



www.equestrian-educational-network.eu

SPINE

Schools Project to Increase Employability in the European Equestrian market

**Subject:
Cultural and Social Understanding**

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





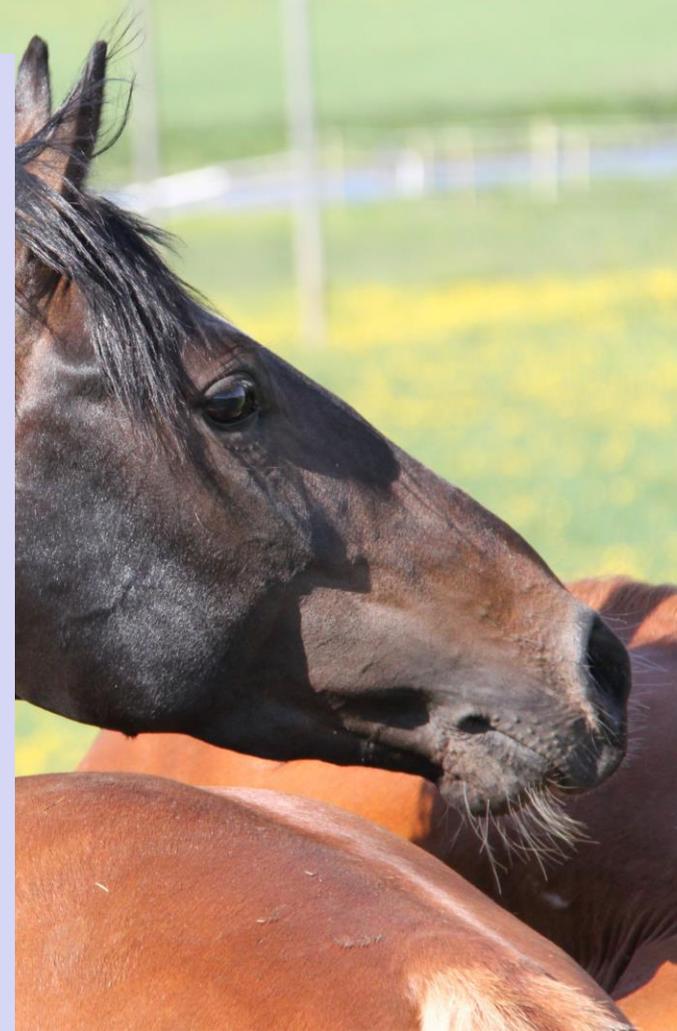
FACTORS/CAUSES/QUESTIONS:

What does Cultural and Social Understanding practically mean?

What do we need to know, in order to achieve understanding?

Are there differences between European countries - in which substances?

What about other Equestrian countries/nations globally?



