



# The present situation in the breeding of riding horses

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INTERSTALLION secretary

# Present situation....

- Start of financial crisis in 2008
- Turned into economic crisis with (hopefully) a recover in 2010
- Most horses are « functional » livestock and mainly reside in leisure- and recreational activities

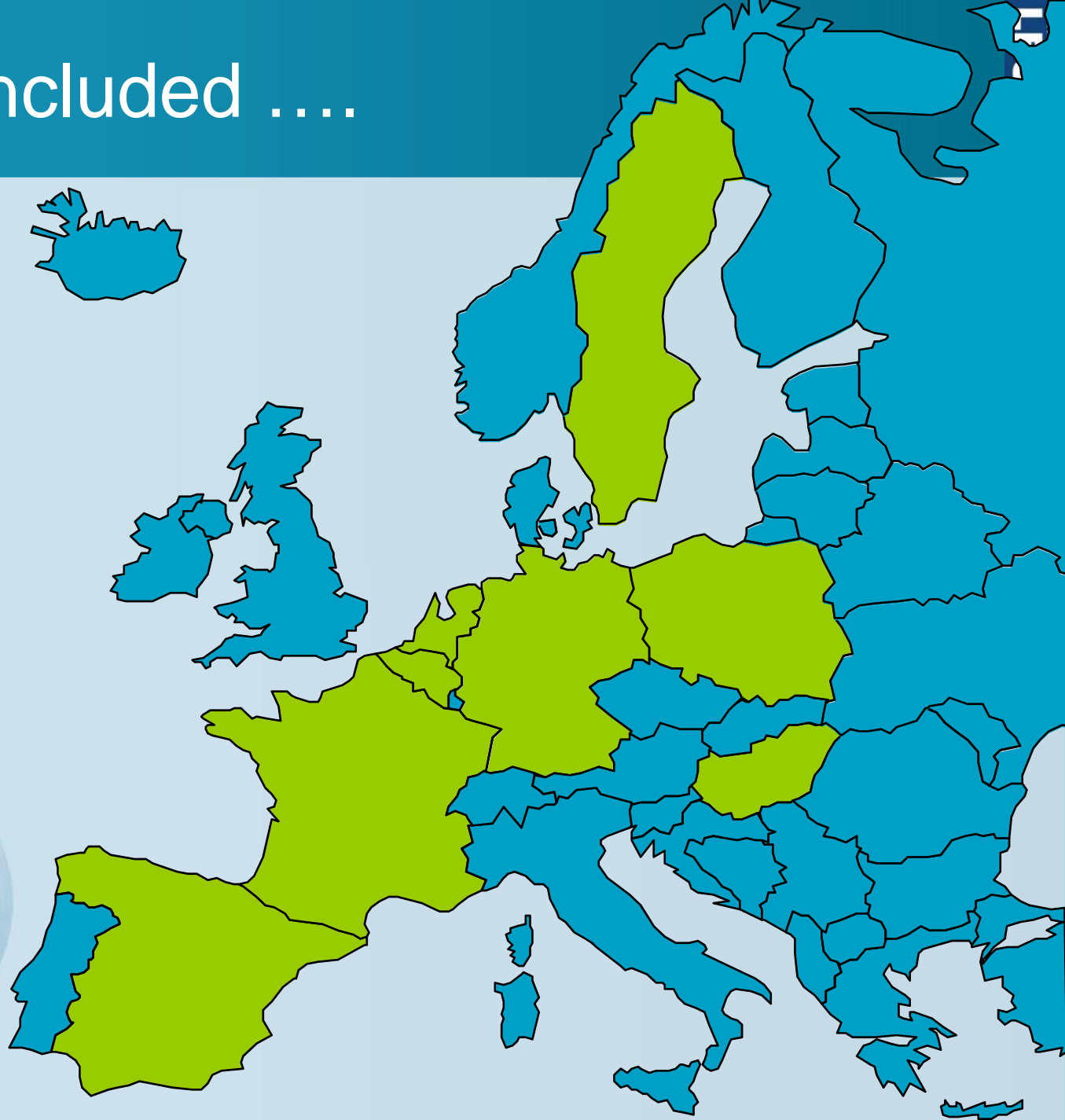
*=>Is the breeding sector affected by the recent economic crisis ?*

