



EUNetHorse - setting the base: results on characterization questionnaires at EU level

Santos, A.S.¹, Fradinho, M.J.¹, Leitão, M.¹, Lejeune, J.P.², Rousset, A²

¹ FeedInov CoLAB, Research & Innovation, EZN, R. Prof. Vaz Portugal, 2005-242 Vale de Santarém, Portugal

² European Horse Center, Mont-le-Soie, 1 B-6690 Vielsalm, Belgium





What for?

For setting up the European network to increase the performance and the resilience of equine farms by widely disseminating best practices, tools and solutions that improve:

- 1 Their socio-economic performance
- 2 The animal welfare and health on farms
- 3 The environmental sustainability of the sector

How?

...ing connections among the different (sport/leisure, racing, agriculture, food production), geographical levels (national, European) and categories of actors to enable changes in practices.

EUnetHorse is the first European project dedicated to equine and help in structuring the sector and solidifying

Main objectives

- To build a European network to share and disseminate knowledge and best practices;
- To anticipate upcoming environmental, sanitary, social, economic and political challenges.
- To improve the resilience and the performance of equine farms in Europe;
- Better information of policy makers.



9 countries; 15 partners

Belgium

- European center of Mont-le-Soie, Wallonie

Finland

- LUKE
- University of Helsinki

France

- IFCE
- ACTA
- Agricultural chamber of Grand Est

Portugal

- Feedinov

Romania

- ADEPT

Switzerland

- Agroscope

Spain

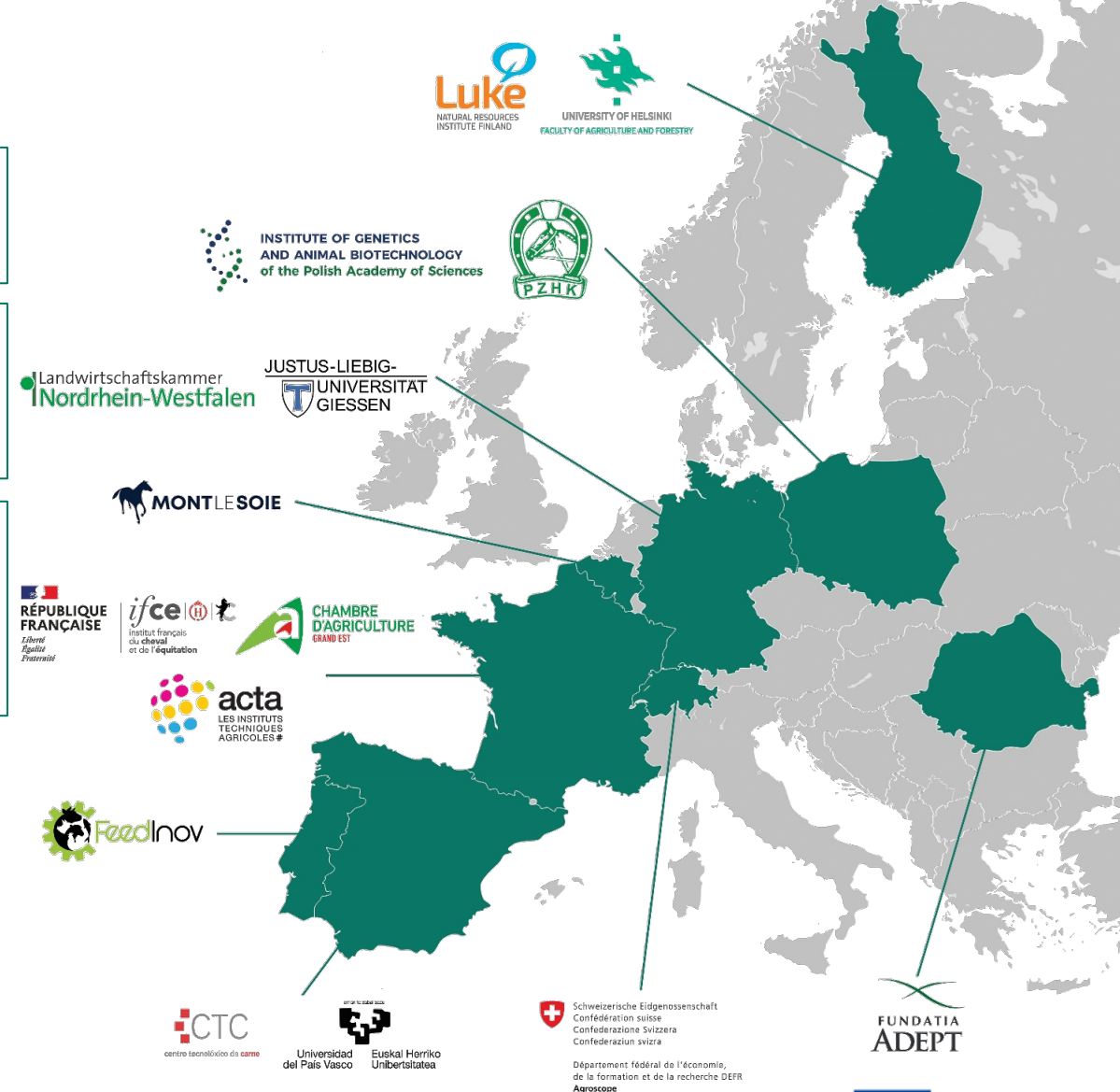
- University of Basque country
- Technological center of meat

