

## ANALYSIS OF HORSE BREEDING AND EQUESTRIAN SPORTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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**Abstract:** Horse breeding in the Republic of Croatia, before its entrance into European Union, is in the transitional period. In the breeding sense, Croatian horse breeding is set according to the model of European countries and is trying to counteract with “modern horse breeding countries”. Croatian Center for Horse Breeding – Đakovo and Lipik State Stud Farms (CCHB), with the Central register of equidae is, as the head national institution, responsible for running and maintaining national central equidae database (49 registers of horses and 27 registers of breeding types). Croatia has registered total of 21.796 equidae, from which 19.306 animals are horses. Registered horses according to groups make the total proportion of 37% warmblood horses, 59% coldblood horses and 4% ponies. Horse breeders are organized in breeders associations, which form federations of associations referring to separate horse breeds. Currently in Croatia there are four federations of breeders associations (with 43 associations and 11 private stud farms). Those verified breeding organizations are conducting independently breeding programs and fully maintain breeding and selection obligations for horse breeds for which they have approval of the Croatian Ministry. Native breeds in Croatia are Croatian Coldblood, Croatian Posavac and Međimurje horse (Murinsulaner), while Lipizzan horse is considered as protected breed. Development of horse breeding is considerably supported with national subsidies. Internationally verified breeds which are bred in Croatia are Lipizzan horse, Pure Arabian horses, Thoroughbred, Haflinger and Gidran horses. The horse breeding in Croatia is developing in four different directions. Ecological breeding implies native horse breeds and is spread on the areas of protected nature resorts in Croatia. Croatians are through their history connected to horse breeding, which is even today irreplaceable in traditional cultural manifestations (Đakovački vezovi, Vinkovačke jeseni, Sinjska alka, etc.), various horse shows and fairs and also in more “modern” ways through recreation and entertainment. The third direction of

development of horse breeding in Croatia is therapeutic riding, which includes 26 associations, over one hundred horses and over one thousand users organized under the Therapeutic Riding Association of Croatia. Sports horse breeding represents fourth direction in Croatian horse breeding. It is formed by four federations: Croatian Trotting Federation (trotting), Croatian Gallop Federation (gallop sport) and Croatian Equestrian Federation (endurance, dressage, military, show jumping, driving). Croatian Equestrian Federation includes 49 equestrian clubs. In the last four years between 455 and 582 competitors and between 495 and 581 horses (for show jumping 45%, dressage 31%, endurance 19%, driving 5% and military) were licensed annually. Croatia achieved noticeable results on the international scene in driving sports and in Paralympics. In all mentioned directions of Croatian horse breeding, the tendency should be directed to achieving higher breeding standards (nutrition, stabling, transport, training) and more rational using of horses. Such breeding and using of horses will lead to top bred horses and successful sport horses. This implies synchronized work through long period of time, respecting institutional and breeding rules.

**Key words:** horse breeding, equestrian sports, Republic of Croatia

## Introduction

Horse breeding in Croatia is still in turbulent transitional period and searches its place in “modern” horse breeding. In the last decade increase of horses is recorded for large 72%. Annual statistics is continually made in Central register of equidae in Croatian Center for Horse Breeding – Đakovo and Lipik State Stud Farms (CCHB). Central database with the new software program for horse breeding enables recording of all data in horse breeding and in the process of issuing Identification documents (passports), which are required within the European Union regulations. In 2011, unique connection with authorized breeding organizations is enabled by unique system of entry of information. Central equidae database also enables connection to livestock and agricultural inspection by the Ministry of Agriculture, fisheries and rural development for easier and detailed supervision of horse breeding and enforcement of Croatian regulations. According to the statistics of CCHB, Croatia has the total of 21.796 registered equidae and 2.490 donkeys, zebras and mules. The total number of registered horses (compared to 2009) has increased for 1.856 horses, i.e. 10.61%. Comparing the proportion of total number of horses in relation to total geographic area of Croatia, the average number of horses in 2010 is 0.34 horses/km<sup>2</sup>. Most of the horses per km<sup>2</sup> is registered on Sisačko-moslavačka county (1.05 horses/km<sup>2</sup>), and the least on Šibensko-kninska county (0.02 horses/km<sup>2</sup>) (*HCK, 2011*). The central region in Croatia is leading in sport horses, where the biggest number of active horse owners

is on the territory of Zagrebačka county and capital city Zagreb (15.4% active breeders). The purpose of this study is to show the current position of horse breeding in Croatia and to elaborate future guidelines for this sector to become self maintaining.

