



Spring 2020

## EDITORIAL

The IFCE (Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation) is the only public operator dedicated to the French Horse industry. Under the supervision of both Ministries, Agriculture and Sports, its missions are dedicated to scientific investigations, horse identification, training, equestrian sports, and culture through the Equitation in the French tradition, of which the Cadre noir is one of the most famous representatives.

This letter introduces the IFCE's current affairs in an international and European context : in fact, the Ifce takes part in the promotion of the horse sector in France, thanks to many areas of intervention : concerning training, partnerships with international bodies such as Agricultural University of Qingdao (China), or our involvement in the European educational network (EEN) promoting international exchanges of students and trainers.

Thanks to the centralized database (SIRE), managed by Ifce, traceability and horse identification are the main topics of a TAIEX project with the veterinary direction of the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture. A draft agreement with Russia in the same fields is being developed with the Russian Ministry of Agriculture. The purpose is to be able to register equidae and implement a sanitary follow-up of the entire equine livestock.

With the French sanitary authorities, the Ifce provides technical expertise on horse-related matters to remove sanitary barriers and promote trade.

The Cadre noir contributes to the preservation and promotion of Equitation in the French tradition, registered in 2011 on the representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity by Unesco, through various exchanges with traditional schools of equestrian art (Lisboa, Jerez de la Frontera or Vienna) and with equestrian military schools (Quillota in Chile and Buenos Aires in Argentina). We are currently working on an overseas project, in Canada, in connection with the Canadian Ministry of foreign affairs.



To give an overview of this letter : horse identification and exchanges of horse related information between databases in international movements, a thematic network project dedicated to the various contributions of horses to the environment and society, some figures related to jobs and employment and, in the light of the global health crisis, a presentation of work carried out to assess the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the horse industry.

This letter will be issued every 3 months and we feel sure that you will become one of our valued subscribers.

We wish you a pleasant reading,

Jean-Roch Gaillet, chief executive of IFCE

## NEWS

### HEALTH CRISIS COVID-19 : HOW TO SUPPORT THE FRENCH HORSE SECTOR ?

During this exceptional period, various actions have been implemented to help the French equine sector to face this crisis :

### Economic impact study of News Covid-19 clarification for French horse industry

The French Ministry of Agriculture has appointed the Governance « Filière Cheval », including France Galop, Le Trot, the SHF, the SFET and FFE, to conduct a survey, with the technical support of the Ifce . Its main purpose is to collect and analyse the immediate economic impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the different equestrian facilities, caused by the shutdown of activities (races, competitions) and closure of structures usually open to the public.



The outcome of this investigation will represent a very useful decision support tool for the ministry of Agriculture.

The Ifce will rely on the social and economic Observatory (OESC) to consolidate the survey.

@ <https://www.ifce.fr/ifce/appui-filiere/etude-impact-covid-19-filiere-equine/>

## News Covid-19 : Clarification for French horse industry

During this confinement period, many questions are raised on the management of horses, especially concerning welfare and animal protection.



L'Ifce engagé en France et à l'international

L'Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation est l'opérateur public au service de la filière équine. Ses actions se déploient sur tout le territoire au profit de la profession, des collectivités territoriales, de l'État et de tous les publics concernés par le cheval et l'équitation. L'offre de produits et de services, proposée sous l'identité de marque Ifce et sous les manoirs emblématiques

In order to answer those questions, the Ifce, as the technical institute dedicated to the horse sector, has coordinated on its website all the relevant information provided by competent authorities and referral bodies.

@ <https://www.ifce.fr/ifce/organismes-de-la-filiere-a-contacter/>

The ministry of agriculture has also solicited the Ifce to provide horse-related information to foster the decision-making process.

@ <https://equipedia.ifce.fr/economie-et-filiere/reglementation/detention-et-utilisation-du-cheval/crise-sanitaire-du-covid-19.html>

Pascale Audrerie

## TRACEABILITY

### EQUINE SEMEN TRACEABILITY

In response to the increased international sales of equine semen and the changes in the reproductive techniques (ICSI, intracytoplasmic injections, freezing of embryos...), European professionals of the equine sector are mobilized and have solicited the WBFSH (World Breeding federations of Sport Horses), to further strengthen semen and embryo traceability and foal registration in the different WBFSH stud books.

