

Adevarul (national newspaper)

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Author: Delia BUDURCA

Title: **One million pounds for the native horses' welfare**

Subtitle: The number of horses which live in Great Britain is the same with the number of horses which live in Romania. The difference is that 90 percentages of our horses live in house-holds and are used as tractors. In Great Britain horses are mainly used for recreation, and are making up the fifth industry of the country.

Extracts:

"After several visits in Romania, the British team from The International League for the Protection of Horses has initiated a project, in order to improve the quality of life for 874,000 native horses. The project has a duration of five years. It includes seminaries for vet training in university centres, a campaign to promote horse welfare, as well as training courses for farriers and saddlers. Farriery and saddle making are handicrafts almost forgotten nowadays".

"In Romania there are more than 16,000 horses contaminated with the equine infectious disease. While horses in the ultimate stage of the disease are euthanatized, those who don't present any clinical signs of the disease have a meat that could be eaten. Romania has exported living horses in Italy for many years, in order for those animals to be sacrificed in Italy. According to the director of the National Veterinarian-Sanitary Authority, Ion Agafitei, the export of living horses was halted one month ago. The horses are going now to eight slaughterhouses, and their meat is exported in carcasses. Moreover, according to the same source, the number of the diseased horses has decreased, and 16 counties are declared free of equine infectious disease. Still, the disease persists in Transylvania and the Northern part of Moldavia. The peasants who have contaminated animals can receive between 10 and 20 million lei (between 285 and 571 euro) for a horse which is going to be slaughtered".

"Ian Kelly, from the ILPH, explains that horses are regarded in Romania as means of production, but their potential in tourism and recreation activities is not yet exploited. In Ian Kelly's opinion, British people are very interested in horse breeding in Romania, at low costs. After a while, those horses could be taken out, in Great Britain. For the time being, a first impression from the horse markets in Romania – with images of tormented and beaten hard working horses- could be enough both to frighten the potential investors and to generate a negative international publicity which would be subsequently very difficult to repair".