



# Germany

Capital: Berlin

Area: 357 026 sq km

Currency: Euro

In the EU since: 1957

Head of state: Angela Merkel  
(Chancellor)

Inhabitants: 81 471 834



## Berufliche Schule Münsingen

The “Berufliche Schule” is a big school. There are different activities (cooking, horsemanship, marketing...). The school works with the stud in Marbach for the riding students.



# The Breed

The breed chosen by the German delegation is the Schwarzwälder Fuchs.

This horse originated in the Black Forest in Baden-Württemberg in southern Germany. It's a small, hardy draught horse which is suitable for the highlands with its long winters. It looks like a big Haflinger or a little Noriker. It is useful for work in farming and forest in hilly regions. Nowadays it is also often used as a carriage horse and for riding. It is nimble and lively, has a good character, high fertility and is long-lived. The colour, which is a part of the name, is mostly sorrel with light mane and tail, most popular is the dark silver dapple (German:Kohlfuchs).

**Height:** 153-160 cm **Weight:** approximately 500 kg

In the Middle Ages there was a horse breed in the Black Forest. The old Noriker was selected for the special requirement of the highlands. In 1896 a breed-association and a stud-book were established to standardize the breed. They wanted the breeders to only use heavy Belgian Draught horse stallions in order to increase the size of the breed. But the traditional farmers secretly used native stallions. Many foals in this time got forged identity papers. In World War I, the authorities finally noticed that the Belgians were not suitable for the Schwarzwald-farmers, so the farmers were allowed to use whatever stallions they wished.

In 1999, the number of registered mares is about 700 and stallions 45. The number is rising because the breed is very suitable as a leisure horse. In the stud Marbach (owned by the state Baden-Württemberg) are always about 16 stallions stationed.

## The Stud : Marbach

Looking back on almost 500 years of history, Marbach is the oldest state-run stud, and at the same time it is the country's largest education facility for equine professionals. It is located in southwest Germany near Gomadingen in the Reutlingen district of Baden-Württemberg. The annual stallion parade is an internationally known attraction, and the stud hosts over 500,000 visitors per year.

It is home to stallions of the German Warm Blood, Black Forest heavy horses and pure-bred Arabian mares. The majority of Arabian horses bred at Marbach are sold to private owners as personal riding horses, though some are also used in the sport of endurance riding.

Horses bred at Marbach are performance tested before being allowed reproduce and are branded with a brand symbol called the Hirschgeweih.

One thousand hectares of prime pasture and crop land are used as feed supply for the roughly 520 horses.

# The programme

## Tuesday, April 12th

We arrived at the hotel Gasthof Hermann, in Münsingen after 10 hours of travel. At 19:30, we ate with the other delegations.



## Wednesday, April 13th



The German students presented the School. The director presented the project. Then we visited the school with the German students.

The afternoon we went to the stud in Marbach to see some dressage, show jumping and carriage driving. Then, we were shown some stallions of the breed Schwarzwälder Fuchs, a little draught horse (1,40m-1,60m).

The breed is dark chestnut with long, frizzy and blond man. The stallion has a big neckline. The afternoon, we visited the horse museum.

## Thursday, April 14th

We went to the Black Forest to see the Schwarzwälder Fuchs working in the forest. The firm which organizes this (as well as carriage driving for special events) is Rossnatour.. Then we went to another structure which sells semen of its sires and deals with local tourism. We ate some black forest cake.



## Friday, April 15th



In the morning we visited the Clock museum and the church of Sankt Märgen. This is where the breed scharzwälder fuchs originates from. Later, we visited the insemination station. The afternoon, we marked young mares who entered the Stud Book. We compared the notes with the judge.



Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>



We said good bye to the students and teachers from the different countries of the Leonardo project, and we left at 8:30 for Freiburg. We took the train back to Paris. We arrived in Poitiers at 20:30.