Germany

- University of Giessen
- Agricultural chamber of North-Rhine of Wesphalia

Poland

- PZHK : Breeders Association of Polish sport horses
- Institute of Animal Genetics and Biotechnology



3 Thematic areas

Socio-economic
performance



Equine health
and welfare



Environmental
sustainability of farms



What is the definition of an equine farmer ?



- **Professional** , an individual person whose activity has a VAT number in primary ou secondary activity
- **Having an equine activity**: of breeding or of boarding or of valorization or of tourism or of equestrian center or of animal traction or of equine therapy etc.
- **Valorizing utilised agricultural areas** with an objective of agricultural production or maintenance of those areas.

Article 4 of Regulation 2021/2115 defines agricultural activities as production of animal products (Annex I of the TFEU which includes live animals) and/or the maintenance of agricultural areas.

Project steps



Project steps



Identification of needs

- Minimum of **40 interviews** of equine farmers in each country (representing diverse equine activities and different sectors)
- **1** national workshop to identify more needs and help with prioritisation
- **1** european workshop to identify common needs and define european priorities

In-Depth interview...

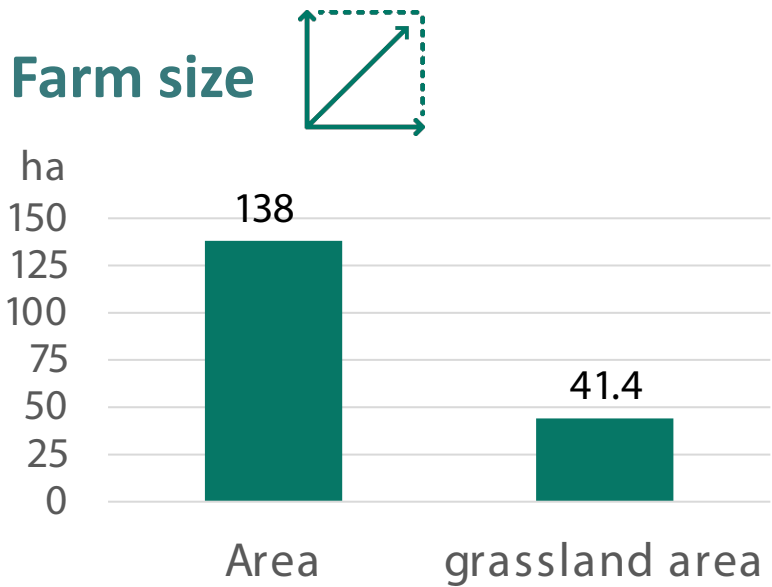
- Identification of farmers
- Farm history
- General info on the activity
- Socio-economic performance and resilience
- Health & Welfare
- Interaction with other agricultural sectors
- Remarks and suggestions