## **Inquiries which are put in front of Croatia**

With Croatia approaching the European Union, reform of agricultural production has started and it gave new demands in all branches of livestock breeding, and as well as in horse breeding. The specific element is that the turning points are identical to changes which happen in other agricultural production sectors. Breeders are faced with structural changes in agriculture, which have resulted from agricultural politics and led to higher specialization. But according to higher possibilities of production per production unit, many could lose their employment (*EU Equus, 2001; Baban et al. 2007*). European experts are of opinion that one of the possible strategies is horse breeding, i.e. development of rural tourism services, pensions, sports and recreational activities related to horses, which all together can lead to development of horse industry (*Čačić, 2008*). Business related to horse breeding is becoming much more prominent part of economy of rural countries in the European Union. Such activities are contributing to preservation of employment, which is important from economical and social point of view. Greater interest in employment related to horse breeding can contribute to prosperity of rural areas. It can be concluded that entire horse breeding represents connection between urban and rural areas in the aspect of quality of life. The connection is mutual benefit in breeding, stabling and training of horses. The important part represents the production of food and is especially shown in the most profitable part of horse breeding, in horses kept for sports. Horses put in front of high sports demand require food of high quality, for which owners are ready to pay higher price. Number of horses in modern agriculture shows certain demands on size, quality of pastures and areas for food production. If we compare number of horses in the EU with the number of citizens, we come to the result that on every 1.000 citizens in the EU there are 11.7 horses. According to the data of the EU (*Equus, 2009*), Denmark is the country with the highest number of horses per citizens in the EU (28.3 horses on 1.100 citizens), while Portugal is the country with the smallest number of horses per citizens in the EU (2.5 horses on 1.000 citizens). In the Republic of Croatia, there were 4.4 horses on 1.000 citizens in 2010 (*HCK, 2011; Census, 2001*).

The goal of animal production is always the economical profit, even though it is often considered that horses belong to a special category. However, horses are not an exception here. The most significant part of developed horse breeding is breeding of race horses, with gallop and trotting races. Economical

profit there is made always in smaller or higher proportion. The profit with horse breeding in some countries is realized on the large number of business types (often small) and it supports wide variety of activities in all regions of the country. In the EU, 15 times more horses are imported than exported (the leading importing country is Italy) and the profit of import and export is the same (*Haring, 2005*). In Croatia, import of horses is in most cases connected to sports horses (annual import is around 100 to 150 horses) and the proportion of import of such horses is much larger than the export, which is around annual number of few dozen horses.

Croatia is currently in reorganization of horse breeding according to the rules of the European Union. The organization of horse breeding and equestrian sports in the Republic of Croatia is shown in Scheme 1. Ecological breeding is mostly related to native horse breeds. Horse breeding for equestrian sports includes horse breeds, which are intended for sport activities and for therapeutic riding. Horses are used for recreational purposes and are irreplaceable in traditional cultural manifestations.

## **The structure of horse breeds in the Republic of Croatia**

According to statistical information of Croatian Center for Horse Breeding - Đakovo and Lipik State Stud Farms (*HCK, 2011*) in the Republic of Croatia there are recorded 49 horse breeds and 27 breeding types of horses. The largest breed is Croatian Coldblood, which takes up proportion of 32.59% in the total number of horses in Croatia, or 0.11 horses per km<sup>2</sup>. From the total number of horses only 4% are used for professional sports, while the biggest part is bred in ecological environment. Referring to breeding types, the largest part counts for sport horses; Croatian warmblood (3.21%) and Croatian sport horse (1.87%).

## **Ecological horse breeding in the Republic of Croatia**

Breeding of native horse breeds (Croatian Coldblood, Croatia Posavac and Medjimurje horse - Murinsulaner) is directed to ecological breeding. The reason for that lies in the fact that those breeds are adjusted to local conditions and are eligible for ecological breeding. Ideal ecological breeding area for such horses is in the protected parts of nature resorts, which are located on the 9.5% of the surface in the total geographic area of Croatia. The largest part of protected areas in the Republic of Croatia includes the pastures by the river Sava and the pastures in Croatian Highlands. By the river Sava there is an ecological network of 17 fields. The biggest field is Lonjsko polje with a total of 0.13 horses per acre grazing there in 2010, and which capacity is still not entirely used (*Sakač et al., 2010*).