During the last general Assembly of WBFSH, at Saumur, in October 2019, with more than 70 stud books, national federations and representatives of ministries of Agriculture from different countries, a round-table discussion was organized concerning equine genetic material traceability, and the trading procedures thereof. IFCE (Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation) took part in this forum in order to :

- Get the discussion going, by reminding of the European regulations in effect, thanks to the regular review carried out by the World Horse Identification and Registration Data Exchange Committee (WHIRDEC).

- Interact intensively around this international topic, given that Ifce, in France, is in charge of the follow-up of covering and foal registration in the SIRE database.

At the end of this working session, in November 19, the implementation of various actions was proposed. The following lines of thought were selected :

- improvement of sale contracts for semen, embryos or oocytes,



A.BASSALER - IFCE



- drafting a good practice guide between equine semen traders, stud books and WBFSH,
- making available a complete WBFSH registered foals list for each stallion
- the possible implementation of an international system for traceability of coverings.

A working group will gather again very soon to look into the feasibility of these measures.

Emilie Goulas



To watch the round-table discussion :  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1T-WXT6QXtY>

## HORSELINK : LINKING OF DATABASES

The UELN (Unique Equine Life number) was implemented in 2009 by various international organisations to facilitate exchanges between different databases. With the introduction of this unique number, IFCE has, in the framework of WHIRDEC, set up a Hub: a tool for exchanging data between foreign stud-books.



B.LEMAIRE - IFCE

In the case of a horse moving between different countries, European regulation required in 2015, that the information concerning each horse be updated through data exchanges between databases. This applies in particular to horses excluded from human consumption, dead horses, and the issuing of identification document duplicates. When a foreign reproducer is registered in a stud book, or when a horse is imported, it's quite useful to be able to view updated information with the passport issuing body.

Having made this observation, in the framework of WHIRDEC (World Horse Identification Registration Data Exchange Committee), the company Delta Horse created a prototype Horselink, a tool which allows connections between databases.

Through a web interface, this on-line tool allows to find a horse thanks to its UELN number or microchip number in the connected databases.

This information is very interesting especially when a reproducer is registered in a stud book or when a horse is imported : it's very useful to access information from the passport issuing body.

France, the Netherlands, and Luxemburg are the first to have tested the Horselink system and Romania is about to join them. For smaller stud books, there is another system called « Equis », elaborated by Delta Horse which is more appropriate, and includes a functionality to exchange data with Horselink.

The implementation of Horselink will streamline data exchanges.

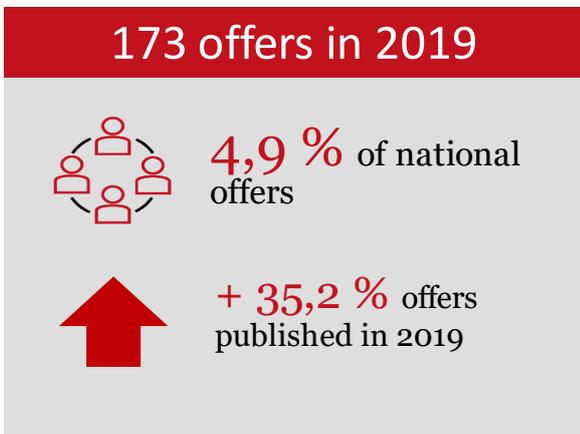
Within the framework of the new European animal health bill (2021), data exchanges between databases and stud books will increase, and this tool will allow to meet the requirements, subject to other databases being connected.

Emilie Goulas

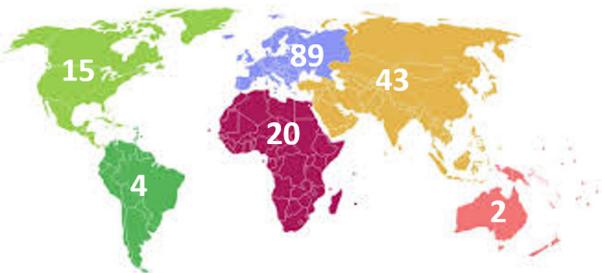


## EMPLOYMENT, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

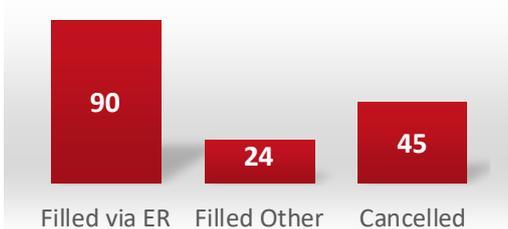
### 2019 EQUI-RESSOURCES INTERNATIONAL BALANCE SHEET



