



GREEN ASSETS OF EQUINES IN EUROPE



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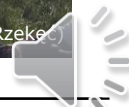
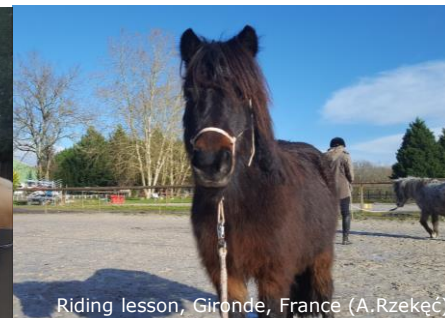


1. Context



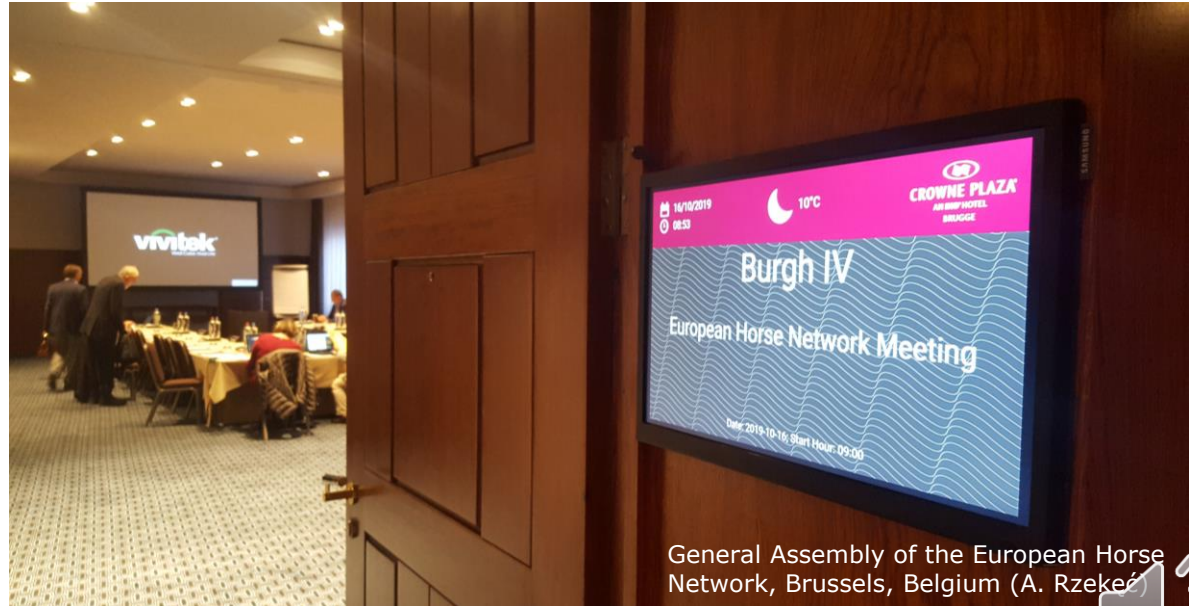
Context

1. Questions about the role of equines in environmental issues -> specificities of equines
2. A need for knowledge, promotion and cohesion + an opportunity to be seized (CAP 2020)



Goals

1. Define, qualify and quantify environmental impacts of equines
2. Support stakeholders through sharing knowledge
3. Bring cohesion within the country and at the international level



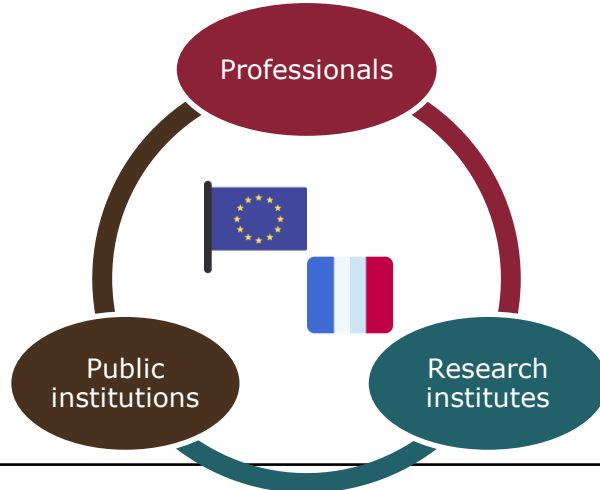
General Assembly of the European Horse Network, Brussels, Belgium (A. Rzekeć)

2. Methodology



Literature review and interviews

1. Literature review
2. Semi-directive interviews with key stakeholders (15)



5 green assets:

- Grazing
- Domestic biodiversity
- Land use
- Equine work
- Equestrian tourism



3. Results

RZEKĘĆ, Agata, VIAL, Céline et BIGOT, Geneviève, 2020. Green Assets of Equines in the European Context of the Ecological Transition of Agriculture. *Animals*. Vol. 10, n° 1, p. 21. DOI 10.3390/ani10010106.



