ERFP Ad Hoc Action

Network for small native horse breeds in the Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe

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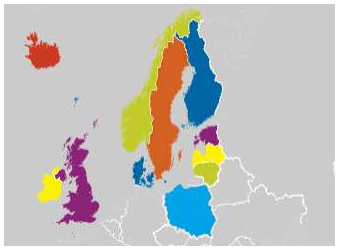

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Network for small native horse breeds in the Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe

Online meeting: Oct. 25th, 2023, 17 participants

Preliminar results were presented in **ERFP** – *In-Situ* Working group, Nicosia 2024-04-23

Online meeting: Working group 2024-08-14

Physical meeting 2024
Baisogala, Lithuania
2024-10-17

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The Importance of Native Horse Breeds

✓Native horse breeds have a ***long history*** and are more or less ***purebred***.
✓Breeding work focuses on ***small populations***, with efforts to ***avoid inbreeding***.

➢Exchange of ***information*** and ***best practices*** is vital for success across countries.
➢A common strategy could promote the value of native horse breeds, supporting breeders, sport associations, and tourism.

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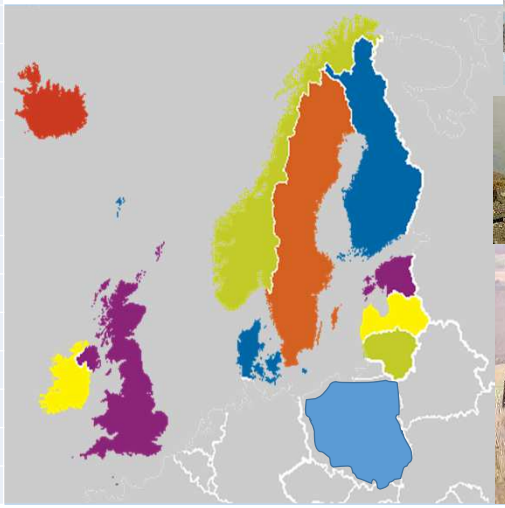
Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe

Country	Horse breeds
Faroe Islands	1
Finland	1
Iceland	1
Latvia	3
Denmark	3
Estonia	3
Lithuania	3
Sweden	4
Ireland	4
Norway	4
Poland	7+4
UK	17
12	**51**

WORLDWIDE - 12 COUNTRIES



Nordland/Lyngen horse (Norway)

Faroese horse

Žemaitukai horse

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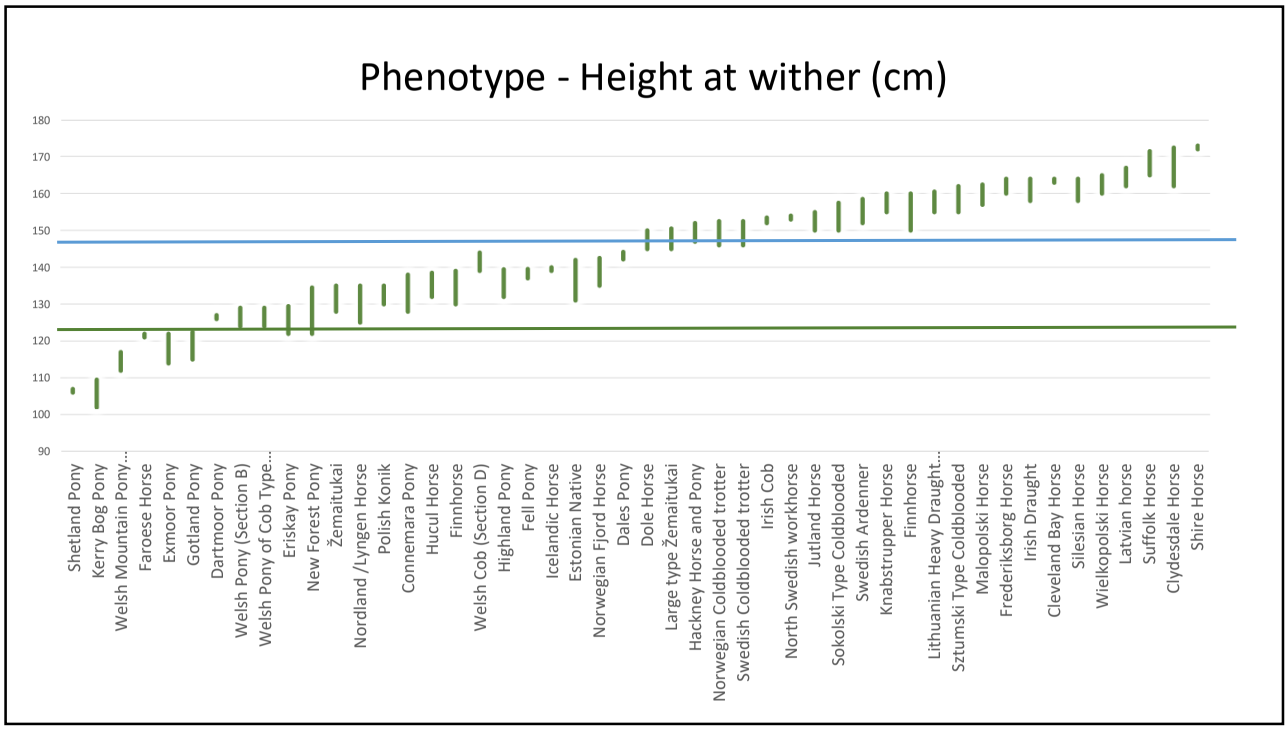