It should be mentioned that pasture horse breeding and generally livestock breeding is one of the basic elements in preservation of protected countryside and

biological diversity in many countries. In that sense, while many countries have the problem with too many horses on the pasture areas, in our country we have a lack of horses. National pasture resources are not used at optimal level. One of the possibilities of rational horse breeding and ecological horse meat production is to breed Croatian native cold blood horse breeds. Besides, such breeding would have their great role in mentioned preservation of protected countryside and in biological diversity.

Ecological horse breeding includes native horse breeding. Their number counts 11.270 horses (*HCK, 2011*) and makes 58% of the total number of horses in Croatia, which is 2% less in proportion to last year. This information shows that there was a larger increase in number of sport horses. The largest native horse breed is Croatian Coldblood (6.304 animals), which number is in the last decade increasing, every year 7.7% on average (*HCK, 2011*). Second largest native horse breed, which is also bred by ecological principals is Croatian Posavac and this breed counts 4.909 animals (*HCK, 2011*). The only native horse breed which is not bred by ecological principals is Medjimurje horse breed (Murinsulaner). The main reason for this is their small population (57 horses), which puts them in the group of critically endangered breeds (*HCK, 2011*). The other reason is in the lack of pastures on the main breeding territory, which statistically has the biggest ratio of inhabitants in the Republic of Croatia (162 people per km<sup>2</sup>) (*Sakač et al., 2010; Koprić, 2010*).

Croatia developed financial support system for native horse breeds (Croatian Posavac, Croatian Coldblood and Murinsulaner) and protected populations of Lipizzan horses and donkeys. State subsidies include 2,000.00 HRK for native and protected breeds (269.00 EUR) and 1,000.00 HRK for donkeys (134.53 EUR). The reason for such subsidies lies in the fact that Croatia has a membership in WTO, so there is a limited amount of financial resources for the support in agriculture, which are connected to production level, prices and usage of the factors in production elements.

Economical benefit in breeding horses under ecological conditions is realized in rural tourism. The production of mare milk is still not reachable, while the biggest part takes horse meat production. There is noticeable trend in production of equine meat. In the European Union member countries, the average consumption of horse meat per citizen is around 0.4 kg/year, where Italians with consumption of 1.3 kg/year are far ahead (*Dobranić et al., 2008; Haring 2005*). The consumption of equine meat in the EU is met with 33.6% of their internal production, while the rest is imported. Large pasture areas which are not used, breeding structures of horses in Croatia and good connection with the EU countries gives good aspect for rentable production of equine meat with the possibilities of export.

## Horse breeding in other purposes

There is a wide set of reasons why people today breed horses around the world. The same is in Croatia. According to *Haring (2005)*, in the survey related to horses conducted in Germany, 87% of examinees had at least once ridden on schooled horse. This shows that Germany has the most developed riding sport. The reason lies in the fact that people are realizing the contact with horses through riding and they spend most of the time with horses in the nature (*Haring, 2005*).

Croatians were through history connected to horses with the mixing of traditional, cultural and modern horse breeding, so in some areas horses have even today an important role. Many traditional manifestations (Đakovački vezovi, Vinkovačke jeseni, Sinjska alka...) are the reason for breeding horses in those areas. The rural tourism in Croatia is starting to gain on its importance and it is almost not imaginable without the horses in carriage, under saddle and/or in slide. Very important segment of continental tourism is hunting, and it always involves horse carriages, which drive hunters to hunting or for observation of wild animals.

Western riding is still in the very beginning in Croatia. For popularization of this type of riding on the Višnjica Stud Farm with around seventy horses of mostly Quarter and Paint breed, has the biggest credit. The basis of the Stud Farm make twenty genetically most valuable mares and two stallions who have proven their value on international competition in western sport by winning European titles.

