



International Training

The harmonizing principle of the herd



Windopleiding Nederland | The Wisdom Of The Herd

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Welcome

As founders, we warmly welcome you to the launch of our International Equine-Assisted Systemic training 'The harmonizing principle'. This program takes place in an environment created with the highest possible level of care—for both participants and horses.

Purpose

The main purpose of this program is to offer professional and experienced horse coaches, therapists, and counsellors a deep learning experience that enables them to integrate the methodology of Equine-Assisted Systemic Coaching into their own practice. The training path is a well-balanced mix of education, observation, reflection, and hands-on practice. Step by step, participants learn to embody the principles of this approach in their own way of being, feeling, and working, gaining fresh perspectives and developing a professional style uniquely their own.

Learning with the Wisdom of the Herd

A horse does not see you as an isolated individual but as part of your herd. For the horse, you are your herd—there is no other option. Horses instinctively respond to the 'we' within the 'I', especially when these are out of harmony. When someone feels disconnected from their herd, they often lose access to inner resources, potential, and life force. Horses invite us to bring the 'we' and the 'I' back together again. Learning to see and embody this principle lies at the heart of this training.

History

The Dutch launch of this program dates back to 2004 and expanded further in 2012 when the training was introduced in Brazil. The combination of these two seemingly different worlds became a powerful foundation for the international program we are proud to present.

Value for Professionals

Across two five-day modules, spread over several months, participants learn how to guide and facilitate systemic sessions with horses. Each participant has multiple opportunities to apply the systemic approach directly in practice. Systemic work with horses requires knowledge, understanding, coaching skills, reflective capacity, and continuous practice. This program addresses all these elements.

“At the end of the training, the herd offers one of its deepest gifts to give: the ability to see yourself —your inner herd and maybe the world — through their eyes”



Module 1

The Basic Principles of Equine Assisted Systemic Coaching - The Wisdom of the Herd

- General introduction to the fundamentals of the Wisdom of the Herd and its potential in working with clients.
- Opening and unlocking the field of the horses, and developing the sensitivity to recognize and distinguish the different movements of the horses in their presence and effects.
- Recognizing harmonization behavior as the primary point of entry for guiding a systemic session.
- Understanding and recognizing the five principles of the herd and their specific expression through systemic pressure. You will learn to distinguish their meaning within the context of the client's presence.
- Understanding and reading the wellbeing of horses in a coaching setting en understanding their calming signals.

We believe that the highest form of well-being we can offer to the horses is to recognize and honor what they carry for us. This directly contributes to the completeness and well-being of the human herd. In collaboration with international trainer Rachael Draaisma, you will train your ability to notice the calming signals of horses and develop a refined sensitivity to what seeks balance and reduces stress.

- Using your body as an essential source of information: noticing what happens before words arise, recognizing what resonates within you, and listening to what the body offers as potential interventions. You begin to experience your body as a resonant chamber for shifts in systemic pressure.
- Introduction to the Intervention circle as a practical guide for systemic awareness. Horses require no methods to convey their message—they ask only for your willingness to listen and respond.
- Practical Work: Supervised sessions with real clients.

Duration: 5 days | Dates: April 13–18 (rest day Wednesday) | Price: €2100,00 | Max: 10 participants



Module 2

Advanced Module: Interventions and the art of facilitation

- The art of facilitation, ‘seeing is doing’: opening the doorway to immediacy in facilitation. We explore in depth the distinction between first-order, second-order and third-order interventions. Moreover we examine the question: what is the essence of facilitation when we work with the Wisdom of the Herd?
- Who am I as a facilitator, and what does it ask of me to truly serve the herd in my guidance? And perhaps also: what must I be willing to let go of in order to be fully available as a facilitator?
- The potential within trauma and working with stored life force. Where is life force no longer able to flow, and where are the possibilities for its release? How can the horses support this process?
- Engaging the body as the primary instrument: perceiving subtle systemic shifts, allowing interventions to arise directly from embodied resonance, and cultivating a deep trust in the body’s intelligence in the field in tune with the horses.
- Applying the Intervention circle in real-life sessions under supervision.
- Practical Work: Supervised sessions with real clients.

Duration: 5 days | Dates: September 14–19 (rest day Wednesday) | Price: €2100,00 | Max: 10 participants

Didactics and Development

The growth and development of each participant is central to this program. Every participant contributes in a unique way to the field of Equine-assisted Systemic coaching. We view the training as a source: the more you draw from it and the more you pass on, the greater—and richer—that source becomes. Each module is guided by two facilitators: a content expert and a learning coach. Between modules, participants work on assignments that deepen their practical experience.

Intake Criteria

Module 1: Experience as a horse coach/therapist and basic horse experience.

Module 2: Admission to Module 2 is possible after completing Module 1.

If you have not followed Module 1, you may enter Module 2 if you have completed the Wind Training in the Netherlands, Belgium, or Brazil.

The trainers

- René Schoone — Head teacher, Wind Education Program, Netherlands
- Muriël Daal — Learning coach and educational psychologist
- Rachaël Draaisma — International trainer and author of Calming Signals of the Horse and other publications
- Ruud Knaapen — Founder of Working with the Wisdom of the Herd and author of the book “Equine assisted coaching. The wisdom of the herd”

Accommodation

Participants receive a list of local bed & breakfast accommodations in various price categories.

Interested in Participating?

If you are interested, please complete the registration form. We will evaluate your application and respond within two weeks.