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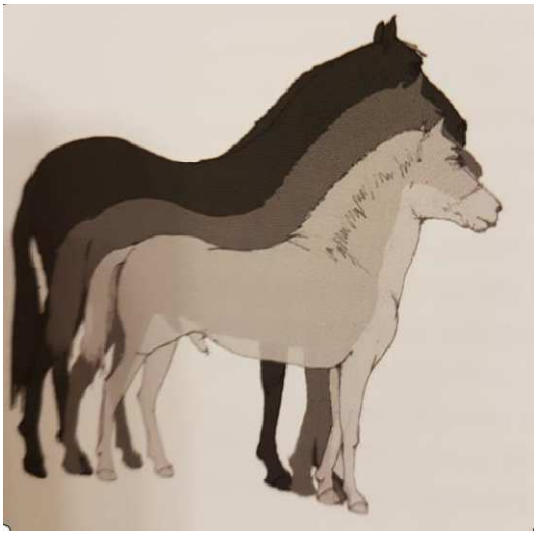
Size-Based Classification



Horses can be further divided into three primary categories based on their size:

1.Large Horses: Typically draught and coach horses, these breeds exhibit significant size and strength.

2.Medium Horses: Includes both leisure and work horses that are of intermediate size, suitable for various tasks.

3.Small Horses: Consists of small work horses and universal small riding horses, which are generally agile and versatile.

Phenotype	**Height at wither**
Group 1 - 18 breeds	- 150-178 cm
Group 2 - 6 breeds	- 140-159 cm
Group 3 - 18 breeds	- 107-150 cm

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Classification of Horse Varieties Based on Size and Functionality

Horse diversity categorized:

- **Leisure Horses**: Breeds primarily bred for recreational riding and companionship.
- **Draught Horses**: Larger breeds specifically developed for heavy labor, such as pulling plows and carts.
- **Coach/Riding Horses**: Horses suited for both driving and riding, often utilized in recreational activities and transportation.
- **Medium-Sized Work Horses**: Horses that are versatile enough for both light work and leisure activities.
- **Trotters**: Breeds characterized by their ability to perform a specific gait (trot), commonly used in harness racing.
- **Driving and Riding Horses**: Horses bred for versatility in both riding and driving tasks.
- **Small Work Horses**: Compact breeds ideal for lighter tasks, such as small farm work or transportation of goods.
- **Universal Small Riding Horses**: Breeds that combine the attributes of riding and light work capabilities, often favored for their adaptability.