Results - Grazing

Morphological, physiological and behavioral specificities of equines

- Maintenance of grassland (carbon sink)
- Heterogeneous structure of grasslands¹
- Consequences on flora and fauna²
- Risks of overgrazing³
- Possibility of mixed grazing⁴

Consequences on biodiversity, landscapes and greenhouse gas emissions



Stork, Poland (A. Rzekeć)

Results – Domestic biodiversity

Importance of diversity within a breed but also between each breed¹

Different types/formats =
different uses = different areas

Local breeds shaped by the environment

Used in tasks with environmental virtues (animal traction², slow tourism³, rewilding⁴, extensive meat production...)



Linnartz, Meissner, 2014

Results – Land use

Suburban areas

- Transitional areas¹ –
Soft urbanisation² –
Horsiculture³

Rural areas

- Direct and indirect
presence and effects

Sensitive areas = with
constraints for agriculture
(e.g. non arable lands)

- Mountains – mixed grazing⁴
- Post-agricultural areas,
forest areas, range lands⁵



(C. Vial)

¹Vial, 2014 ²Bomans, Dewaelheyns, Gulinck, 2011 ³Quetier, Gordon, 2003 ⁴Bigot, Mugnier, Brétière et al., 2015

⁵Doboszewski, Doktor, Jaworski et al., 2017



Results – Equine work

- Maintenance of agricultural lands that cannot be mechanized²
- Source of renewable energy¹
- Necessity to feed equines all along the year but possibility to use abandoned land
- High working time/size of the area coefficient³
- Possible complementarity between motorized tools and equine traction



(J-L. Duga)

¹Gantner, Baban, Glavas, 2014

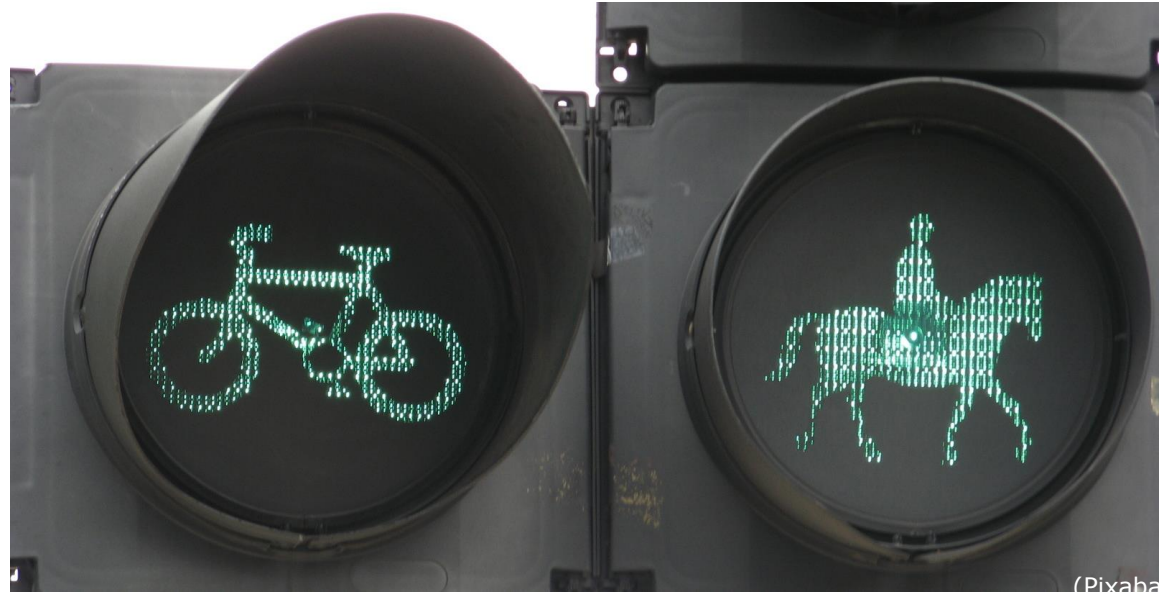
²Almeida, Rodrigues, 2017

³SFET, 2016



Results – Equestrian tourism

- + Image of sustainable¹ and slow tourism
- + Creation and maintenance of trails even for other users, maintenance of sensitive areas¹
- - Soil compaction and erosion but also zoochory and nitrification of rivers and soils²



(Pixaba

¹Pickel-Chevalier, 2015

²Pickering, Hill, Newsome et al., 2009

³Vial, Gouget, Barget et al., 2016



How these results could be used ?

Local scale

- Transfer of knowledge and raising awareness
- Arguments for setting up projects

National scale

- Centralized review of knowledge
- Communication media
- Arguments to put forward equines in debates about national and European policies

International scale

- Transmission of knowledge and practices



Continuation of the project

1. Data collecting software application about green assets of European equine sectors
2. Illustration of literature review with a photo or video report
3. Analysis of environmental impacts of equine structures: CAP2'ER® équins
4. Further publications and communication



Key ideas

- Equines are used for a variety of purposes and have unique environmental assets
- The aim is to better involve equines in discussions about ecological transition of agriculture but also within the society
- To this end, knowledge is centralized and shared with a varied audience
- The continuation of the project includes:
 - The continuation of knowledge sharing
 - The enhancement of our knowledge of foreign horse industries in order to share practices and knowledge + have a common voice to put forward equines in European debates and policies





THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

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