

# A EUROPEAN QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK FOR PRACTICE AND TRAINING IN ANIMAL MEDIATED ASSISTANCE AND THERAPY

SHP-E(NL)

Thematic group Data  
collection

The state of the art (survey)  
How to make things better?



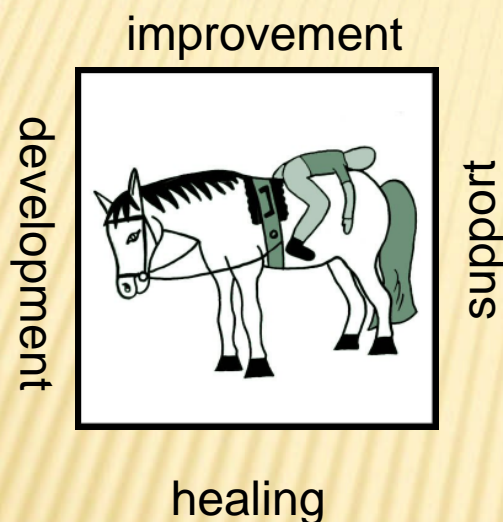
# OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROJECT

- ✘ Our objective is to build a multidimensional framework of contents, legal and organizational aspects and quality criteria
- ✘ So we will assist mental health organisations, clients and decision makers to compare different forms and competencies in Animal Mediated Assistance and Therapy in different European countries



# AMAT DEFINITION

## ANIMAL MEDIATED ASSISTANCE AND THERAPY



- ✘ Animal Mediated includes measures for educational, social, therapeutical or rehabilitative activities being carried out by professionals with the help of the animal as subject within the triangular process (the client, the animal and the professional undergo a relation on which the process is based). The involvement of the animal is supposed to be a sort catalysator within the intended process.

# WHAT HAVE WE PROMISED TOD DO

- ✘ The partner project aims on a guaranteed level of identical interventions of quality within the different fields and functions in AMAT in the EU.
- ✘ This can only be realized by conforming training programs to a well defined level of quality and competences that we will research and develop within this project



# INTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF A QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK

- ✘ This will result in a system of quality and security guaranties for the clients in the EU

# THE SURVEY

- × Questionnaire 1
- × Questionnaire 2
- × Submission forms:
  - + Contacts in the field of AMAT
  - + Literature and scientific research in the field of AMAT
  - + Definitions and quality standards of the partner organizations
  - + Definitions used in the field of AMAT



# THEMATIC GROUP QUALIFICATION

- ✘ Topics we selected in the last meeting
  - + Education in therapy model
  - + Organization approved
  - + Qualification system
  - + Interdisciplinary
  - + Therapy-price
  - + Safety aspects
  - + Interventions and level of interventions
  - + Hippological qualifications
  - + Supervision.....



**WHAT DO WE HAVE**

**WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO**

**WHAT DO WE HAVE TO PRODUCE**

- ✘ Definitions, standards and qualification systems already existing (organizations)
- ✘ State of the art in the practical fields (survey)
- ✘ Defining the “ideal” framework on basis of our survey, analysis and targets as a project group





# **HOW WE STARTED**

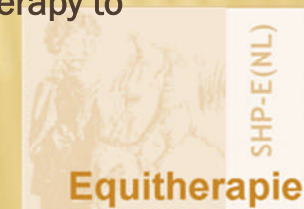
State of the Art

The situation at the moment



# DIFFERENCES

- × Duration of training
  - + (days/hours) Period (years/months)
- × Basic profession
- × Equestrian qualification
- × Therapeutic assistance during therapy
- × Equestrian assistance during therapy
- × Training
  - + Supervision yes/no
  - + Group process yes/no
  - + Practical project yes/no
  - + Theory exam yes/no
  - + Practical exam yes/no
- × Code of ethics yes/no
- × Personal relationship between therapist and horse yes/no
- × Personal development, feedback yes/no
- × Supervised work placement
- × Preparatory seminar
- × Qualification of the main lecturers
- × Self-awareness yes/no
- × Therapeutic concept
- × Therapy model
- × The therapy horse
  - + Selection of the therapy horse
  - + Schooling of the therapy horse
  - + Training of the therapy horse
  - + Which of the horse's abilities are used
- × Horse's function in the process
- × Horse's role in the relationship triangle
- × Is the relationship triangle used as the basis of work?
  - + Moving on the horse
  - + Moving with the horse
  - + Relationship with the horse
- × Therapy structure
- × Therapy settings
- × Transfer model from therapy to everyday life