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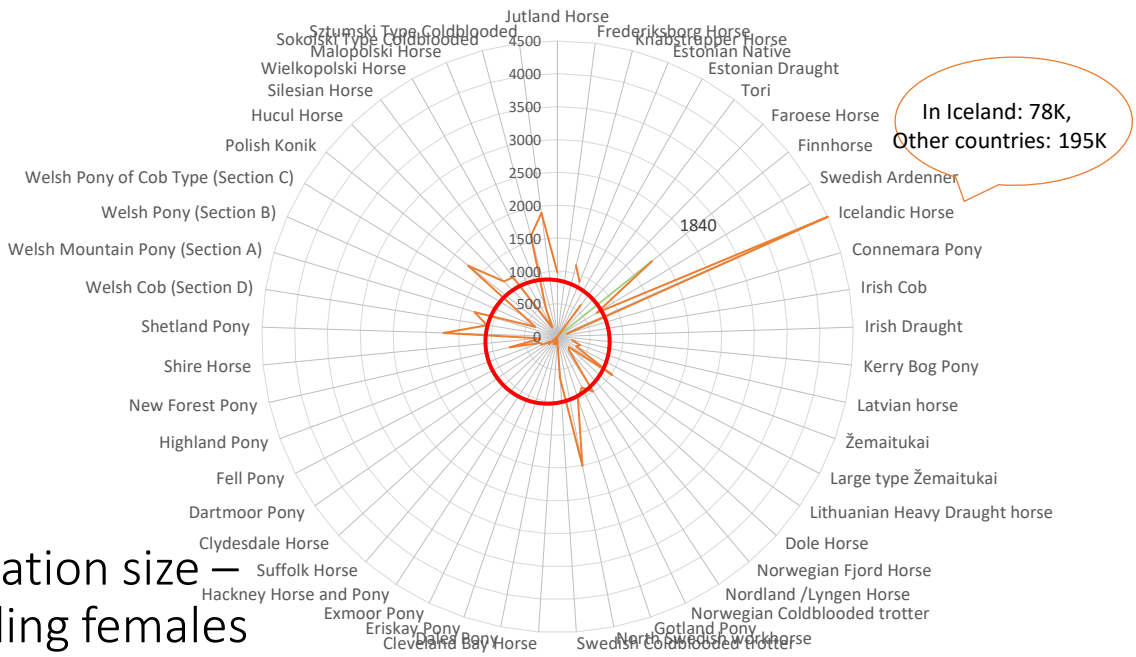
Population size – breeding females



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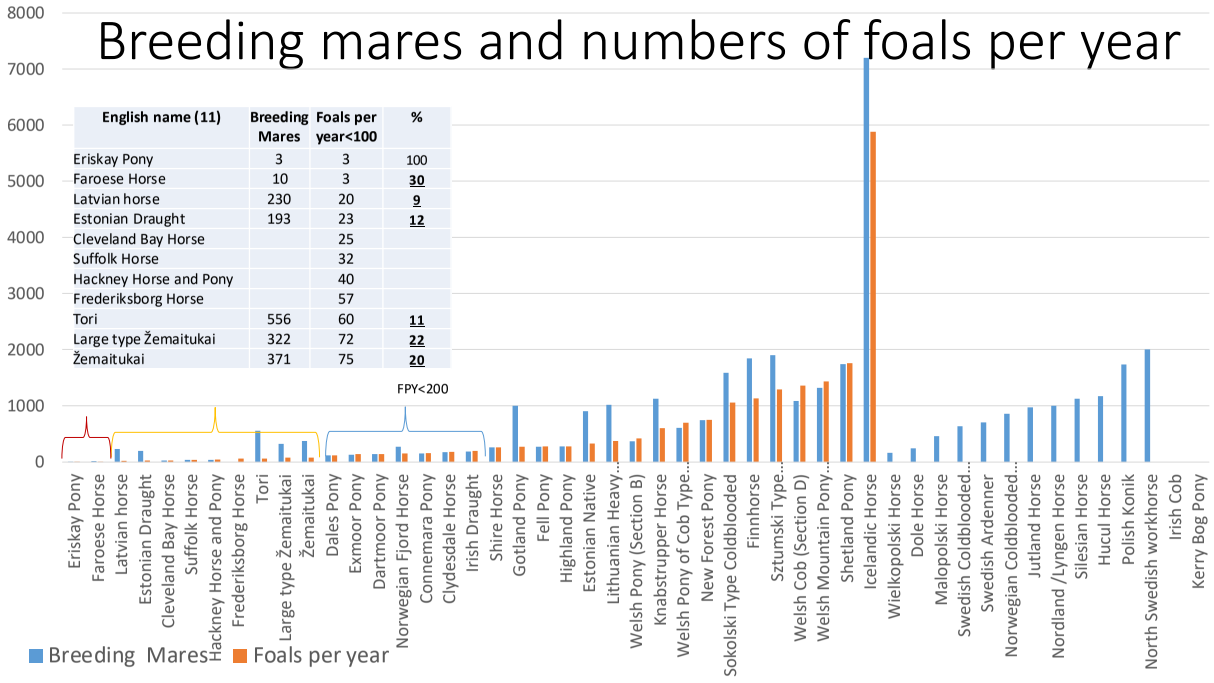
Breeding mares and numbers of foals per year