Variable of interest was the number of coverings of mares in different countries (or breeding associations) in recent years

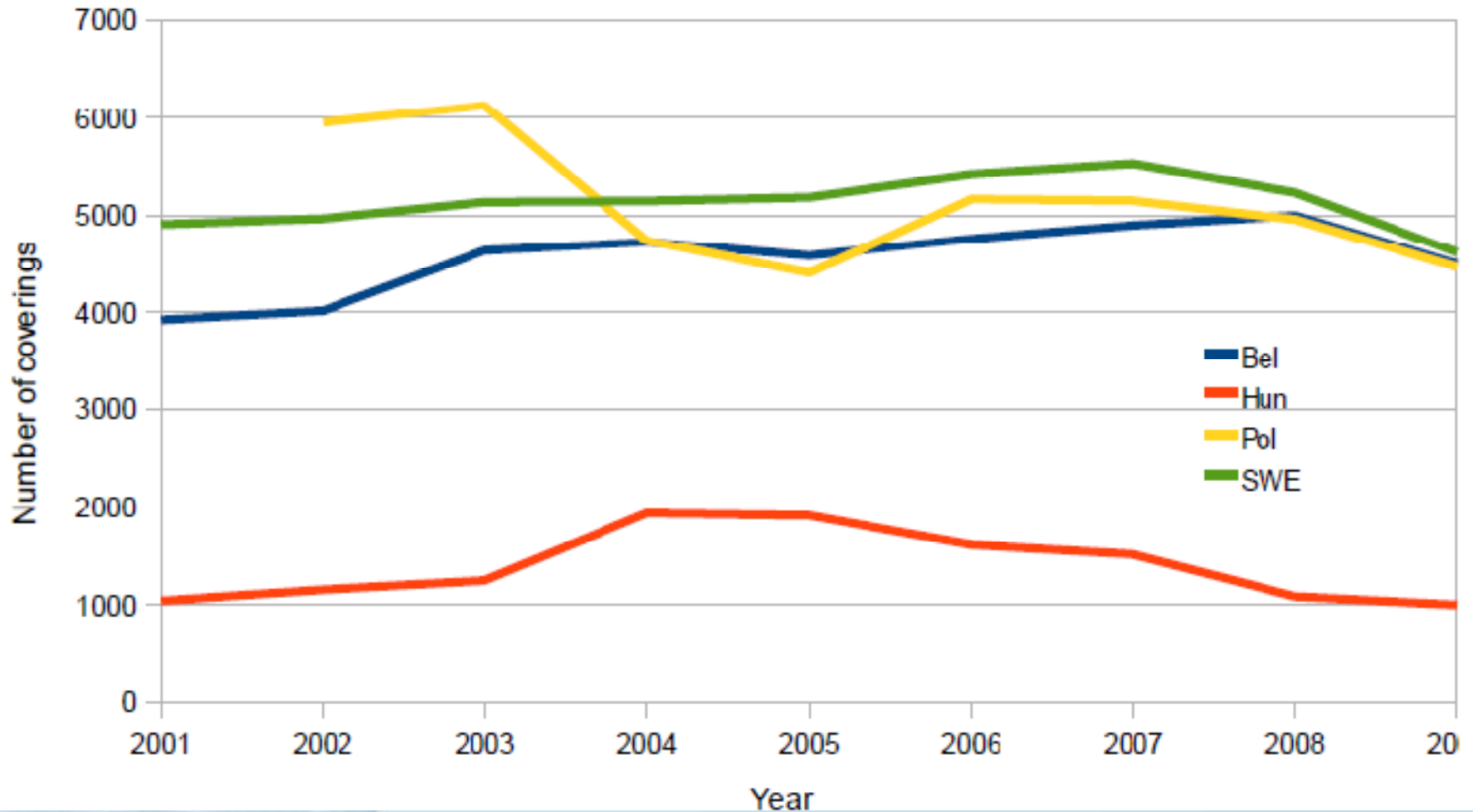
# Investigations

- No attempt was made to conduct a scientifically sound study because of time constraints and resource limitations
- Instead:
  - A) collection of census data in a number of European countries and/or studbooks,
  - B) expert estimate on 2009 for their own country
  - C) expert opinions on the impact of the economic circumstances

Countries included ....