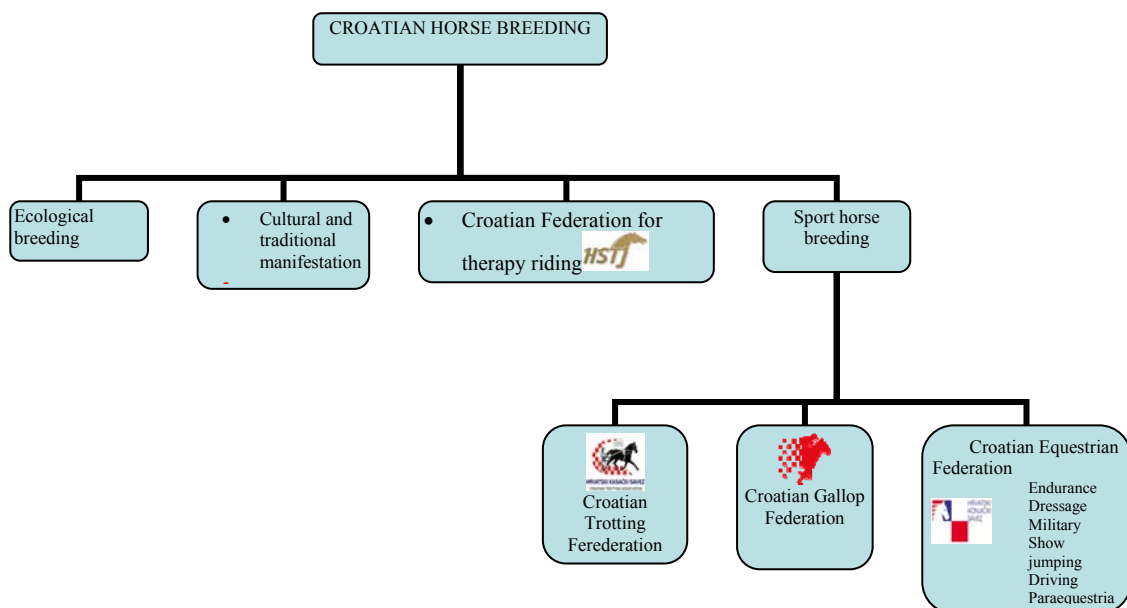
Therapeutic riding is under the organization of Therapeutic Riding Association of Croatia. The Association is voluntary, non political and non profitable association founded at the end of 2000 and it counts 26 associations, member organizations from the whole Croatia. The main role of the Federation is promotion, development and standardization of therapeutic riding in Croatia. Therapeutic riding is aimed at improvement of physical, psychological and social aspects of life of disabled people through the activities connected to horses (recreational and sport riding, pedagogic riding, hypotherapy, vaulting and driving). The aim of the Association is improvement of the quality of life by using programs in therapeutic riding in all forms - hypotherapy, pedagogic riding, recreational riding or sport riding for people with special needs (paraequestrian) (*HSTJ, 2011*). For therapeutic riding in Croatia there are around one hundred horses available to and used by over 1.000 users.

## Equestrian sport in the Republic of Croatia

Equestrian sports in Croatia are under the organization of three Federations: Croatian Trotting Federation (Trotting), Croatian Gallop Federation (gallop sport) and Croatian Equestrian Federation (endurance, dressage, military,

show jumping, driving). Sport horses used for stated equestrian sports are mostly from Croatian breeding (54.25%) with the tendency of growth.

For the development of equestrian sports in Croatia, the most merit for it goes to mentioned Federations. Their purpose is to follow equestrian sport (in judging, preparation and competition), to guide horse clubs, educate competitors and trainers in horse sports and similar. All activities connected to equestrian sports in Croatia are in accordance to Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) rules.



**Scheme 1. Organization of horse breeding and equestrian sports in Croatia**

Members of the Croatian Equestrian Federation (CEF) include 49 horse clubs from which 22 are full members and 27 are associate members. In the period between 2007 and 2010, CEF has annually licensed between 455 to 582 competitors in equestrian sports and between 496 and 581 horses competing in show jumping, dressage, endurance, driving and military. There are annually 52 equestrian competitions in stated sports organized under CEF.

Show jumping in Croatia is the largest in the sense of licensing horses, riders and competitions. In the last four years in Croatia, there were on average 232 registered riders in show jumping per competition season with proportion of 21.3% juniors, 18.5% cadets and 60.2% seniors. By the total number of equestrian competitions in Croatia under CEF, the proportion of show jumping tournaments is 54% (HKS, 2011). Show jumping in the world is one of the most popular competitions in FEI equestrian sport disciplines in which men and women compete

together. In 2005, there were 737 international competitions organized under FEI. Show jumping is an Olympic discipline since 1900, since summer Olympic Games held in Paris (*OM, 2011*).