Data			
Project: 101086551 — EUnetHorse — HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01			
Q List of data to be collected during interviews			
Code	Item	Coding	TA
P1-Q001	Code	Coded reference country code (3-digit) + interview nro, e.g. FIN001	1-3
P1-Q002	Country	Name of the country	1-3
P1-Q003	Date of the interview	form 120823	1-3
P1-Q004	Birth year of the farmer	4-digit (e.g. 2000)	1-3
P1-Q005	Year of the beginning of the activity	4-digit (e.g. 2000)	1-3
P1-Q006A	Full-time or part-time professional activity?	1 = fulltime (75% of the income comes from the equine activity) , 2= part-time (75% of the income comes from the equine activity)	1-3
P1-Q006B	If part-time, share of the equine activity from total income	0 - 74%	1-3
P3-Q001A	a. Breeding	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001B	b. Forest work	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001C	c. Agricultural work	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001D	d. Meat	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001E	e. Milk and/or derived products	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001F	f. Boarding services	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001G	g. Equine reproduction center	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001H	h. Sport activities	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001I	i. Racing activities	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001J	j. Touristic activities	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001K	k. Professional rider	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001L	l. Trainer, coach	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001M	m. Equine assisted therapy (EAT)	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001N	n. Eco-system services	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001O	o. Other	Activity type: no = 0, yes = 1	1-3
P3-Q001P	please, specify	open	1-3
P3-Q002	Number of all equids horses on the farm	number	1-3
P3-Q003	More means: foals, horses, yearlings, etc?	Number	1-3

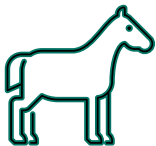
Results

305 interviews performed



Farm workers

- **48** years is the average age of farmers
- **57%** male & **43%** female
- Average of **5** workers/farm
- **57%** of farmers work full time in the area



- Average number of horses/farm is **45** (max. 525, min. 1, Median 25)
- Average of **10** foals/year/ farm

