

Review 2012

FEBRUARY

ESSA exhibition at the new visitor and seminar center of Marbach State Stud

In February 2012 the new visitor and seminar center of Marbach State Stud (Baden-Württemberg, Germany) opened its doors. Since then parts of the exhibition which was originally prepared for the ESSA event at Brussels in 2010 are on display in the new facility including the floor map of European state studs and roll-ups explaining the ESSA background and objective in German and English language. The center has become the focal point for Marbach visitors who expressed much interest in the exhibition throughout the year. All ESSA partner institutions are welcome to host the exhibition in their facilities.



Exhibition in the visitor and seminar center of Marbach, Photo: A. Lotz

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MAY

General Assembly in the horse country 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 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.



Participants of the conference in Jegalia National Stud, Photo ESSA

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 Gidrants 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

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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.



Lipizzaner four-in-hand, Photo A. Lotz



Furioso North Star Stallion, Photo A. Lotz

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.



Ardenners at work, Photo A. Lotz



Romanian Sport Horse, Photo A. Lotz

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ESSA presentation at the 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. The European State Studs were represented by Bernard Maurel and Alexandra Lotz with a presentation titled *“The national and traditional studs as sites of touristic attraction for local and socio-economic development”*.



Symposium at the French National Riding School of Saumur, Photo A. Lotz

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JULY

Eurocheval: summer days under the ESSA flag

The European horse fair EUROCHEVAL was a huge success for the European state studs. The mounted Euroquadrille on warmblood stallions in traditional stud uniforms opened the daily show programme. In addition, the National Studs Rosières-aux-Salines (France), Avenches (Switzerland) and Marbach State Stud (Baden-Württemberg, Germany) demonstrated historic driving culture with a tandem quadrille. Stallions of the breeds Comtois, Freiburger and Black Forest Coldbloods represented endangered breeds, which owe their survival largely to the national studs.



ESSA Tandem Quadrille, Photo A. Lotz

The ESSA information stand was well visited at all times and the new brochure of visitor offers of our partner institutions was high in demand. We hope that many people find their way to the studs. The gates are open!

Since 1976 the EUROCHEVAL is considered to be the largest horse fair in southern Germany. Every second year a horse enthusiastic audience meets at Offenburg, close to the borders of France and Switzerland. This year, almost 400 international exhibitors presented their products and services from July 25th to 29th. 43.400 visitors enjoyed the summer atmosphere with performances, shopping and the diversity of horses. For the first time the number of international visitors reached more than 30%.

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Tourism brochure: A journey through the European horse world

Horse lovers can discover a lot in the European state studs. Noble horses, splendid stables, precious carriage collections and much more make a stud visit an unforgettable experience. Magnificent premises invite for walks where during spring and summer time mares and foals can be observed. All year round breeding-, sport- and show-events attract a horse enthusiastic audience. Visitor offers range from guided and carriage tours to performances, riding opportunities, educational programmes and special offers for children. Visitor centers and museums offer additional information. Hotels, restaurants and cafés full of atmosphere spoil their guests with regional specialties.

Since July 2012 a brochure with visitor offers of the leading national studs offers a journey through the European horse world. The first printed edition was offered on the EUROCHEVAL fair and all ESSA partner institutions are asked to print and distribute the brochure at their sites. The online version is permanently available on the ESSA-website.



Brochure cover with image of Le Pin, Photo Boiselle

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JANUARY 2013:

ESSA publication “European Stud Culture” will be online

In January 2013 the ESSA publication “*European Stud Culture*” will be published on the ESSA website. It contains the contributions of the heritage symposium which was part of the first Days of European Stud Culture held at Lipica National Stud in October 2011.

The forewords of ESSA president Bernard Maurel and ICOMOS president Gustavo Araoz are followed by 18 chapters illustrating different cultural aspects of the European state studs. The topics reach from historic stud premises with their associated cultural landscapes, collections and archives to traditions, knowledge, the culture of classical riding and carriage driving to the heritage “horse”. Different horse breeds are in the focus of attention, first of all the Lippizaner, which is regarded as National monument of Slovenia. The last chapter of the publication deals with questions of ethics surrounding the breeding and keeping of horses.

With its almost 70 pages and numerous colour images this publication is regarded as an important step towards the recognition of the European state studs as cultural heritage of outstanding significance and shall provide arguments for the protection of European stud culture.

ESSA DATES 2013:

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| 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 |
| August 28 th to September 1 st | FEI World Driving Championship Pairs at TOPOL’ČIANKY, Slovakia |

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