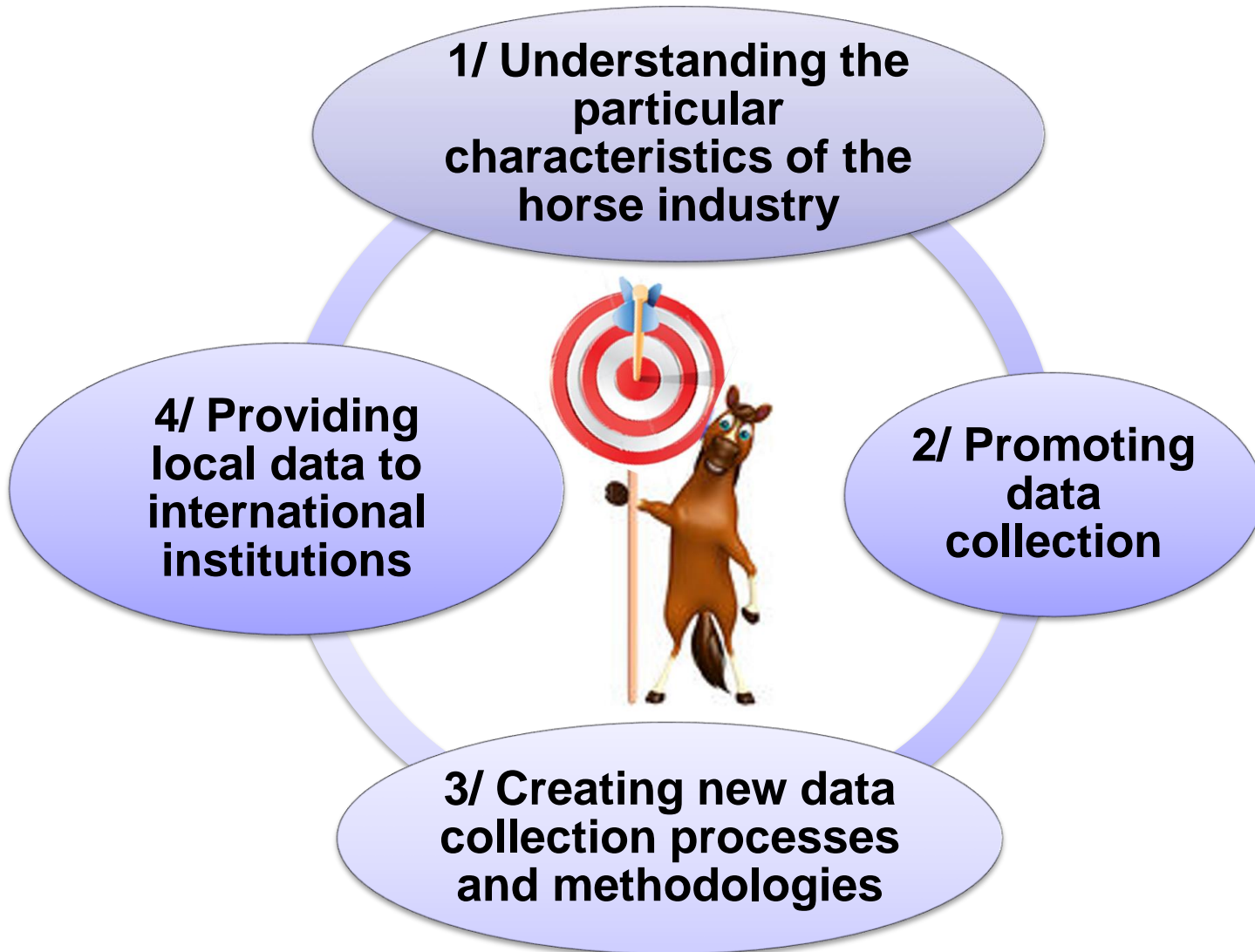
- To better manage the horse industry and create more effective policies

- To highlight the growing importance of this sector and improve its recognition

- To defend the place of the horse industry in the next European agriculture policy

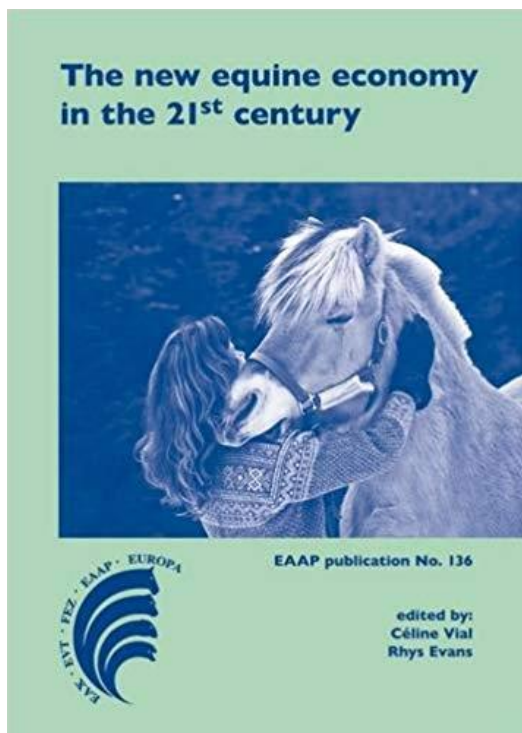


How research can help data collection?



1/ How research can help understanding the particular characteristics of the horse industry?