English name (11)	Breeding Mares	Foals per year<100	%
Eriskay Pony	3	3	100
Faroese Horse	10	3	30
Latvian horse	230	20	9
Estonian Draught	193	23	12
Cleveland Bay Horse		25	
Suffolk Horse		32	
Hackney Horse and Pony		40	
Frederiksborg Horse		57	
Tori	556	60	11
Large type Žemaitukai	322	72	22
Žemaitukai	371	75	20



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Genetic variability within the breed

Genetic variability Monitoring data

Breed	Population	Type	Status
Finnhorse	19000 (500 work horse type)	Pony	Not at risk
		Work	At risk
		Riding	Not at risk
		Trot	Not at risk

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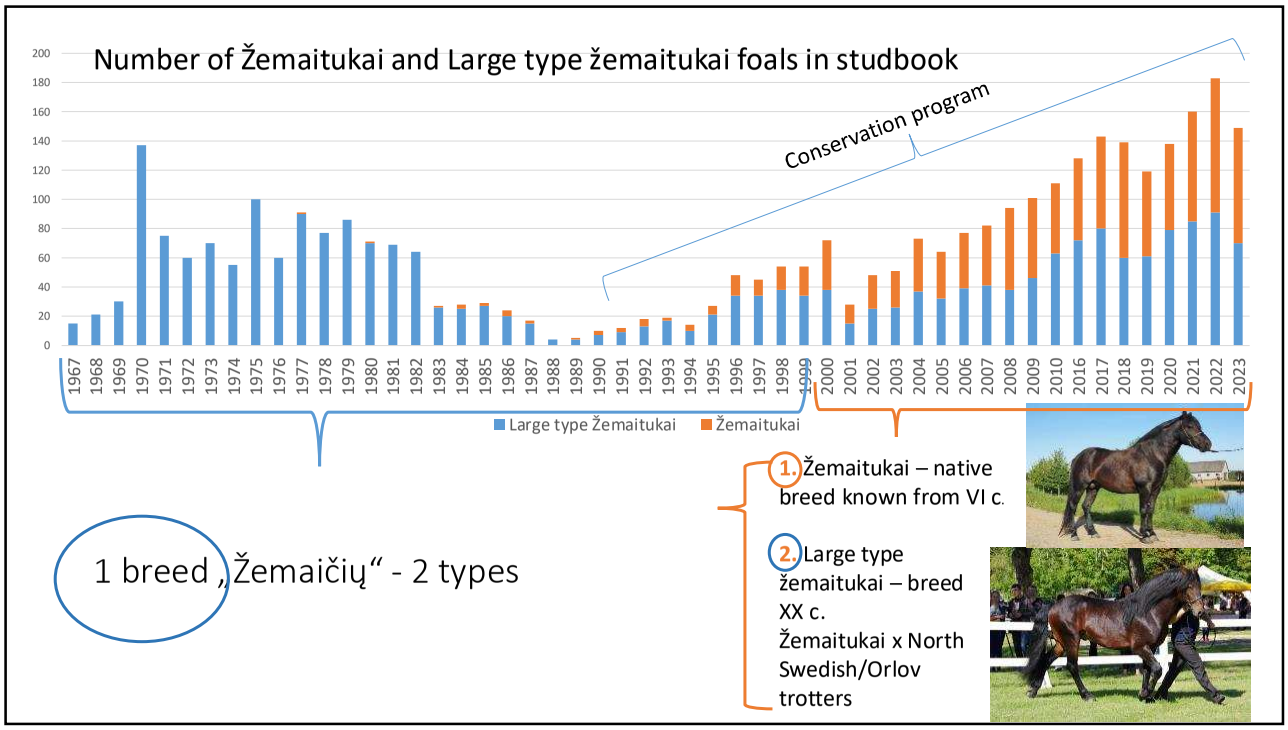
Number of Žemaitukai and Large type žemaitukai foals in studbook
Conservation program
Large type Žemaitukai
Žemaitukai
1 breed „Žemaičių“ - 2 types
1. Žemaitukai – native breed known from VI c.
2. Large type žemaitukai – breed XX c. Žemaitukai x North Swedish/Orlov trotters