## Differences in duration and period of training

	Equitherapist SHP	Riding therapist FÖRDERKREIS	Riding therapist, vaulting therapist OKTR	Riding therapist SGTR	Riding therapist, vaulting therapist DKTHR
	Dutch foundation promoting science-based equitherapy Nederlandse Stichting Helpen met Paarden-EquitherapieHippoCampus training Centre Netherland	Society for the Promotion of Therapeutic Riding	OKTR (Austrian Board of Trustees for Therapeutic Riding) Therapeutic vaulting/riding section	SGTR (Swiss Group for Therapeutic Riding)	German Board of Trustees for therapeutic riding
Organisation	Nederlandse Stichting Helpen met Paarden-Equitherapie	Deutscher Förderkreis für therapeutisches Reiten	Österreichisches Kuratorium für therapeutisches Reiten	Schweizer Gruppe für therapeutisches Reiten	Deutsches Kuratorium für therapeutisches Reiten
Duration of training (days/hours) Period (years/months)	600 hours of training 44 course days Distributed over 2 years	475 training units x 45 min, at least two and a half years. At total of ten seminars each lasting several days, a guided work placement	250 training units x 50 mins (not including sports training), 2 x 6 day courses 7 weekends, work placement (supervised) approx. 15 hours Sports training (approx. 10 - 14 days) Possible within approx. 2 years	550 training units x 45 mins Period of 2 years	190 UE training unitsx45min., guided work placement Period of 1 Year

Description	EAT Equine Assisted Therapy	EAP Equine Assisted Psychotherapy	EAC Equine Assisted Coaching	EAA Equine Assisted Activities	EAL Equine Assisted Learning
Organization	PEGASUS Artevelde-Hogeschool Gent, Belgium	EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) USA, Europa	'Equicoaching' Belgien	Indiana Horse Council (USA)	Cartier Equine Learning Centre , Canada
Duration of training (days/hours) Period (years/months)	105 hours of training 12 - 15 course days Distributed over 2 years	2 levels having 3 course days each	9 training days	No information available	First level lasts 7 weeks. No information available about hours of training. Levels 2 and 3 are advanced courses.

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# STEPS TO DO: SURVEY

- ✘ Survey to gather information on the situation (Organizations and field) in each country
- ✘ Comparing the situation in all countries
- ✘ Selecting the main criteria for approved qualifications

# LOOKING AT COMPARABLE ATTEMPTS

- × FATP
- × ISAAC.....
- × International organizations Animal Assisted Interventions
- × Our Partner organizations
- × Other organizations in the Field
- × Private companies in he field
- × Interne Survey



# EXISTING CONCEPTS ON QUALITY CONTROL AND REGISTRATION

- ✘ Gathering the concepts on quality registration and certification within the partner countries and organizations
- ✘ Detecting the overall "framework"
- ✘ Defining minimal qualities of good practise



# **TO START UP**

- ✘ Information on the used models
- ✘ Information on the existing certification systems
- ✘ Finding common requirements for training, qualification and registration we suggest as parts of the worked out framework





# WHAT WE NEED TO GET FURTHER

- ✘ Information of the requirements of all partner organizations
- ✘ Informations on good and bad practice in the field
- ✘ What are the problems, do we have solutions to offer?
- ✘ Forming our Project standpoint on good and bad practice (in qualification and quality control)
- ✘ Filling in our part in the created framework





# SHP INTEREST

- ✘ What impact do you expect partnership activities to have on (pupils/learners/trainees and staff) and on the participating institutions.
- ✘ *For pupil with a basic qualification in mental health, social or educational domains combined with animal knowledge and experience it will open a way to an European acknowledged professional position in AMA. For well educated practitioners a European Certification System in lifelong learning, training in AMA will allow them to adapt the costs according to their qualification and efficiency. For the clients this transparent qualification system allows them to find the professional who meets their special needs in AMA. For the financing organisations and the political deciders it leads to guarantee professional efficiency and safety and animal security in AMA according European quality standards.*