#### Distribution of international offers



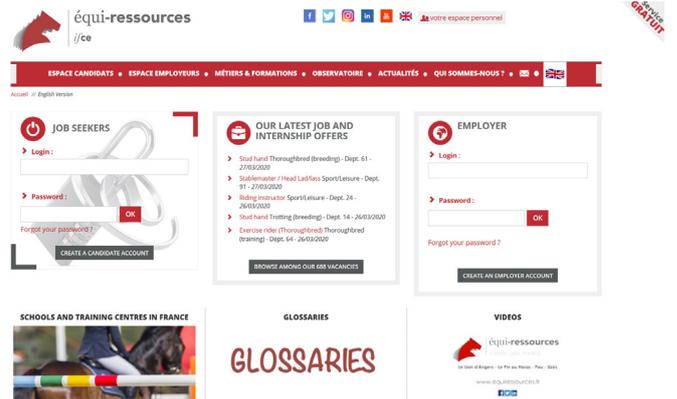
**79 %** of job offers are filled via **équi-ressources**



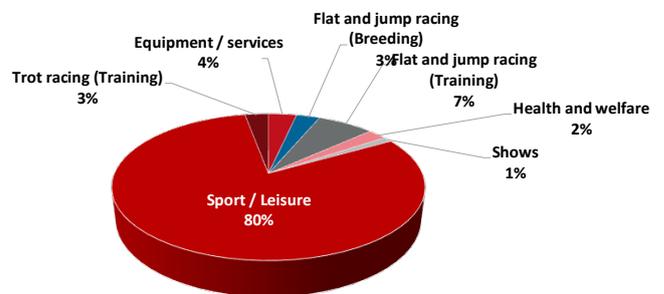
**équi-ressources**  
 ifce

#### The jobs most in demand:

- Riding instructor (53 offers)
- Home rider/groom (21 offers)
- Stable hand/ groom/ sport horse rider (16 offers)



#### Distribution per sector of activity



Different sectors : Administrations/ Socio-professional – Vocational training – Mediation / Integration – Research- Sport / Leisure (breeding) - Work – Trot racing (breeding) – Meat / Milk production (breeding) represent 0 %

Tiphaine Drouot



## KOWLEDGES

### HORIZON EUROPE : AN HORSE THEMATIC NETWORK PROJECT IN 2021?

Currently, horses are poorly represented within European research projects.

However, there are still various challenges remaining for the equine industries: societal (animalist currents, horse welfare considerations, changing status of the horse, etc ...) economic (development of rural areas, ever increasing land pressure, CAP review, etc ...) or environmental (horses travelling all around the World, water consumption for sports grounds watering and daily care, raw material consumption, manure recycling etc ...)

Faced with these challenges, the Ifce would like to submit to the European commission a project taking into account these considerations. Actually, it seems that a cross-cutting project dedicated to the various contributions of horses for environment and society is of great interest.

Thus, we have identified the call "RUR-15-2018-2019-2020: Thematic networks compiling knowledge ready for practice" in the funding program Horizon 2020, and which could be renewed in the program Horizon Europe.

Purposes of a thematic network project are the following :

- implement a state-of-the-art of scientific knowledge on a particular topic,
- establish enhanced cooperation for a better applied use,
- synthesize, disseminate and communicate on good practices and on results of scientific research which must be made known to and implemented by professionals,
- make broadcast and education/training an essential

part of the project,

- and finally, join the task groups of PEI-AGRI when possible.

The themes chosen must fulfill the urgent expectations of breeders / farmers, must be motivated by economic requirements and should be considered as a long-term on going process.

Given the above, the Ifce would like to participate in developing and coordinating such a project, proposing the following theme: « role and assets of horses in sustainable rural development ».

We are seeking a scientific lead applicant and European partners to work on developing this project.

Marlène Addes



For any further information, please contact Marlène Addes ([marlene.addes@ifce.fr](mailto:marlene.addes@ifce.fr)) or Amandine Julien, ([amandine.julien@ifce.fr](mailto:amandine.julien@ifce.fr)).



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