



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE TOURISME ÉQUESTRE



MORAL REPORT

2023

INTRODUCTION



The purpose of this report is to present the activities of the Fédération Internationale de Tourisme Equestre during the 2022-2023 financial year.

The year began with the organization of the first International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism, in September 2022 in Silkeborg which was an important event for the promotion of FITE's activities internationally. Thus, the year's actions focused mainly on the recommendations made following this meeting. Work at European level to promote equestrian tourism and represent its interests also continued. The various committees met to improve the sport regulations and work on new actions to develop the FITE's activities. Last but not least, preparations for major sporting events were also a key feature of the year.

With the desire to pursue the new dynamic given to the FITE, in line with societal expectations linked to our activities, the 2019-2023 mandates ends with the realization of promising work for the development of international equestrian tourism.

Horseback riding and training topics had been identified as top priorities at the 2019 General Assembly. The FITE has worked to harmonize training for the equestrian tourism guides, by proposing a set of minimum skills.

To encourage horseback riding, the FITE has proposed technical specifications guaranteeing a minimum level of quality for horses friendly lodging and for equestrian tourism centers. It has also been actively monitoring the European institutions decisions and defending the interests of our activities. In May 2022, FITE obtained the participatory status with the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes.

All the actions undertaken by the FITE have consolidated the development of international equestrian tourism, highlighting the strength of the collective, all the more so in times of crisis.

Thanks to each NETO and each committee member for their confidence and involvement in our joint project.

ASSOCIATIVE LIFE

2022 General Assembly

The 2022 FITE General Assembly was held following the TREC World Championships, in Lamotte-Beuvron (France) and via videoconference, on August 28, 2022. Over 40 participants attended the meeting, representing 22 out of 26 FITE members. After several videoconference General Assemblies, the massive presence of NETO representatives in person is the sign of a real need to get together for this key event in federal life.

The moral and financial reports for 2022 and the provisional budget for 2023 were approved on this occasion. Two changes of NETO for Denmark and Sweden were also approved: FTE Danmark replaced the Danish Equestrian Federation and TREC Sweden replaced the Swedish Icelandic Horse Association. Concerning the members of the Board of directors, it was noted that Zoé HOUBOLT had been temporarily replaced by Mei HWA KHOE.

Board of directors

During the year, the FITE Board of Directors met twice: on December 2, 2022 in person in Boulogne-Billancourt (France) and on April 21, 2023 by videoconference. During these meetings, all FITE actions and projects were presented and discussed. The work of the various committees was also presented and discussed.



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Members

In particular, the Board members approved the membership of the Fédération Ivoirienne d'Equitation, which, having attended the FITE General Assembly in 2022, has applied for membership. This membership must be ratified at the 2023 General Assembly.

In December 2022, the Board of directors decided to temporarily suspend the membership of Russia, which was not up to date with its 2022 contribution due to difficulties following European sanctions and financial restrictions. During the meeting on April 21, 2023, the FITE Board of directors also decided to suspend the membership of members who were not up to date with their 2022 contribution, until their situation had been regularized. These are the NETOs of Madagascar, Morocco and Romania.

On April 21, 2023, the Board of directors also approved the applications of 5 NETO representatives, submitted within the statutory deadlines, as four positions are due to expire at the 2023 General Assembly. The candidates are Raquel ANTONIO (Spain), Frédéric BOUIX (France), Véronique DUYSBURGH (Belgium), Ingrid HELMES (Luxembourg) and Frédéric PIERRESTIGER (Canada).

Regarding associative life, a new president has been elected for the Georgian NETO (ERETA - Endurance Riding and Equestrian Tourism Association): Tornike KEBURIA has replaced Gigi TEVZADZE.

EQUESTRIAN TOURISM COMMITTEE

After having prepared the event and contributed to its organisation, the Equestrian Tourism Committee met on February 21 by videoconference to work in particular on the follow-up to the International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism held on September 13, 2022.