1st National WS

Discuss national needs



1st EU WS

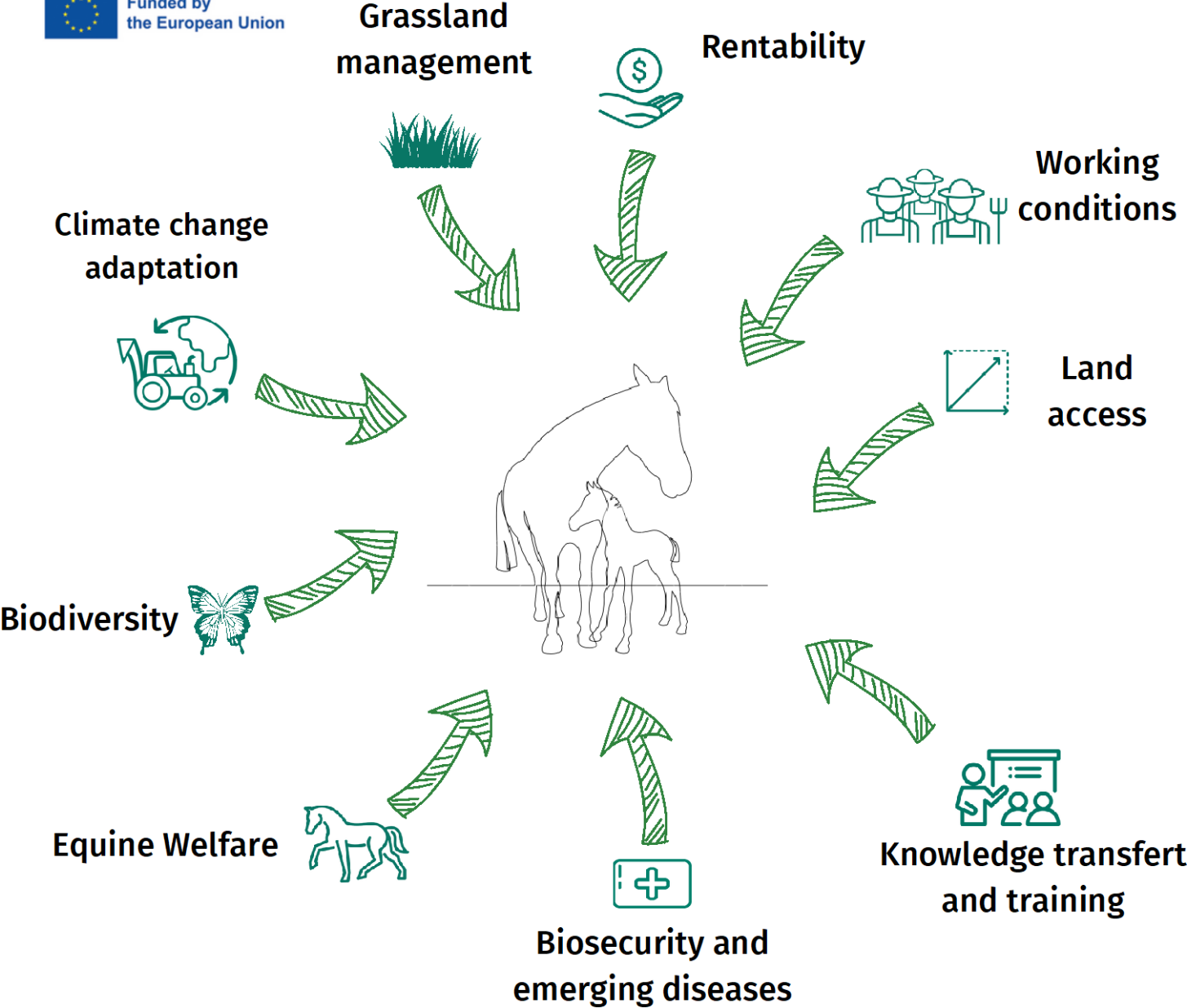
Discuss and group EU needs





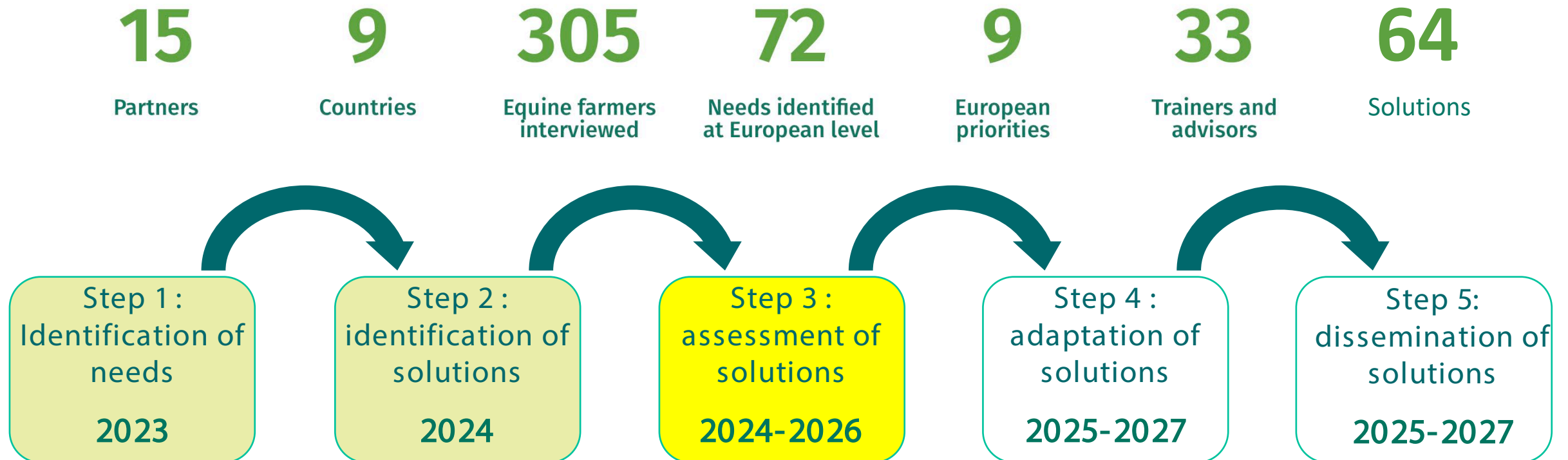
Funded by
the European Union

9 Priorities



Final considerations

- These preliminary results allow to draw a first generalized characterization of EUNetHorse farmers.
- Data is now currently being further analysed





**Thank you for your
attention!**

<https://www.facebook.com/EUnetHorse>

<https://eunethorse.eu>