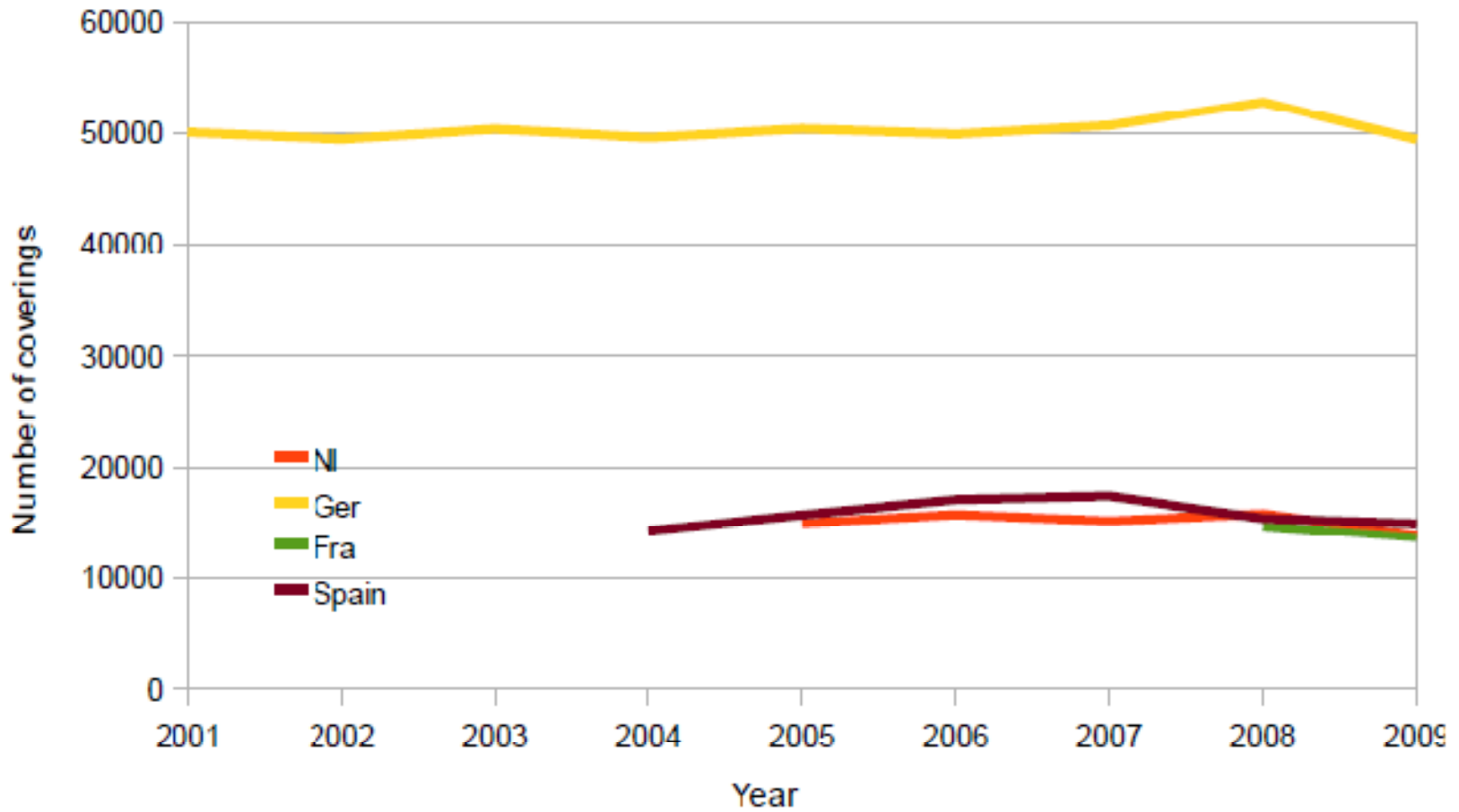


# Swe / Bel / Pol / Hun

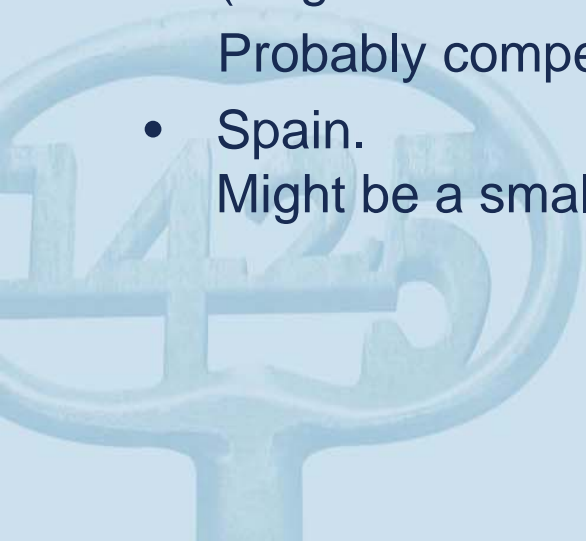


- Sweden  
Data were obtained from SWB, coverings peaked in 2006 and 2007, since then a reduction is observed (2009 to 2008 = -12%)
- Poland  
Data obtained from the Polish Breeders Association. Drop in coverings (-10%)
- Hungary  
(-8%)  
Number slightly drop. Imports from Germany & Netherlands
- Belgium  
A decrease in the number of coverings is expected (-10%)  
However, the situation differs a lot between AI-stations or stallion owners.  
It depends on the “perceived” quality of the stallions in each station

# Ger / Fra / Sp / NI

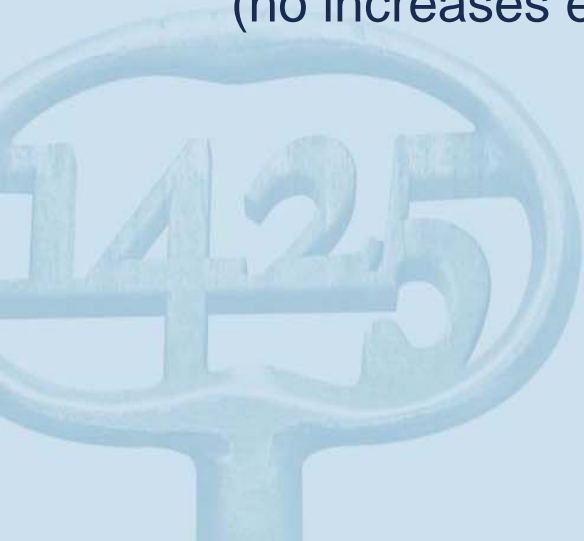


- Netherlands  
Stallions owners report a decrease in coverings from 10-15%.
- Germany (Info Holstein & Hannover)  
The steadily increasing trend will not continue  
An expected drop in the number of coverings in 2009 of 5 to 8% compared to 2008 (-7%)
- France  
A drop is expected in the number of coverings  
(AngloArabe -4%, Selle Français -8%=-7%)  
Probably compensated for due to new rules of registration
- Spain.  
Might be a small drop due to crisis (-3%)



# Overall picture

- Drop of 8% in number of coverings of sporthorses
- Approx. 8600 mares not put in breeding
- Expected drops from -15% to almost status quo (no increases expected)



# Expert comments...

- The trade in foals and yearlings is dead !

Many (small) breeders did not sell their 2008 and 2009 foal and decided not to breed their mare this year.

Especially when the mare is not of very high (genetic) value

- Quality of the horses is important !  
Horses with good (predicted) ability still attain good prices and are not in excess.
- Eastern Europe  
Imports from KWPN and German studbooks are important and put pressure on the market



# Expert comments (II)

- Fresh semen has to compete with frozen semen that is available from everywhere...

The breeders have a very wide choice and can “shop” where they want.

This fact, together with the drop in coverings, puts pressure on the semen-price and/or leads to better “conditions for the mare-breeder” (e.g. guarantee of live foal)

- Trade outside Europe seems to suffer from exchange rates (esp. North America, dollar/euro) or from less buying power (Korea, Japan)

# Conclusions

- A decline in the number of coverings in 2009 compared to 2008 is expected in most countries
- The general trend in a country covers diverse “underlying” trends
- Sporthorses of medium or low “intrinsic” value are difficult to trade



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