According to the number of registered riders, dressage is the second equestrian sport in Croatia (average number of riders in the last four years is 160; with 24% juniors, 21% cadets and 55% seniors). This is the sport with the biggest increase of competitors, i.e. proportion of 58% compared to 2007 (*HKS, 2011*).

Considering the fact that the number of registered juniors is continuously increasing, it can be concluded that the interest in this discipline will continue to increase in the number of riders and in the number of tournaments in dressage, which is in the last four years at a constant level. Dressage is considered as the art in equestrian sports and is used as basics in training for all other disciplines. Its main purpose is in development, with systematic and progressive training for horses of athletic abilities and desire for work, i.e. to develop horses riding potential to maximum level. This is the individual Olympic discipline since the summer Olympic Games held in 1912 in Stockholm, and since the games in Amsterdam in 1928 it is considered as the team discipline. Women have been accepted in the team since 1952 (*OM, 2011*). Germany is the leading country in dressage, with titles of ten gold Olympic medals (team). Horse riding has become a discipline also in the Paralympics, and in 2000 Croatia had its representative in the OG in Sidney.

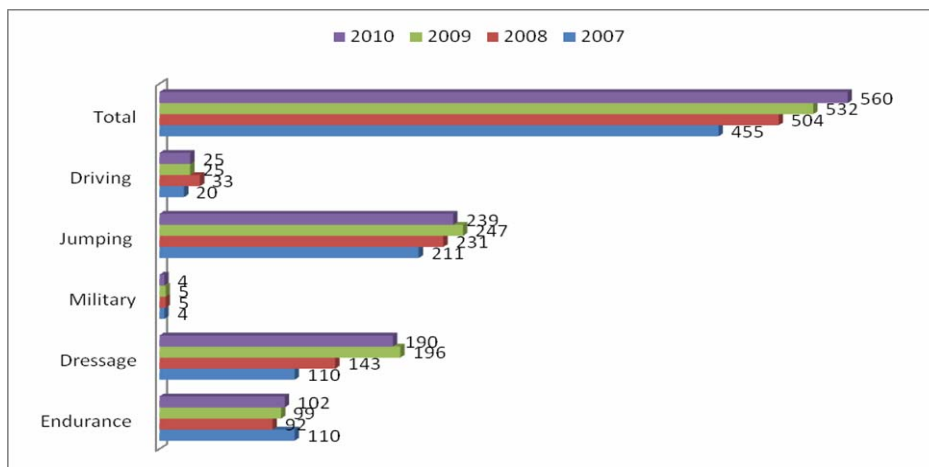
First competition in endurance in Croatia was organized in 2006. In the following year Croatia Cup and the endurance Croatia Championship were organized. From 2007, there are on average 100 riders registered, with proportion of 18% juniors, 12% cadets and 70% seniors (*HKS, 2011*). This equestrian sport in Croatia has the biggest part of senior riders. The reason for that is probably in the fact that this sport is available to older riders. Endurance in Croatia had unexpected "bang" probably because many owners are in active riding and have been eager to join sports which are similar to their recreation habits.

Driving in Croatia started at the end of nineties of the last century. Its intensity grows and develops in the direction of two-in-hand driving. Average number of licensed two-in-hand drivers from 2007 to the last competition season was 25, with the proportion of 19% juniors, 12% cadets and 69% seniors (*HKS, 2011*). In last couple of years, intensive development of driving in Croatia caused many changes in Lipizzan breeding. The reason for that is in the fact that Lipizzan breed is used in driving in Croatia and is well known even in international sport (*Baban et al., 2009*). Lipizzan breed takes up 8% in the total number of horses in Croatia (1.548 animals). In world proportion, the Republic of Croatia is the country with the most registered Lipizzan horses. If we compare this information with the number of Lipizzan horses used in driving, the proportion is negligible, with 0.03% of horses used in driving. Drivers of two-in-hand compete in well-known international competitions. The Republic of Croatia had a representative in the



World Championship of two-in-hand driving in Warka (Poland) in 2007. For this year's championship in Paris there are three Croatian drivers successfully qualified.

Military is in the beginning of development with no tendency of growth, but in stagnation during last four years. Four to five riders are licensed annually for military and they participate in international competitions, since military in Croatia is still not organized (HKS, 2011).



