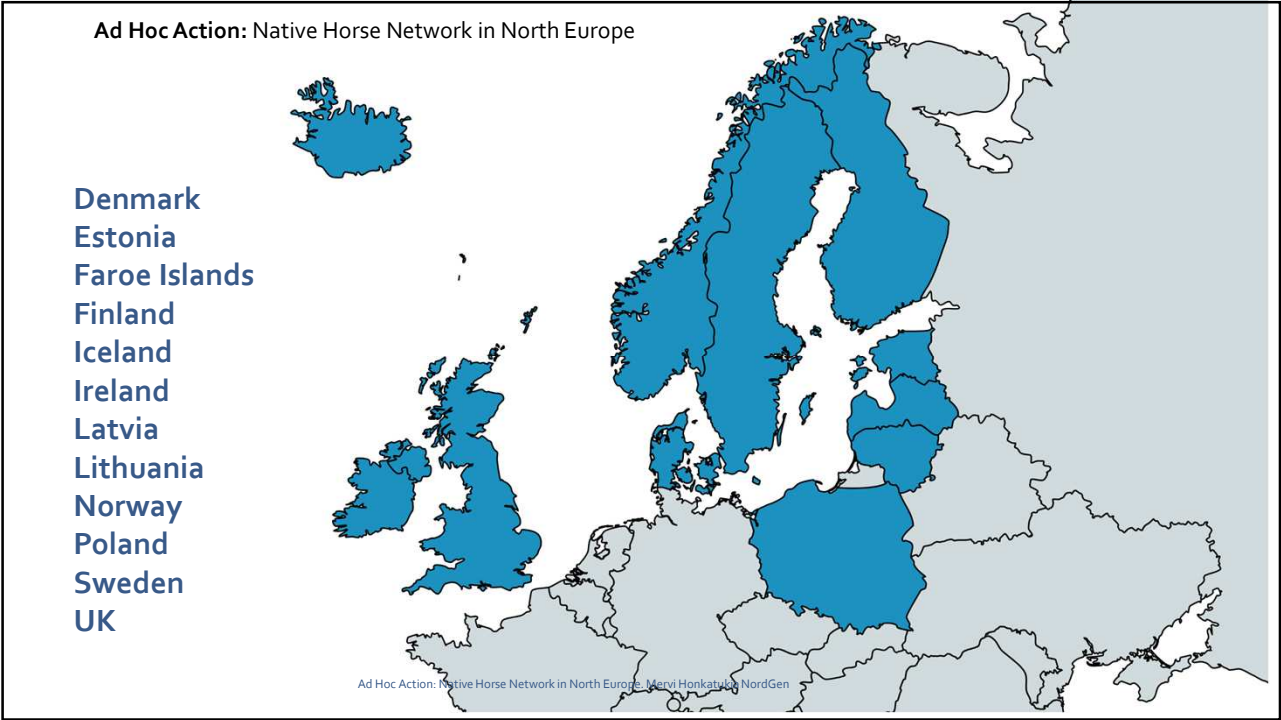




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Ad Hoc Action: Native Horse Network in North Europe

Establishing of a North European network for the joint monitoring and promotion of the Native Horse populations.

- Native horse breeds have been economically and historically important genetic resource which, over time, has been used as the basis for the development of modern breeds.
- Today, many breeds have a small population size
- Many breeds are small in body size.
- In population management, great emphasis is placed on avoiding inbreeding.
- Exchange of information and best practices is desirable between breed organisation across the countries.

A common strategy can be envisaged to exploit the historical and intangible value of native horse populations in breeding work and to improve the relationship with horse breeders, sport associations and tourism industries.