International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism

On September 13, 2022, FITE organized the first International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism in Silkeborg (Denmark). With about thirty participants, this event brought together equestrian tourism and outdoor sports stakeholders from 9 different nations.

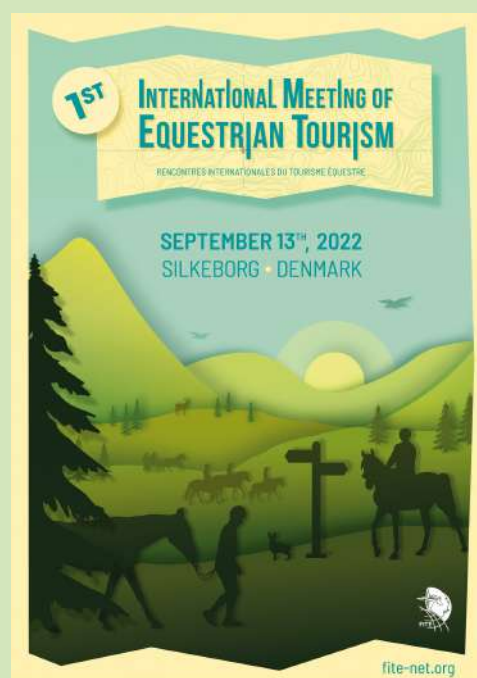
The aim of the event was to exchange information on different practices, share ideas and promote outdoor sports, particularly horseback riding, and its social and economic benefits, with a particular focus on rural areas. The event also provided an opportunity to showcase the initiatives of several countries that have chosen horse-riding as a means for developing their territories. Last but not least, it provided an opportunity for all those involved to meet up again after the interruption of activities due to the sanitary crisis, and to share ideas for the development and collaboration of the entire sector.

4 topics were addresses during this Meeting:

- Equestrian tourism and rural development,
- The creation and promotion of equestrian routes,
- Equestrian tourism, its interrelation with other forms of tourism and cooperation with other outdoor sports,
- Crossing borders on horseback in the European Union.

Several project leaders took part in the plenary session, before discussing each topic in round tables.

Following the Meeting, the FITE published a document summarizing the discussions and recommendations for its NETOs, as well as for stakeholders in the world of horses, tourism and rural life.



Following the Meeting, actions have been identified as priorities:

- 1) To carry out an inventory of the information relating to the development of equestrian tourism in each NETO,
- 2) To produce a document, illustrated, presenting the assets of equestrian tourism for the territories, which the NETOs will be able to seize and adapt to their territory,
- 3) Identify cross-border agreements on border crossings,
- 4) To exchange with the different international organizations of outdoor sports,
- 5) To create a guide of good conduct on the behaviors to be adopted in hiking.

The decision to hold the event again in 2024 was also approved by the Board of directors. For this second edition, the organization will be entrusted to a host country, under the aegis of the FITE. A call for bids was launched at the end of June 2023 for NETOs, equestrian tourism federations or associations, equestrian structures, institutions, local authorities and tourism stakeholders.



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EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION



FITE represents its interests through membership in various organizations, and also defend the interest of the sector towards public authorities.

European Horse Network

- Statutory meetings: FITE took part in several meetings, in particular two General Assembly in Belgium, on November 22, 2022 and June 8, 2023, and four meetings of its Board of directors.

- MEP Horse group: the FITE took part in 2 meetings of the MEP Horse group chaired by Hilde VAUTMANS. In November 2022, an official in charge of animal welfare at the European Commission presented the revision of animal welfare legislation. In June 2023, Ursula von der LEYEN, President of the European Commission, attended the European Parliament lunch devoted to horse ownership and future European legislation on animal welfare.

- Animal welfare working group: as part of the animal welfare working group, the FITE has worked with the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) to draw up a position paper, ensuring that economic aspects are taken into account in discussions aimed at improving animal welfare.

