

THE UET (European Trotting Union)

**Trot racing
a strength,
an opportunity,
an asset,
for Europe.**



Trot racing in Europe, key figures

It is a major economic component of the agricultural sector that deserves to benefit from a suitable legal and financial framework enabling it to lastingly play its full role as a leading player in the common agricultural policy within the European Union.

50,497

races organised in 2018

in 21 countries

of which 17 are members of the European Union

on **461**

racetracks, including 170 combined trot and gallop racecourses

bringing together

63,470

different horses

that shared

480 million euros

by way of prize money

generating bets coming to nearly

8 billion euros,

mainly in the form of pari mutuel

providing full time employment to approximately

100,000

people

and occupying nearly

500,000

hectares of farmland

(UET statistics 2018)

What is the UET?

Background

The *Union Européenne du Trot (UET)* was first established in 1973, at the initiative of trot racing officials in Germany, France, Italy and the Nordic countries. It originally brought together 9 national federations in northern and southern Europe who decided to pool their efforts aimed at setting up a supranational common entity. Its influence grew over time and it now brings together the Trot Racing Authorities of 21 countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The United Kingdom is a partner of

UET but not a member because the trot races are organised in combination with amble races, whereas the latter are not approved by the UET.

Purpose

The UET statutes provide for representation of each member country by one trot federation officially recognized by the government authorities (Article 3-1).

The main purpose of the UET (Article 1) is the promotion of horse breeding, trotting races and horserace betting as well as their integrity and prestige worldwide.

The UET is structured as follows:

It has a **General Assembly** made up of the representatives of Trot Racing Authorities in all the member countries that meets at least once a year,

A **Board of Directors** comprising 10 members,

A **Presidium**, comprising a *President*, 2 *Vice-presidents* and a *Secretary General*.

Elected for a 3 year

The president

M^s Marjaana Alaviuhkola (Swedish) in January 2019

Vice-presidents

*Mr Achille Cassart (Belgium)
Mr Camiel Mellegers (Netherlands)*

The Secretary General

Mr Guillaume Maupas (France)



The UET's mission

Its mission is to:

establish close, lasting ties with the member federations,

encourage exchange of information and draft common regulations for breeding and racing, in particular via the International Agreement that must be implemented in all the member countries,

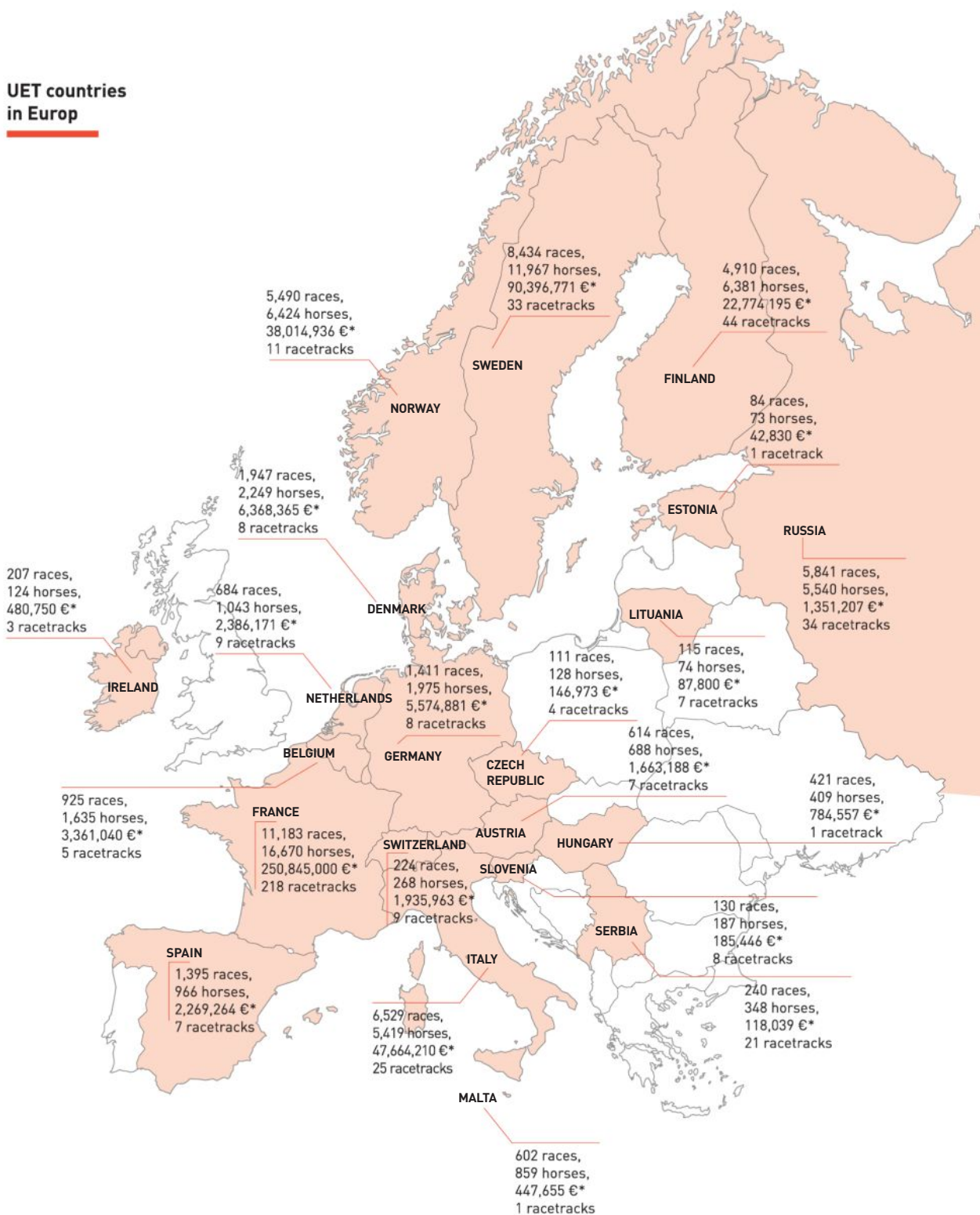
establish the international race calendar,