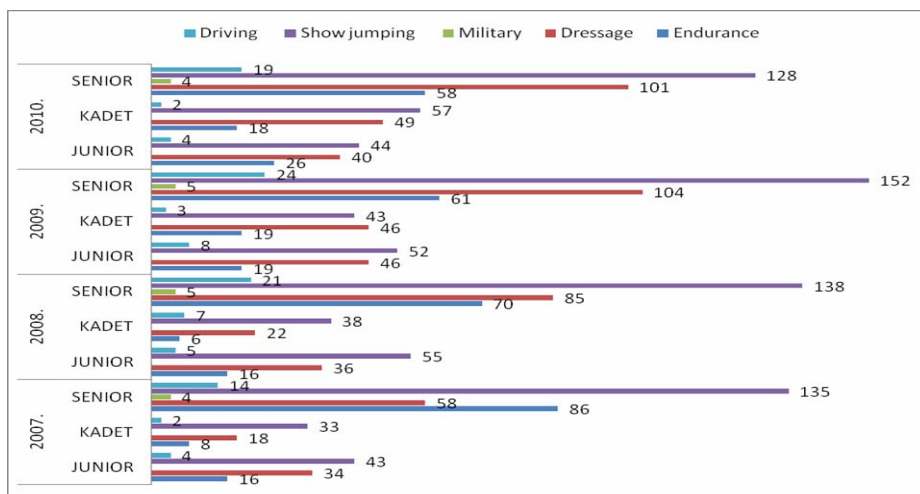
Data source: Croatian Equestrian Federation (2007-2010)

**Graph 1. Proportion of the total number of licensed competitors and competitors according to equestrian disciplines in Croatia from 2007 until 2010**

**Table 1. Proportion of competitors according to categories in some equestrian sports in the Republic of Croatia from 2007 until 2010**

| Year \ Discipline | 2007   |       |        | 2008   |       |        | 2009   |       |        | 2010   |       |        |
|-------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
|                   | Junior | Kadet | Senior | Junior | Kadet | Senior | Junior | Kadet | Senior | Junior | Kadet | Senior |
| Endurance         | 16     | 8     | 86     | 16     | 6     | 70     | 19     | 19    | 61     | 26     | 18    | 58     |
| Dressage          | 34     | 18    | 58     | 36     | 22    | 85     | 46     | 46    | 104    | 40     | 49    | 101    |
| Military          |        |       | 4      |        |       | 5      |        |       | 5      |        |       | 4      |
| Show jumping      | 43     | 33    | 135    | 55     | 38    | 138    | 52     | 43    | 152    | 44     | 57    | 128    |
| Driving           | 4      | 2     | 14     | 5      | 7     | 21     | 8      | 3     | 24     | 4      | 2     | 19     |

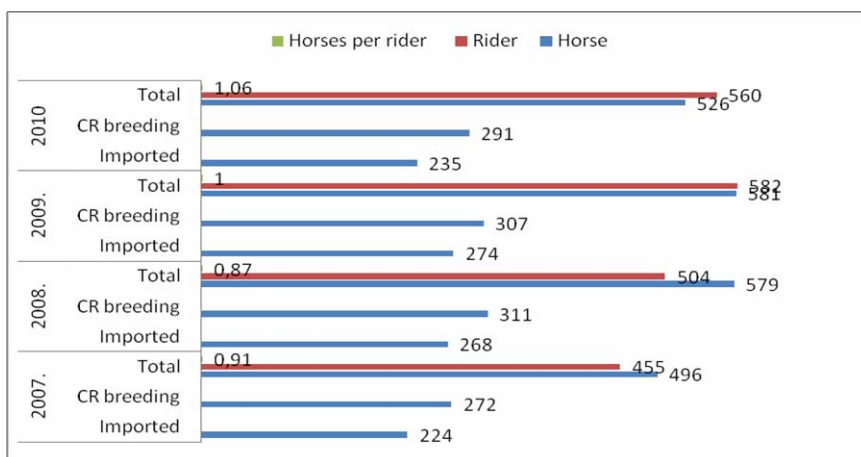
Data source: Croatian equestrian federation (2007-2010)



Data source: Croatian Equestrian Federation (2007-2010)