- Presidents' conference: in June 2023, a meeting of the presidents of EHN member organizations was held in Brussels. Based on the experience gained in the Netherlands, a prospective study on "The equine industry in 2040" was proposed to the members. The results of this analysis, piloted by the Federation of Dutch Equestrian Centers (FNRS) and supported by IFCE (Institut Français du Cheval et de l'Équitation), will be presented next autumn, along with the possible scenarios envisaged. The place of equestrian sports in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the question of promoting the equine industry at Paris 2024 and the issue of biosafety measures against equine influenza were also on the agenda. Ingmar De Vos, President of the Fédération Equestre Internationale and IOC member, presented the main issues and challenges facing the FEI and equestrian sports.

- Sustainable equestrian tourism label working group: FITE is actively involved in the EHN's discussions on the creation of a sustainable tourism label.

European Network of Outdoor Sport

The FITE took part in the ENOS Euro'Meet from September 14 to 16, 2022, following the International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism in Silkeborg, Denmark. With about 100 participants, it is the largest gathering of European outdoor sports stakeholders. On this occasion, Frédéric BOUIX was re-elected as a member of the Board, which met 7 times during the year. The FITE also continues its involvement in the "sustainable development" and "communication" working groups.

European Road of D'Artagnan Association

The FITE was present at the General Assembly of the European Road of D'Artagnan Association, on February 17, 2023, in Versailles. It also took part in an Executive Board meeting on June 14, 2023.

European Equestrian Federation

Together with the French NETO, the FITE met the President of the European Equestrian Federation (EEF), Theo PLOEGMAKERS, who was visiting France, on March 9, 2023. The topic of equestrian tourism was discussed, a topic that particularly inspired him, as outdoor riding is a lever for the development of equestrian activities.

RED-MER

The FITE took part in a meeting of the R.E.D.-M.E.R network (Association Ruralité-Environnement Développement - Mouvement européen de la Ruralité), on December 8, 2022.

Equestrian Tourism Cooperation in Morocco

The FITE continues to take part in the collaboration between the French region Centre Val-de-Loire and the Moroccan region Fès-Meknès for the development of equestrian tourism. In September 2022, the FITE welcomed a delegation of Moroccan tourism professionals in Lamotte-Beuvron. The FITE visited Morocco in October 2022 to assess the project's progress and discuss matters with the partners, in conjunction with the El Jadida trade show.



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Legislative and information monitoring

The FITE continues to monitor and represent NETO interests at European level, with technical support from the French NETO. This information is presented during board meetings. In a non-exhaustive manner, the monitoring on European subjects has focused on :

- **Animal welfare:** the European Commission will be proposing changes to animal welfare legislation by the end of 2023. This will affect several directives and regulations; in particular, for equidae, it will impact the transport regulation and a directive on livestock. Indeed, the Commission intends to extend it to animals kept for commercial purposes.
- **Cross border flows:** regarding border crossing agreements and the movement of horses within Europe, the new Animal Health Regulation offers the possibility of derogations. However, they require each government to make a request and set up a derogation system. Bilateral agreements can also be concluded, but only for "cross-border territories".
- **CAP reform:** the National Strategic Plans for the CAP 2023-2027 came into force in January 2023. It is now up to each member state to implement it. In certain cases, equine activities may be eligible for the CAP.



- **Revision of the Package Travel Directive:** on November 8, 2022, FITE took part in the meeting of the expert group on the Package Travel Directive. The request for exemption from the directive, notably for package holidays offered by sports clubs, was renewed. The European Commission could propose a revision by the end of 2023.
- **Ecological and digital transition:** a conference organized during the European Tourism Day by the European Commission as part of the Tourism Transition Pathway was held on May 5, 2023. The FITE followed the conference online and sent a summary of the discussions to its members.
- **European Agenda for Tourism 2030:** following the European Commission's adoption of the "Transition Path for Tourism" in 2022, the Council of the European Union adopted conclusions on December 1, 2022, establishing a European Agenda for Tourism 2030, which includes a multi-annual EU work plan to help Member States, public authorities, the Commission and stakeholders make the tourism sector greener and more sustainable, resilient and digitized.
- **"Together for EU tourism" expert group:** following a call for applications to join the "together for EU tourism (T4T)" expert group of the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs ('DG GROW'), FITE has been included on the expert group's reserve list. This reserve list may be used to replace designated member organizations.