✓ Through studies and publications

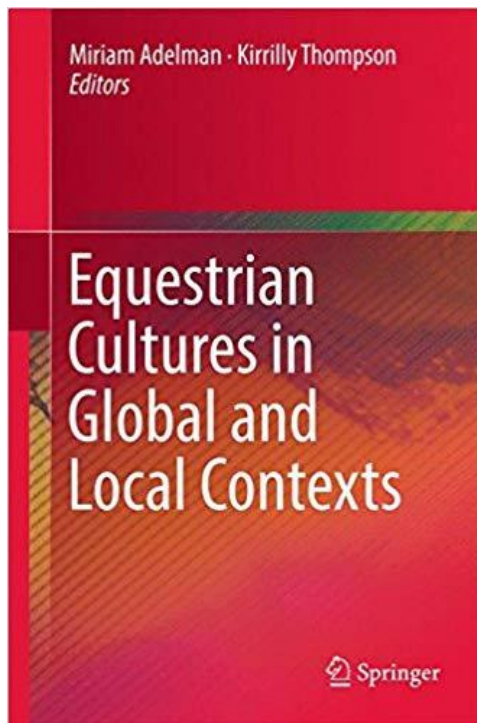


- *Recent changes in horse uses*
- *Specific research in economics and social sciences into this sector*
- *Opportunities and challenges it raises*
- *Emerging topics and questions*



1/ How research can help understanding the particular characteristics of the horse industry?

✓ Through studies and publications



- *Asks if the changing status of equine is consistent or not across a wide range of cultures*
- *Shows the value of equines as subjects of academic study and drivers of public policy*



1/ How research can help understanding the particular characteristics of the horse industry?

- ✓ By working with policy makers at the international, national, regional and local level to give them accurate scientific data upon which to base policy decisions!



2/ How research can help promoting data collection in every country?

- ✓ Through studies and publications that highlight the growing importance of the horse industry

2012 Kentucky Equine Survey

A comprehensive statewide survey of all breeds of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules

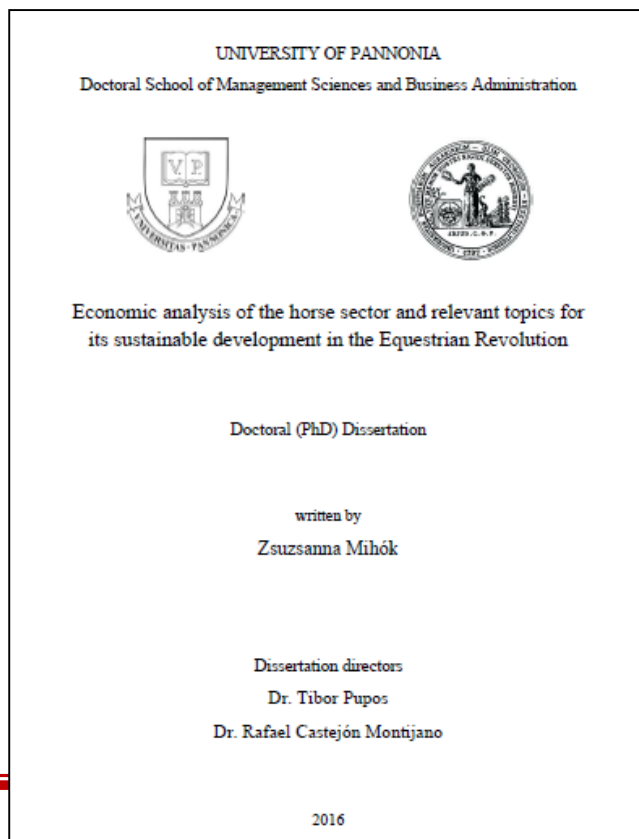


- *Inventory of horses but also economic operations linked to horses*
- *Impact study: employment, input and added value*



2/ How research can help promoting data collection in every country?

- ✓ Through studies and publications that highlight the growing importance of the horse industry



- *Study the conditions which have taken place in the countries where the horse industry has developed significantly -> indicators (horse racing and equestrian) from international umbrella organizations*
- *Estimate the economic impacts generated by the Hungarian Horse Sector and comparison to other countries*



3/ How research can create new data collection processes and methodologies?

Economic, social and environmental impacts of equestrian sporting events



- *Creation, test and application of the method*
- *Creation of an online tool to estimate the economic impact of sporting events through available data about the event and the local area*



3/ How research can create new data collection processes and methodologies?

Projet FEISE Filière Equine Impacts Socio-Eco 2017-2018

Direct, indirect and induce employment
in the horse industry

- *Use of available data and multipliers*
- *Creation of a method to estimate the total employment in the horse industry at a local level*



4/ How research can help providing local data to international institutions?

- ✓ **Through the creation of international research networks and calls for data**

The 2012 attempt of the EAAP working-group in socio-economy:

a call for 6 activity indicators:

- *Number of breeders*
- *Number of broodmares*
- *Number of riding schools*
- *Number of licensees of the National Equestrian Federation*
- *Number of race horse trainers*
- *Total amount of horse meat consumed per year*

and 4 general indicators:

- *Number of equine in the country*
- *Number of jobs in the horse industry*
- *Number of hectares used by equine in the country*
- *Total turnover of the horse industry*



4/ How research can help providing local data to international institutions?

- ✓ **Through the creation of international research networks and calls for data**

The 2012 attempt of the EAAP working-group in socio-economy:

- *13 countries answered totally or partially*
- *Data from 2009 to 2012*
- *Some data was missing, other extrapolated or approximated*
- *The number of equine was often not the total number but the number for one kind of equine (sporting horses for example)*
- *Methodologies and definitions: different among countries -> comparison quite difficult*



4/ How research can help providing local data to international institutions?

- ✓ **Through gathering researchers together as we are doing during this whole day to think about means to improve:**
 - ✓ **Equine research**
 - ✓ **International collaboration**
 - ✓ **Data collection**
 - ✓ **Regard for the horse industry**





DATA COLLECTION

- ✓ is important
- ✓ requires that the different actors in the horse industry join their efforts





Thank you for your attention!