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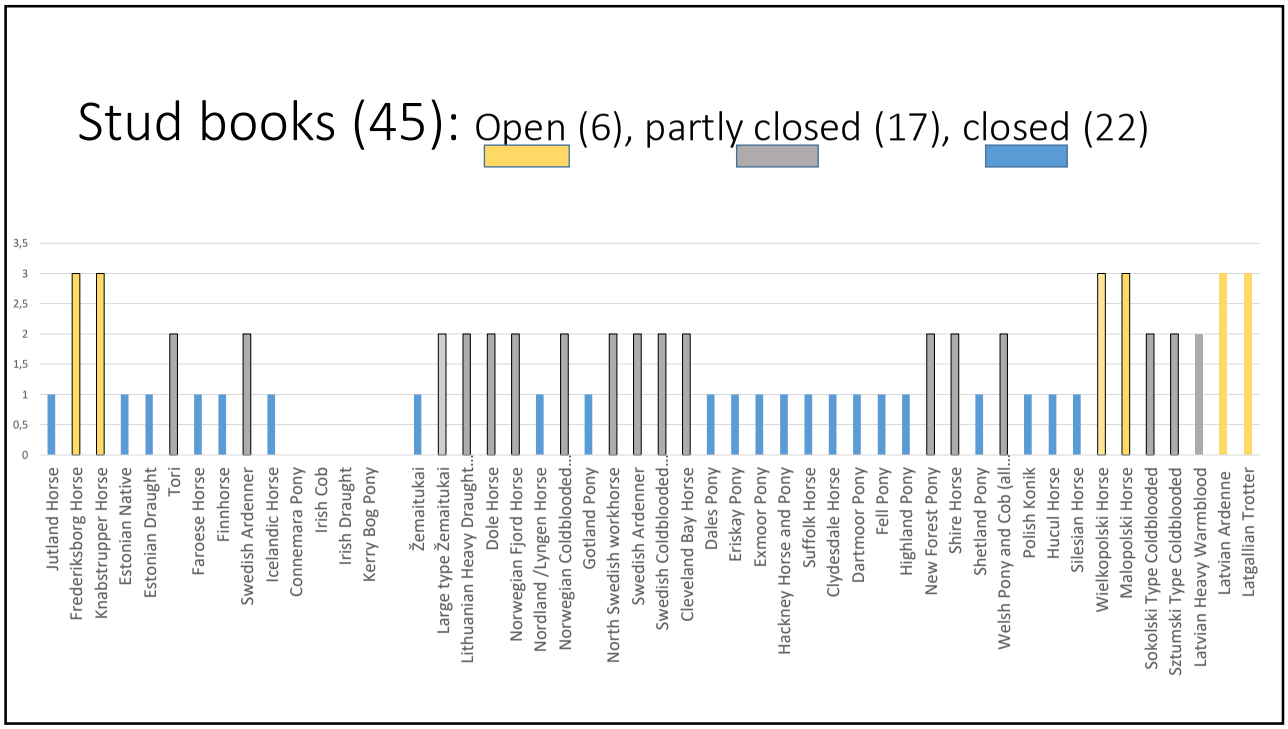
Stud books (45): Open (6), partly closed (17), closed (22)
Jutland Horse
Frederiksborg Horse
Knabstrupper Horse
Estonian Native
Estonian Draught
Tori
Faroese Horse
Finnhorse
Swedish Ardenner
Icelandic Horse
Connemara Pony
Irish Cob
Irish Draught
Kerry Bog Pony
Žemaitukai
Large type Žemaitukai
Lithuanian Heavy Draught...
Dole Horse
Norwegian Fjord Horse
Nordland /Lyngen Horse
Norwegian Coldblooded...
Gotland Pony
North Swedish workhorse
Swedish Ardenner
Swedish Coldblooded...
Cleveland Bay Horse
Dales Pony
Eriskay Pony
Exmoor Pony
Hackney Horse and Pony
Suffolk Horse
Clydesdale Horse
Dartmoor Pony
Fell Pony
Highland Pony
New Forest Pony
Shire Horse
Shetland Pony
Welsh Pony and Cob (all...
Polish Konik
Hucul Horse
Silesian Horse
Wielkopolski Horse
Malopolski Horse
Sokolski Type Coldblooded
Sztumski Type Coldblooded
Latvian Heavy Warmblood
Latvian Ardenne
Latgallian Trotter