harmonise and ensure application of common rules and decisions relating to breeding and racing,

represent overall trot racing interests at international events,

promote trot racing in the media.

UET countries in Europ



*prize money offered

Trotter horse breeding in Europe

The trotter horse

200,000
HORSES

including

33,800
BROODMARES

2,567
STALLIONS

and foaled

22,900
TROTTERS

*(UET statistics
2018)*

The principle on which breeding relies is to carefully select breeding stock so as to produce and raise trotters that are liable to obtain the best results possible at the races offered to them, which themselves are designed to bring to the fore the best individuals which in turn go back to breeding.

The trot horse population in Europe represents approximately 200,000 horses, including 33,800 broodmares in 2018 that were covered by 2567 stallions and foaled 22,900 trotters .

Even though the economic conditions for breeding have been somewhat deteriorated in several European countries in recent years, the number of foals has only very slightly decreased and continues to attest to the vibrancy of the industry.

The trotter horse breeds

There are four major breeds of trotters in the world: the **American standardbred**, the **French trotter**, the **Nordic coldblood trotter** and the **Russian Orloff**. In many countries the trotters are the offspring of a cross between European horses and American standardbreds. They form a mixed blood population that has achieved a high qualifying level that is sought by buyers at yearlings' auctions.

The stud-books

The stud-books lay out rules of varying stringency for registration with each country handling its register on the basis of its own selective criteria aimed at enhancing the stock born on its territory.



However, in the case of the French trotter, which is allowed to be bred in 30 countries worldwide, access to the stud-book is limited to this breed alone, which has been preserved, although some limited openings to outside sources under a strict quota system have occasionally been allowed for stock deemed to be improvers. The French trotter stud-book, which pays great attention to preserving this particular breed that has been forged over nearly 2 centuries, is the largest in Europe since it accounts for roughly half the foalings, with 15,800 broodmares covered by 500 stallions that gave birth in 2018 to 10,500 foals out of the 20,800 hot-bloods born in Europe.

While artificial insemination with transported semen is practised in most European countries, it is prohibited in the case of the French trotter.



Insemination is allowed only with fresh semen and only where the semen is collected.

Breeding bonus distribution

Trotter breeding tends to be widely distributed between numerous farms, typically on grazing land because more often than not a breeder owns no more than two broodmares. However, some large stud farms have managed to gain recognition for their achievements creating an excellent reputation for the stud farm in their country of origin.

The area of the land occupied by trotter breeding is assessed to be 250,000 hectares. It is thanks to this activity, which is often an additional occupation, that farms that are compelled to engage in multiple activities are able to continue to exist in our rural areas.

A decline in breeding would inevitably lead to the shutdown of many farms and to the loss of thousands of jobs in the European Union. It is therefore essential to enable the 11,663 registered breeders and their staff to pursue their profession and continue to play an essential economic role in the European agricultural sector.

