

Summary of the 3rd European Judging School
POLAND (Gniew/Cieszynowo)
18-20 September 2018.

After the end of the second European Judging School in Croatia, October 2016, the participants of the workshop and the Judging WG agreed to continue the program. The third European Judging School was organized in Poland by the Polish Federation of Dairy Cattle and Dairy Breeders, 18-20 September 2018. The working group was represented by Thierry Menard, Guido Simon and Tamás Sebők. The following 8 countries joined the program: Poland – as the host country -, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia, Croatia, Hungary and Romania - as a new member country -, all together 33 people.

Following our main goal, we focused on the practical work with heifers/cows in the ring so the theoretical part was shorter than usual and ran in the evening of the day of arrival. The practical session was held during the whole of the second day on farm.

At the theoretical session on Tuesday evening at the Hotel in Gniew, the presentations were given by Anna Siekierska (Dairy cattle breeding in Poland), Tamás Sebők (Judging work in the ring, The weights of different traits, Reasoning), Thierry Menard (Regulations of the show, Select the animals for the show, The “life after the show”) and Guido Simon (Animal welfare of the show).

The practical session was held on the Fortune Cieszynowo farm (1 200 cows). The animals were selected by the employees of Polish Federation and were prepared by one professional young breeder group cooperating with the employees of the farm. They did an excellent job. The well-trained classes of animals, the perfect ring and sound system gave a “real show feeling”, contributing a lot to the success of the workshop.

The practical part contained 5 classes (31 animals): 2 heifer classes, 2 young cow classes, 1 intermediate class and 1 matured cow class. The day closed with the Grand Champion ceremony.

The system was different compared to previous events. The first heifer class were judged as “out loud judging” to illustrate the thinking of the judge during the work in the ring. In addition to this, we presented the recommended ring procedures, and the “secrets” of giving good reasons. After this, we created 5 groups – five different countries/group - and the participants worked together during the class, lead by one Master Judge. We had many young breeders and new participants at the school, so we ensured every group contained experienced, less experienced and members with no experience. The group discussion was held during the moving and the standing position for each cow in the ring, ranking them, and finally the participants giving reasons. The final ranking was presented by the WG members. After the discussion, the Master Judges explained the final results. This new method gave a special possibility within the group members: to discuss behind the animals as much as possible, focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of the animals and evaluating the weights of the different traits, showing how to rank the animals in the ring.

Conclusion:

The third Judging School gave a great opportunity for the participant countries to work together and exchange ideas, experiences about the show, and about the judging. The program gave additional knowledge around the “show world” with a special, warm and friendly atmosphere. (The Polish Federation prepared a feedback sheet for the participants, see attached) All of the participated delegates indicated the interest of the next event. The newest member of the EHRC, Latvia, has offered their intention to organize the next Judging School in 2020...we were happy to accept their offer. This needs to be confirmed by the EHRC WG and Committee.

On behalf of the EHRC Judging Working Group I really appreciate the great work of the Polish Federation of Dairy Cattle and Dairy Breeders for the excellent organizing and fantastic hospitality. Thanks also to the Fortune Cieszymowo farm and the young breeders for their huge effort towards the successful practical session, which helped a lot for the enthusiastic participants to collect new knowledge and experiences in a maximum efficient way.

Tamás Sebők

EHRC WG