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Diversity **within the breeds** are key to protecting small population or breeds

- Recommendation:

- **Clearly distinguish between** different breed **types** by detailing their internal varieties.
- Separate assessment of their risk status, type, and other important characteristics.

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How to properly calculate the efficiency indicator in a horse?

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- Our objective is to improve the assessment of horse population status, highlighting the need for more detailed data to be collected in DAD-IS.
- The results will be presented in a peer-reviewed article in the Gen Res Journal.
- The paper will emphasize key figures related to the population size.
- As the additional key figures, we are interested in:
  - The number of foals born over a five-year period
  - The number of sires used each year.
  - The total number of unique sires used over the five-year period, taking account that many sires may be used in multiple years.
- The participants in the physical meeting in Lithuania will serve as the initial recipient list for the data inquiry.

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Additional Data Request

Foals

— Number of foals born each year (2020-2024)

Mares

— Number of mares that became dams (≈ number of foals).

— Number of mares mated.

— Mares available for breeding (ages 3–20, not registered as dead).

— Total number of unique mares with foals over 5 years.

Sires

— Number of unique sires over the 5-year period, as many sires are used active across multiple years.

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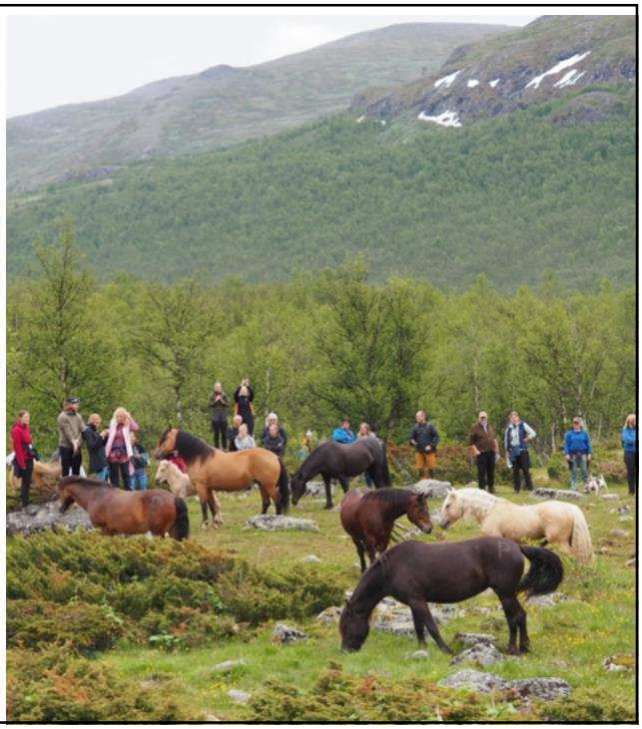
Next Steps:

1. A request for information was sent out to the breeding societies with a motivation letter highlighting the benefits of the project for them.
   - The breeding associations were asked their willingness to work closer to enable in-depth case analysis, particularly through access to pedigree data for selected breeds.
   - The DL for the responses by May 23.
2. The next follow-up meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 26 at 11:00 CET.



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