11,663
REGISTERED
BREEDERS

The area
of the land
occupied by
trotter breeding

250,000
HECTARES

Trot racing in Europe



5,189
TRAINERS

25,000
PEOPLE

5,903
JOCKEYS
AND DRIVERS

1,117
APPRENTICES

13,220
AMATEURS

Races

In 2018, 63,470 trotters took part in 50,497 races at 460 racetracks. The significance of this activity varies considerably from one country to the next. In France, 16,670 horses took part in 11,183 races on 218 racetracks, whereas in Ireland for instance, 124 trotters competed in 207 races at 3 racetracks.

Human resources

Trotters are placed in the hands of 5,189 trainers who, if one considers professionals alone, in most cases have between 5 and 20 horses in their yard. Together with the staff employed in these establishments, it is estimated that trotter training provides jobs to roughly 25,000 people. These horses are ridden or driven by 5,903 professional jockeys or drivers, by 1,117 apprentices or lads and by 13,220 amateurs.

Depending on the country, these races comprise between 8 and 16 starters on average and the racing card generally offers 7 to 12 races. Some programmes offer just trot



races, while others combine these with gallop races.



Prize money

Overall prize money for trotting races in Europe is 480 million euros paid out to registered owners or joint owners that number 31,233 to trainers and drivers as well as to the 11,663 breeders.

In most cases, the prize money comes from amounts levied on bets, the overall amount of which is about 8 billion euros. Public authorities also collect a levy on these bets, which, in some countries, is funnelled back into the horse industry.

Prize money for races varies enormously from one country to another depending on the magnitude of the activity. While it comes to 8,200 € per race on average in Europe, although in France it is 22,450 € and 11,000 € in Sweden, it is less than 2,500 € in 8 countries of the European Union. As a result, the average expected gains for a trotter over 1 year, which are 15,000 € in France, fall to 8,000 € in Italy and often come to less than 3 000 € in Sweden.

If one considers the cost of purchasing the horse (on a one to one basis or by auction) and the annual cost of training, it is obvious that ownership and racing of a trotter is a money-losing business funded largely by owners themselves to an extent that might rapidly become untenable and lead to the collapse of the entire ecosystem.

The challenges facing trot racing in the European Union



Financing the industry

Most of the funding for the breeding and horseracing sector comes from a levy on the bets taken. Races are therefore closely connected to bets and provide an ideal substrate for them.

Consequently, there is a need to institutionalise a strict and viable funding system capable of providing race organisers with the means for producing their activity via a fair levy on bets designed to support this economic activity.

Although it can be accepted that this levy should be freely negotiated between race organisers and betting operators based on the property rights attached to the spectacle presented and the supply of images and data derived therefrom, a minimum rate for the levy should nonetheless be set so as to ensure the continued existence of the industry. All the countries that failed to recognize this absolute necessity experienced a serious deterioration in their races alongside a decline in breeding for instance in Italy or Germany.

The member federations of the UET therefore set the rate, by common agreement and unanimously (Chapter VIII of the International Agreement):

- at **3% minimum for the compulsory fee** on bets registered for races organised in another country,
- at **8% minimum** for the fee for races organised in the country where the bets are taken.

Preserving the industry can only be achieved by generalising and applying this rule. Hence, it should be given a legal foundation on a European scale.



This levy goes hand in hand with strict obligations for both race organisers and betting operators.

For the first:

- the level of prize money must be such that it is able to attract enough competitors to generate a satisfactory level of bets,
- the integrity of competitions must be strictly monitored using sufficient human and material resources and through appropriate procedures,
- Anti-doping controls, which are already highly developed with 36,776 biological samples organised in 2018, must be maintained at a high level.

For betting, measures must be taken to avoid:

- fraudulent dealings,
- money-laundering,
- addictive behaviour, etc.

These obligations are a guarantee for the proper operation of races and betting requiring substantial financial means that justify the commonly agreed levy rates.

Furthermore, it stands to reason that States, which play a regulatory role in the area of gambling and must ensure the probity of the sector, receive some income from betting within a limit compatible with the scale of the games organised.



It is therefore by making provision for an obligation through the legislative process at the European Union level, with levy rates suitable for all the member countries, with a 3% minimum on bets taken for races organised abroad, and 8% for races organised in the country where the bets are recorded that we will be able to ensure that this valuable sector, that together with gallop racing, provides 200,000 direct jobs in Europe, is able to continue its economic activity.

The other objectives

Amongst the UET's other objectives, we note:

— representation at the European Commission of member federations for guarantees relating to:

- transportation of horses,
- animal health and welfare issues,
- stud-book matters,
- registration and identification of trotters.

— Certification of the international races chosen as the substrate for betting in other countries, so as to ensure the quality of the contests, harmonisation of their rules and reliability of their control.

Anti-doping control

36,776
BIOLOGICAL
SAMPLES
TAKEN





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