

## **Summary of the 2nd European Judging School Croatia 11-13 October 2016**

At the end of the first 'Eastern European Judging School' in Slovenia 10-13 July 2014, the participants of the workshop signaled that they would like to continue this type of the judging program in the future. The EHRC Judging Panel Working Group discussed this topic and agreed on continuing the workshop, giving it a new name: European Judging School. As a result of this decision the second European Judging School was organized by the Croatian Holstein Breeders Association in cooperation with Croatian Agriculture Agency in Osijek, Croatia 11-13 October 2016.

The working group was represented by Arie Hamoen, Gabriel Blanco and Tamás Sebők. The following countries joined the program: Croatia – as the host country – Poland, Estonia, Serbia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Turkey and Hungary, all together 30 people.

The program included a theoretical part, and a practical session on one of the biggest farms in the country.

In the **theoretical session** the topics which were discussed in Slovenia were continued. Besides this, during the presentations we focused on the things behind the judges' decisions in the ring, showed the traits and the weights of the different traits, illustrated with many pictures.

(The presentations were given by Gabriel Blanco, Arie Hamoen and Tamás Sebők) Discussing these topics was the basis of the practical part of the workshop in the afternoon.

The **practical session** was on the Belje farm with 2000 cows. The workshop was prepared by the employees of the farm. The ring was installed into one barn, which perfectly served the judging for many people in the ring.

The animals were selected from the farm for the following classes:

- Virgin heifer class
- Pregnant heifer class
- Two classes of young – first calver – cows
- Second calver class
- Matured cow class

Every group contained 5 animals. Finally, the Grand Champion ceremony closed the day.

The animals were well trained by the handlers. Due to the nice presentation of the animals and the great environment of the day - ring, sound system – we could achieve our goal: a lot of discussions among the participants and the working group members, focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of the animals and weights about the different traits, of course with final conclusion of every group by the working group members. Besides the judging, the reasoning was an important part of the workshop too. Every member had a chance for reasoning and an open discussion based on independent opinions. The day ran in a useful way in a really good, friendly atmosphere.

**Conclusion:**

The second edition of the Judging School met the expectations. The participants of the program were really active during the workshop and based on the feedback, the course met expectations of the participants too. All of the participants indicated that they are interested in the next school, which will be hosted by Poland, in 2018. (It needs to be confirmed by the EHRC Judges Panel WG)

The recommended main points of the next workshop are:

- more focus on the most important part of the judging: the reasoning.
- continue the practice of the judging with a lot of discussions to develop the “practical background” of this work.

We really appreciate the work of the Croatian Holstein Breeders Association and the Croatian Agriculture Agency – special thanks for Zdenko Ivkic - the management and employees of the Belje farm for the great organization of the second Judging School. Due to this nice preparation and atmosphere it was nice to see the successful and friendly work within these twelve nations.

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