Photo: Kirsti Hassinen



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Meeting in NordGen’s headquarters in Sweden Nov 18-19 2022



Agenda

Agenda Friday November 18th, 2022, 12:00-17:00

Place of meeting: NordGen house, Alnarp

1.	Arrival and LUNCH 12:00-13:00	12:00
2.	Opening of the meeting & adoption of the agenda	13:00
3.	Presentation about the network & background for the meeting (Maria) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presentation of workshop plan	13:10
4.	Short introduction round of participants <ul style="list-style-type: none">Each participants say something about themselves and their country /organisation/breed(s)	13:30
5.	Coffee Break	14:30
6.	WORKSHOP	15:00
7.	Presentation & Discussion of workshop outcome	16:30
8.	Meeting end	17:00

NordGen will provide dinner on Friday evening.

Agenda Saturday November 19th, 2022, 09:00 – 13:00

Place of meeting: NordGen house, Alnarp

✚ ONLINE – for participation from breed associations or those who could not attend in person

1.	Welcome with coffee	09:00
2.	Opening of the meeting & adoption of the agenda	10:00
3.	Presentation of Native Nordic Horse Project – Sofia Mikko	10:20
4.	Summary of the outcome from yesterday’s workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">Information for online participants	10:40
5.	Coffee break	11:00
6.	Discussion /Open mic /Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Input from online participants on workshop material from the day before	11:15
7.	Closing of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Next steps & next meeting	11:50
8.	LUNCH 12:00-13:00	12:00



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4

Workshop topics

Overview of the current situation

- Relevant information describing population status
- The critical needs in each breed
- A plan for how to move forward

Database / Information

- An easy access data collection to get overview of local breeds for promotion and education.

Education / Promotion

- What kind of educational material is needed about management of small populations
- How to promote breeds in social media



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Some key findings from group discussions:

Breeding

- Definition of a breed concept - What is a breed? When the crossbreeding is needed etc.
- Open /closed studbook

Promotion

- High quality photos, historical photos and stories: "national treasure"
- Income for breed associations: donations, selling products, "adopt a horse"

Urgent need for education

- Many breed associations are run by non-professionals
- User-friendly tools breeding software needed
- Easily accessible information for general public and breeders

Example of best practices

Norway has executed the action plan over 10 years.
Faroe Islands has hired a photographer/ influencer to promote their horse breed



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A national treasure

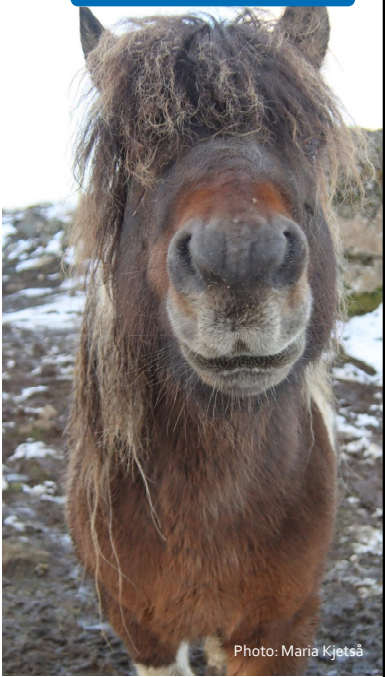


Photo: Maria Kjetså

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Outcome of the physical meeting

The network decided on focusing on developing material

- easy understandable educational material on inbreeding theory
- management of populations
- the history of the breeds and their local values
- collection of basic information



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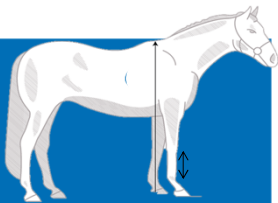


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Data collection

Basic information:

- Breed native names
- Country of origin
- Breed type
- Risk status
- Main Issue
- Breed organisation and their contact information



Body conformation:

- Height at wither (cm)
- Cannon bone girth (cm)
- Body weight (kg)
- Coat colours

Population data:

- Number of horses
- Number of mares/stallions used for breeding per year
- Effective population size
- Number of foals per year
- Active conservation program
- Importance in national scale
- Main uses



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