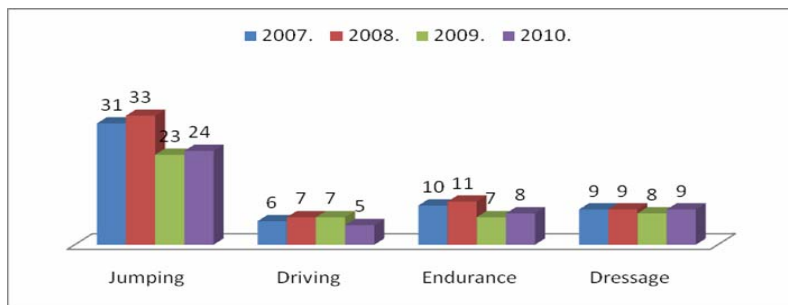
**Graph 2. Graphic presentation of proportion in competitors according to categories in some equestrian sports in Croatia from 2007 until 2010**

Horses used in stated equestrian sports originate from the homeland breeding in proportion of 54.25%, while the rest of 45.75% is imported. Croatia has imported sport horses from 18 different countries from which the biggest proportion of horses come from N/A (not available data), Germany, Hungary and Belgium.



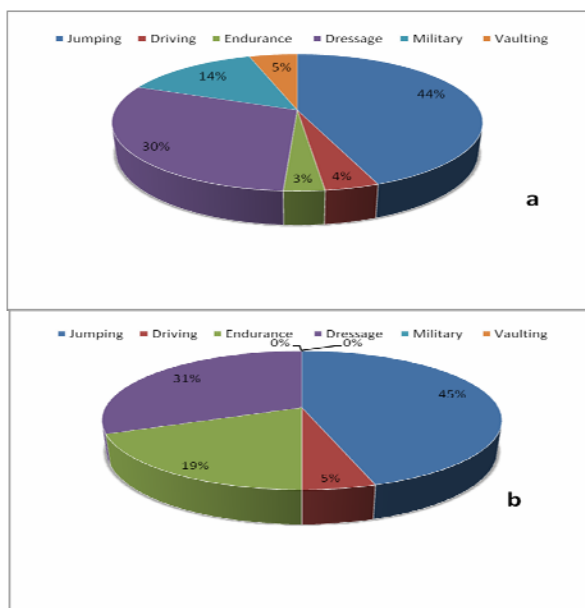
Data source: Croatian Equestrian Federation (2007-2010)

**Graph 3. Presentation of the number of licensed riders and horses (home land and foreign breeding) and average number of horses per rider in Croatia from 2007 until 2010**



Data source: Croatian Equestrian Federation (2007-2010)

**Graph 4. Number of organized equestrian tournaments in Croatia from the season 2007 until 2010**



**Graph 5. Proportion of equestrian sports in Croatia with 15 countries in the European Union according to the data of EU Equus 2009 (a) and CEF, 2011 (b)**

Comparison of proportion of equestrian sport in Croatia and fifteen different EU countries showed equal proportion in dressage, show jumping and driving sports. Endurance is in higher proportion in Croatia than in the EU. Military and vaulting in Croatia is almost not represented.

In Croatia there are four trotting tracks for trotter races (Zagreb, Osijek and Oroslavje with the distance of 1.000 meters and Daruvar with the distance of 800 meters). On those tracks there are 54 races run within 15 racing days per year.

Average number of horses per one season (from 2007 to 2010) is 54 and the average number of drivers is 31. The prize fund for races was in total 55,000.00 EUR, which is on average 1,000.00 EUR per race (HKS, 2011). Gallop sport in the Republic of Croatia shows continuous development and increase of gallop competitions. In the last couple of years there are efforts to make competition system closer to the one in developed countries, since it is one of the most profitable segments of equestrian competition in the world.

## Conclusion

Many institutions in the Republic of Croatia are making efforts to advance and self maintain horse breeding as the specific branch in livestock breeding. Breeders play an important role in the breeding of horses, since they are members of horse associations and federations. Croatian Center for Horse Breeding – Đakovo and Lipik State Stud Farms is the head horse breeding institution in the Republic of Croatia and runs Central national database within the Department for the central register of equidae. Recently, there is a trend noticed in development in all forms of equestrian sports, which also marks the increase of horses and their quality. Equestrian sports in the Republic of Croatia are supported by the Croatian Equestrian Federation, Croatian Gallop Federation and Croatian Trotting Federation. The most representative equestrian sport in the Republic of Croatia is show jumping (45%), followed by the sports with the highest increase of competitors in the last four years: dressage (31%) and endurance (19%) and driving (5%), which has constant number of competitors throughout years. All championships in equestrian sports in the Republic of Croatia are organized according to FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) rules. The tendency of sport horse breeding in the Republic of Croatia should be directed towards higher quality of breeding which could compete with foreign horse breeding. This could be achieved with proper breeding, training and of course with respecting the knowledge of horse exports. The breeding of native horse breeds should respect ecological principles of production, since it markets products and services where branding is mandatory for making them recognizable. Horse breeding in the Republic of Croatia demands synchronized work of many institutions and breeders in order to make production more successful and self maintaining.