✘

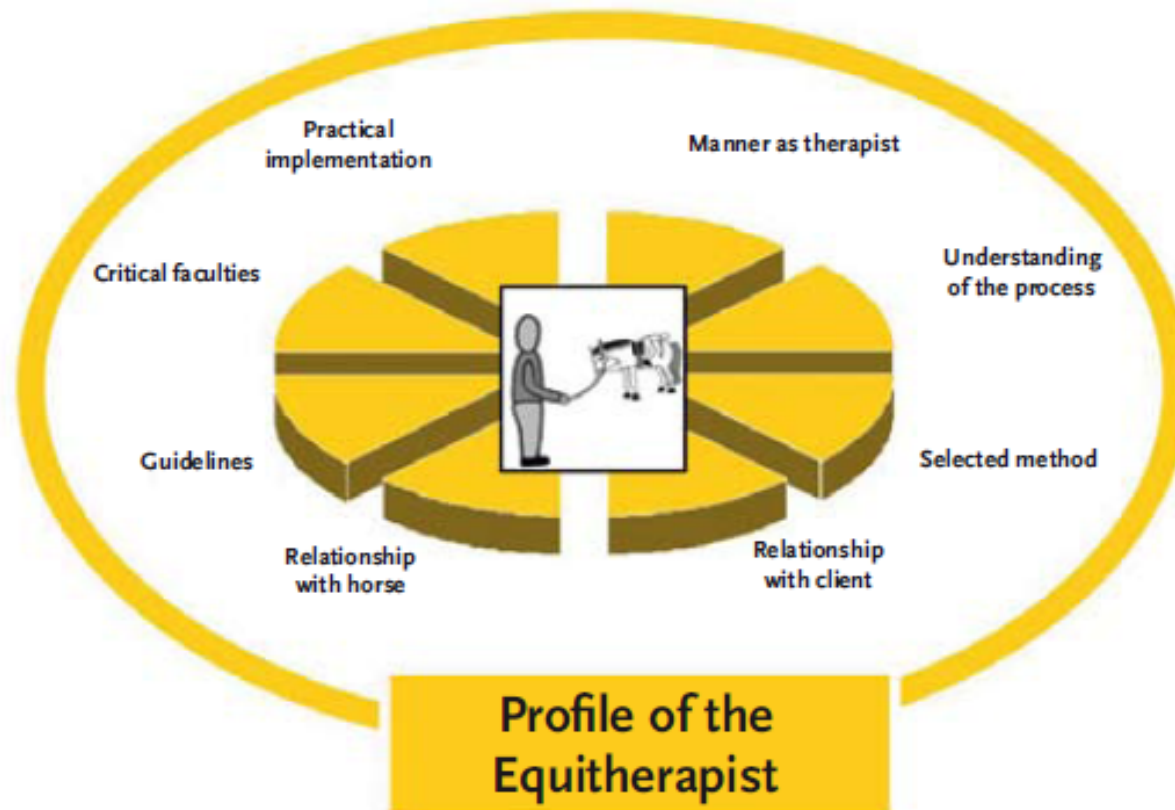


# QUALITIES OF THE THERAPIST (SHP)

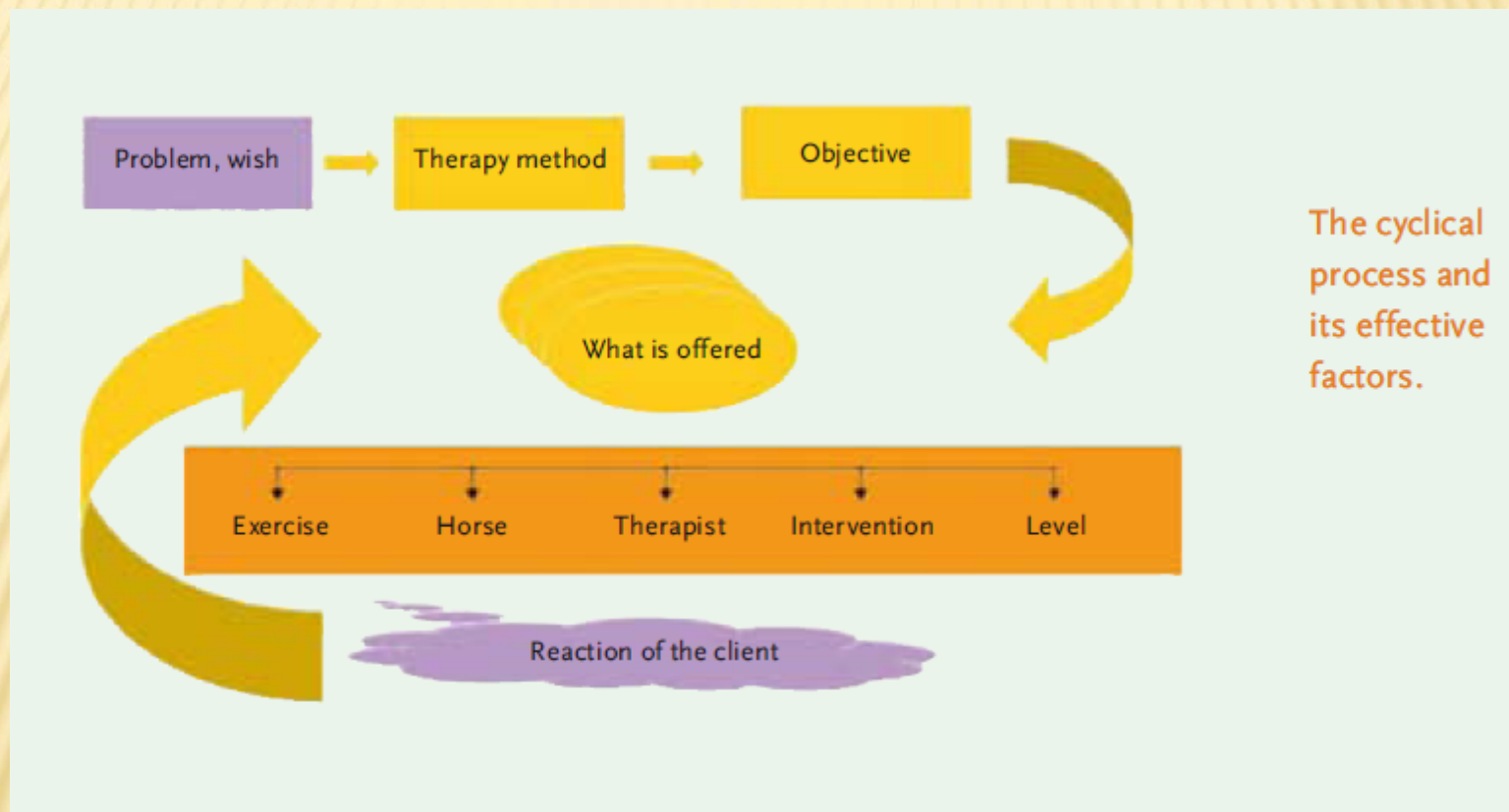
- × 1. Process understanding and process supervision
- × 2. Practical performance
- × 3. Chosen method
- × 4. Client relationship
- × 5. Horse relationship



- × 6. Professional manner
- × 7. Safety and consideration of general equitherapy
- × standards
- × 8. Critical attitude and critical analysis of
- × own performance



The performance profile of the equitherapist shows the areas of competence in which the prospective equitherapist needs to acquire sufficient knowledge, skills and personal development during their studies. These areas of competence are also the criteria according to which the equitherapist is evaluated in the interim and final examinations of the course.



The cyclical process and its effective factors.

- ✘ A step-by-step, cyclical process in phases:
- ✘ The therapeutic process is defined as a step-by-step, cyclical process, resulting
- ✘ from (1) the interplay between therapist - client - horse within a secure and inviting
- ✘ situation, adjusted to suit (2) the individual problems of the client and
- ✘ (3) the level of therapy at the given moment, involving (4) the exercises and, as
- ✘ appropriate, (5) the intervention of the therapist, as well as (6) the reaction of
- ✘ the client to this.





# COMMUNICATION STRUCTURE

