

# EEN

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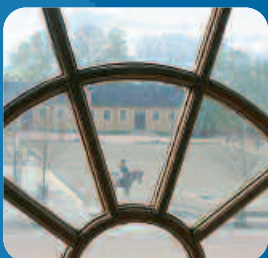
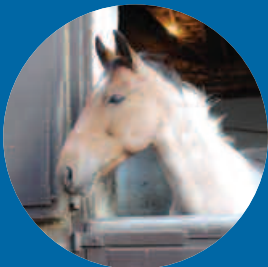
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A network of the most famous national equine centers in Europe

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# *Equestrian Educational Network*

*Riding has become an increasingly international sport. Since riders often compete abroad and the number of young people seeking employment as a groom or riding instructor is growing steadily in these countries. This calls for a broad and internationally focussed training program for these youngsters. Most European countries have one or more national centres at which riding instructors can study. The overall benefit of these educational programs is greatly enhanced when the above centres work more closely together.*



### **The EEN network**

In October 1999, the Equestrian Educational network (EEN) that involves many of the most prestigious national centers in Europe was established at a conference in Strömsholm, Sweden. The EEN is built on mutual partnership and the frequent participation of all the partners.

By working in concert the EEN members aim to develop their educational and pedagogic qualities to an even higher standard than today. International collaboration greatly benefits the level of riding instruction in each of the countries within the EEN.

### **The aims of the EEN network are**

- to improve Equestrian education in Europe by facilitating international exchange of information about current methods and new developments.
- to enable the direct exchange of students and teachers between approved Equestrian training centres.

The members of the EEN communicate regularly in English primarily via Internet. A major EEN meeting is held every second year, and there is also an annual meeting of the EEN working group.

### **Achievements to date**

Since 1999, the EEN has organized several exchanges of students and teachers between the associated centres, some of which were supported by the Leonardo program within the EU. To date, the exchange of students has been focused on International Level 2. Two productive and very successful meetings have been organized, one in Saumur, France in 2001 and another in Deurne, the Netherlands in 2003. Three seminars for instructors have been organized, one centered on show jumping and two on dressage. An EEN web site has also been connected to the one at Strömsholm.

## **Activity plan for 2004 – 2006**

*10th – 12th March 2004 – Seminar for instructors of jumping in Deurne, the Netherlands*

*Nov/December 2004 – EEN meeting for students in Warendorf, Germany*

*2005 – Biannual EEN meeting in Ypäjä, Finland*

*Feb/March 2005 – Seminar for dressage teachers in Warendorf, Germany*

*2004 or 2005 – Seminar for instructors of eventing in Saumur, France*

*2006 – Seminar on breeding in Ypäjä, Finland*

## **Other activities planned**

- To exchange and translate subject material from different countries
- To develop material and instruments for educational purposes and e-learning
- To start Internet discussion forum for students
- To exchange “observers” during riding exams (Level II)
- To further promote EEN
- To start “EuroRide” – an international course for riding instructors

## **The aims of the exchange of students are to**

- enhance students’ awareness of different riding and teaching methods
- develop students’ understanding of country specific horse management practises
- stimulate discussion between students
- increase international employment opportunities for students
- improve the students’ skill in languages
- contribute to the students’ self confidence
- develop the students’ social skills

## **The aims of the exchange of teachers are to**

- get inspired and motivated for new challenges
- get to know each other and learn from each other
- exchange methods of teaching
- broaden the teachers knowledge about riding and teaching methods
- benefit the international level of riding instruction
- improve the teachers’ skill in languages

## Members of EEN

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**Deutsche Reitschule** (German riding school) is nicely situated in a town called Warendorf (close to Munster). The school is responsible for the national examinations of the German professional riding instructors. The school has got 55 school horses, 2 stables and 2 riding halls, and is part of the Northrhein-Westphalian stud. The German federation is located at Warendorf.