## Acknowledgment

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## **Analiza odgajivačkog stanja konjarstva i konjičkog sporta u Republici Hrvatskoj**

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### **Rezime**

Konjarstvo se u Republici Hrvatskoj, pred njegov ulazak u Evropsku uniju, nalazi u tranzitnom periodu. U odgajivačkom smislu, hrvatsko konjarstvo postavljeno je po uzoru na Evropske zemlje i pokušava parirati zemljama s „modernim“ konjarstvom. Hrvatski centar za konjarstvo, državne ergele Đakovo i Lipik, kao glavna nacionalna ustanova sa Okružnim registratorom kopitara vodi centralnu bazu podataka o kopitarima (49 registratora rasa konja i 27 registratora uzgojnih tipova). U Hrvatskoj ima ukupno 21.796 registrovanih kopitara, od kojih je 19.306 konja. Broj konja obuhvaćen selekcijom prema grupama iznosi za toplokrvne 37%, za hladnokrvne 59% i za ponije 4%. Odgajivači konja udruženi su u konjarske zadruge koje čine saveze odgajivača po pojedinim rasama, a trenutno su u Hrvatskoj registrovana četiri saveza zadruga odgajivača konja (sa 43 zadruge odgajivača i 11 privatnih ergela konja). Te ovlašćene odgajivačke organizacije samostalno sprovode odgajivačke programe i u potpunosti nose odgajivačko selekcijski rad rasa za koje imaju ovlašćenje ministarstva. Autohtone rase su hrvatski hladnokrvni konj, hrvatski posavac i međimurski konj, dok je lipicaner izvorna i zaštićena rasa. Razvoju konjarstva značajno doprinose i mere državne mere novčane podrške. Međunarodno priznate rase odgajene u Republici Hrvatskoj su lipicaneri, arapski i engleski punokrvni konji, haflingeri i gidrani. Konjarstvo Republike Hrvatske razvija se u četiri pravca. Ekološko gajenje konja obuhvata autohtone rase konja i rasprostranjeno je na zaštićenim delovima prirode teritorije Republike Hrvatske. Hrvati su kroz istoriju vezani na gajenje konja koji su nezamenljivi na tradicionalnim kulturnim manifestacijama (Đakovački vezovi, Vinkovačke jeseni, Sinjska alka i dr.), raznim izložbama i sajmovima te „modernijim“ načinima korišćenja konja kroz rekreaciju i zabavu. Treća smernica konjarstva Republike Hrvatske je terapijsko jahanje kojim se bavi 26 zadruga, oko stotinak konja i preko hiljadu korisnika pod pokroviteljstvom Hrvatskog saveza za terapijsko jahanje. Sportsko konjarstvo predstavlja četvrti pravac hrvatskog konjarstva. Čine ga tri saveza: Hrvatski kasački savez (kasački sport), Hrvatski galopski savez (galopski sport) i Hrvatski konjički savez (daljinsko jahanje, dresurno jahanje, militari, preponsko jahanje, zaprežni sport). Hrvatski konjički savez obuhvata 49 konjičkih klubova. U poslednje četiri godine godišnje licencira od 455 do 582 sportista i od 495 do 581 konja i to za preponski sport (45%), dresuru (31%), daljinsko jahanje (19%), zaprežni (5%) i militari konjički sport.

Republika Hrvatska ima zapažene rezultate na međunarodnoj sceni u zaprežnom konjičkom sportu kao i na Paraolimpijskim igrama. U svim pravcima konjarstva Republike Hrvatske tendencija bi trebala težiti visokim standardima gajenja (ishrani, smeštaju, transportu, treningu) i racionalnom iskorišćavanju konja. Takvo gajenje i iskorišćavanje konja dovešće do vrhunski odgajenih i sportskih grla, a to iziskuje sinhronizovani rad kroz duži vremenski period uz poštovanje mnogih institucija i odgajivačkih načela.

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