SPORT

TREC

TREC Committee and regulation changes

Following the 2022 TREC World Championships, the TREC Committee met on November 18, 2022. The international regulations, as well as the technical and scoring sheets for the PTV, have been reworked to reward good riding, rather than penalize poor riding. This new system, approved by the Board of directors, will be implemented from the 2023 European Championships.



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Training

The training for trainers of judges and PTV course designers took place on March 11 and 12, 2023, in Riocabado, Spain. Over 10 countries took part, with 18 participants.

2023 Championships

The 2023 European Championships took place from August 31 to September 2, 2023 in Riocabado, Spain.

European Cup 2023

In 2023, the European Cup consisted of 16 stages, in 9 different NETOs. However, only 6 stages welcomed foreign riders and counted towards the final ranking. The prize giving ceremony took place in Riocabado during the 2023 European Championships.

Next championships

The Dutch NETO has submitted its bid to host the Championships in 2024.

Working Equitation



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2022 European Championships

The 2022 European Championships were held from September 21 to 25, 2022, in Eersel, (Netherlands), with 6 nations and 47 riders and horses taking part.

2023 Championships

The 2023 European Championships will take place from September 20 to 24, 2023 in Arezzo, Italy.

Working Equitation Committee and regulation changes

The Working Equitation Committee, on November 17, 2022, made a number of regulatory changes, applicable from January 1, 2023, following the European Championships. The creation of a Juniors category was proposed to the Board of directors, which unanimously adopted the decision. The Junior category created in TREC has proved its effectiveness in terms of rider progression. In addition, this decision will position FITE as a supporter of a wider practice for all age categories. This category will be introduced at the 2023 European Championships. The creation of an international circuit to replace the European Cup has also been put in place.



EVENTS

- International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism: see page 4
- Organized under the aegis of the FITE, the 2022 Centaur Raid took place from November 25 to 27, 2022 in the Bretagne region (France), with 48 riders taking part in this legendary POR.
- The second edition of the Morocco Equestrian Rally took place from March 8 to 11, 2023. About twenty riders from 5 different countries took part.

PROJECTS

For the year 2024, FITE's activities will follow on from this year. The priorities and actions defined by the Board of directors and the Equestrian Tourism Committee (see page 5) will be pursued or implemented.

In spring 2024, a second edition of the International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism will be held.

During the year, several opportunities for collaboration arose and discussions will be pursued.

On the sporting front, the TREC European Championships for Juniors, Young Riders and Seniors are due to be held in the Netherlands. The organizer of the Working Equitation Championships has yet to be decided. Courses for international TREC and Working Equitation judges will also be held in 2024.

CONCLUSION



During 2023, the FITE focused on promoting equestrian tourism internationally by organizing the first International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism and implementing the resulting shared roadmap.

At European and international level, the FITE also monitored issues and decisions that could have an impact on the activities of its NETOs and the entire equestrian tourism sector.

On the sporting front, the FITE has proposed changes to the regulations and practical arrangements for TREC and Working Equitation, to encourage the development of these outdoor riding disciplines.

This work in these various fields, carried out with the collaboration of all the members of the Board of directors and the members of the Committees, today enables the FITE to establish its positioning on an international scale, while at the same time making equestrian tourism part of the more global tourism sector and soft-hiking.



Parc équestre fédéral
41 600 Lamotte-Beuvron
France

info@fite-net.org
+ 33 2 54 94 46 81