[www.deutsche-reitschule.de](http://www.deutsche-reitschule.de)

**Ecole Nationale d'Equitation** (French National riding school) is beautifully situated in the Loire valley just outside a town called Saumur. The centre was built in 1974 and has very nice facilities with 6 indoor and 15 outdoor arenas and stables for 400 horses. The centre educates riding instructors and competition riders, and runs a one-year course for foreign students. The teachers in Saumur form the famous Le Cadre Noir. Research programs are conducted, and the most famous is the 'Persival' simulator.

[www.cadrenoir.fr](http://www.cadrenoir.fr)

**Helicon NHB Deurne** (Dutch Equestrian Centre) is a school on the outskirts of the village of Deurne in the south of The Netherlands. The school educates riding instructors, grooms, jockeys and farriers and facilitates about 40 school horses, 4 indoor arenas, an outdoor area with an arena, driving arena, lungeing area and a cross country course, a 700m track for sulky riding, a fully utilized farriery and stables about 230 horses. In total, NHB Deurne enrolls about 600 students. The full-time students (about 360) are divided in two groups and alternate between 5 months school and 6 months practical training. NHB Deurne also offers a tailor-made English Instructor Course Level II and III.

[www.horse-academy.nl](http://www.horse-academy.nl)

**Norsk Hestesenter** is located in Starum, Norway, about 20 kilometers south of Gjøvik in an area of very nice nature. The aim of the school is to educate professional riding instructors and farriers, and to improve the quality of horsemanship and breeding in Norway. The school has got stables for 100 horses, 2 indoor and couple of outdoor arenas. They have also got tracks for trotting and an arena for training of Icelandic horses.

[www.nhest.no](http://www.nhest.no)

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**Ridskolan Strömsholm** (Swedish National Equestrian Centre, Strömsholm) has been the centre of Swedish equestrian sport during several centuries. The school is located 130 km west of Stockholm in beautiful surroundings next to the Royal Castle of Strömsholm. The centre has 4 indoor arenas, a number of outside arenas and stables for approximately 230 horses. Strömsholm educates riding instructors, managers, competition riders and coaches. Each year at Whitsun week the school arrange a classical event in dressage and show jumping. [www.stromsholm.com](http://www.stromsholm.com)

**University of Limerick** is one of the leading providers of education for the horse-based industries in Ireland. The University makes use of horses, arenas and other high quality teaching resources from a commercial provider. Students follow a broad programme of equine science, equitation and teaching, and business modules. Teaching is delivered by established professionals strongly supported by representatives of the horse based industries. The University is also well known for the International Equine Institute which supports work based training through local and e-learning modes of delivery. [www.ul.ie](http://www.ul.ie)

**Warwickshire College** is situated in beautiful surroundings in the heart of England. The Moreton Morell campus has a long history of offering courses in equine studies. For over 25 years courses ranging from practically based diplomas and certificates to, in more recent years, Higher National Diploma and Honours Degree courses have been run at the college. Courses are challenging and innovative making use of the excellent facilities of the College Horse Unit as well as highly qualified and experienced equine staff team. [www.warkscol.ac.uk](http://www.warkscol.ac.uk)

**The Equine college of Ypäjä, Finland** is the leading professional centre in Finland specialized in horses. It is also an internationally significant training and competition centre. The college is situated in a small countryside village in the south-west of Finland about 130 kilometers from Helsinki. There are stables for 400 horses, 4 indoor arenas, several riding arenas, a variety of cross-country training tracks and a full-sized trotting track. Ypäjä educates grooms, riding instructors, trotting trainers, saddlers, farriers and stable managers. [www.hevosopisto.fi](http://www.hevosopisto.fi)

### **To join the EEN network a school has to**

- be the national equine centre for a country within Europe
- offer a program for Instructors on Level II or higher
- motivate its request and must be able to add to the network.
- send in a presentation of the school and explain why they want to join EEN

The members of EEN will evaluate the request and after a positive decision the school will be invited to the next EEN activity.

### **Information and administration**

Every two years another school in the network will be responsible for the co-ordination and administration of the EEN network. A Newsletter is sent out regularly from the school in charge to inform the members about the activities. This school is also responsible for the organisation of the next large EEN meeting.