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



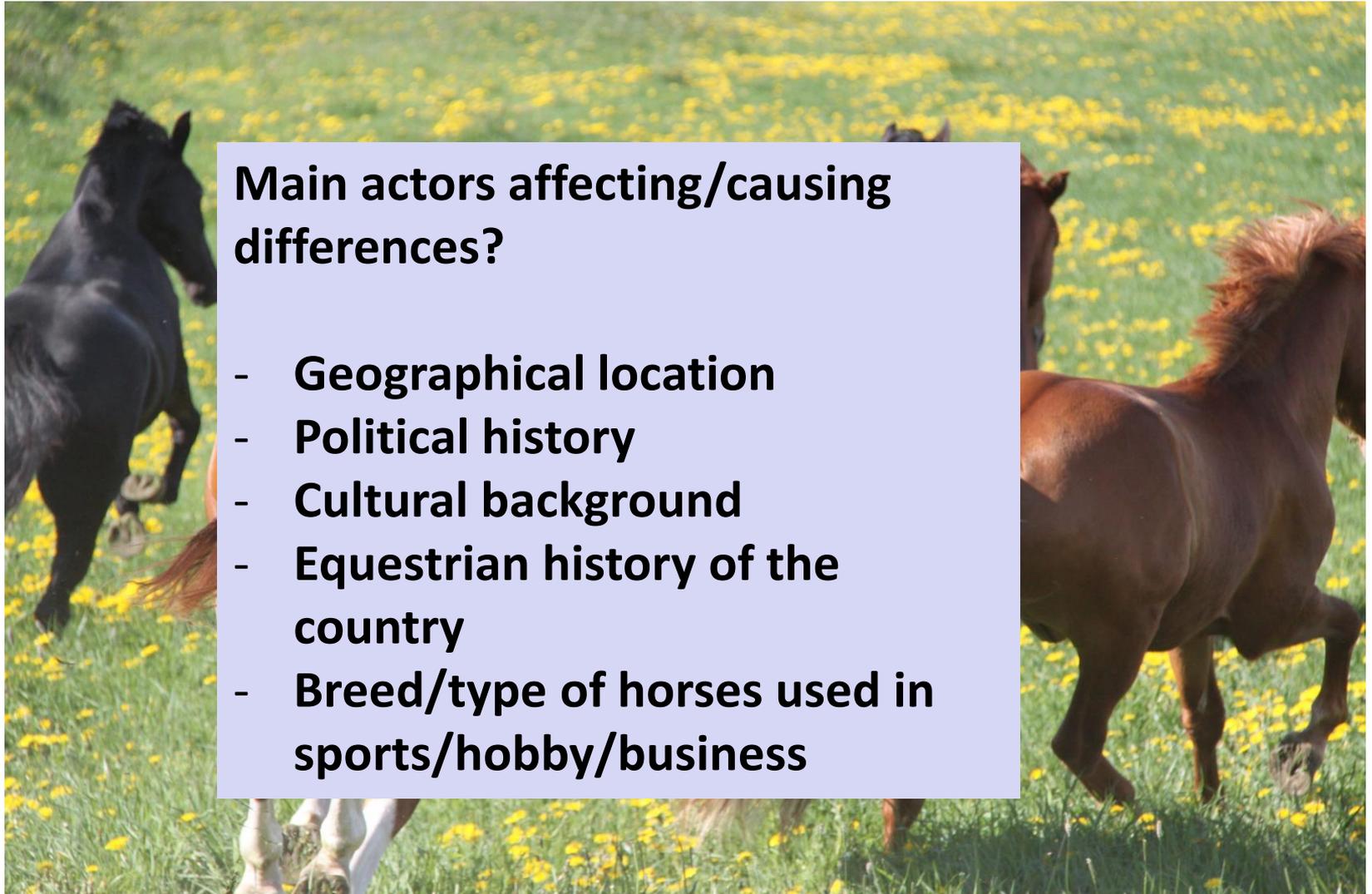


How do the differences affect the work of a Riding Instructor?



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Main actors affecting/causing differences?

- **Geographical location**
- **Political history**
- **Cultural background**
- **Equestrian history of the country**
- **Breed/type of horses used in sports/hobby/business**



Main differences in practical work, habits, manners?

- **Daily routines of horse management – feeding, handling, grooming, educating, exercising, training the horse**
- **Teaching, coaching, running the stable and the yard, running the business**

To be used as an example:

CASE FINLAND

Horse is the mirror of a Nation:

When you see the horse population of a country, you know how the society and people are.

FINLAND

- the distant, northern land between East and West

Year 1150 -

The Crusades begin. Finns, a heathen population far in the north-easternmost end of Europe, are converted to Christianity. The Kingdom of Sweden takes Finland as its eastern province. The native horse, "Finnhorse" was the companion of Finns since the area of Finland was populated by people originally coming from south-western areas of Russia, lower course of the legendary river Volga. The horse is known to be descended from old Middle European and Russian horse populations.

Year 1300 -

The crusades end. First fortified castles are built in Finland, mainly in southern and south-eastern parts of the country. - The quality of the Finnish horse is praised.



"A Finn brings his products
to the market place" by
Jean Baptiste le Prince,
Paris 1765

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Year 1500 -

The house of Wasa rises to rule the Kingdom of Sweden. HRH King Gustav Wasa forbids the export of Finnish horses. He establishes the first state owned stud farms, which use Swedish and Friesian blood mixed in the native Finnish horses, to produce better cavalry mounts of the native population.

Year 1600 -

The Thirty Years' War (1618-48) in Middle Europe between Catholics and Protestants. Finnish horses and men are recruited to the Kings Cavalry. The legend of Hakkapeliittas (Hackpell) is written in the history of Finland and Europe: the small but tough horses, surviving months long with hardly any feed.



"The battle of Breitenfeld"
by Carl Larsson

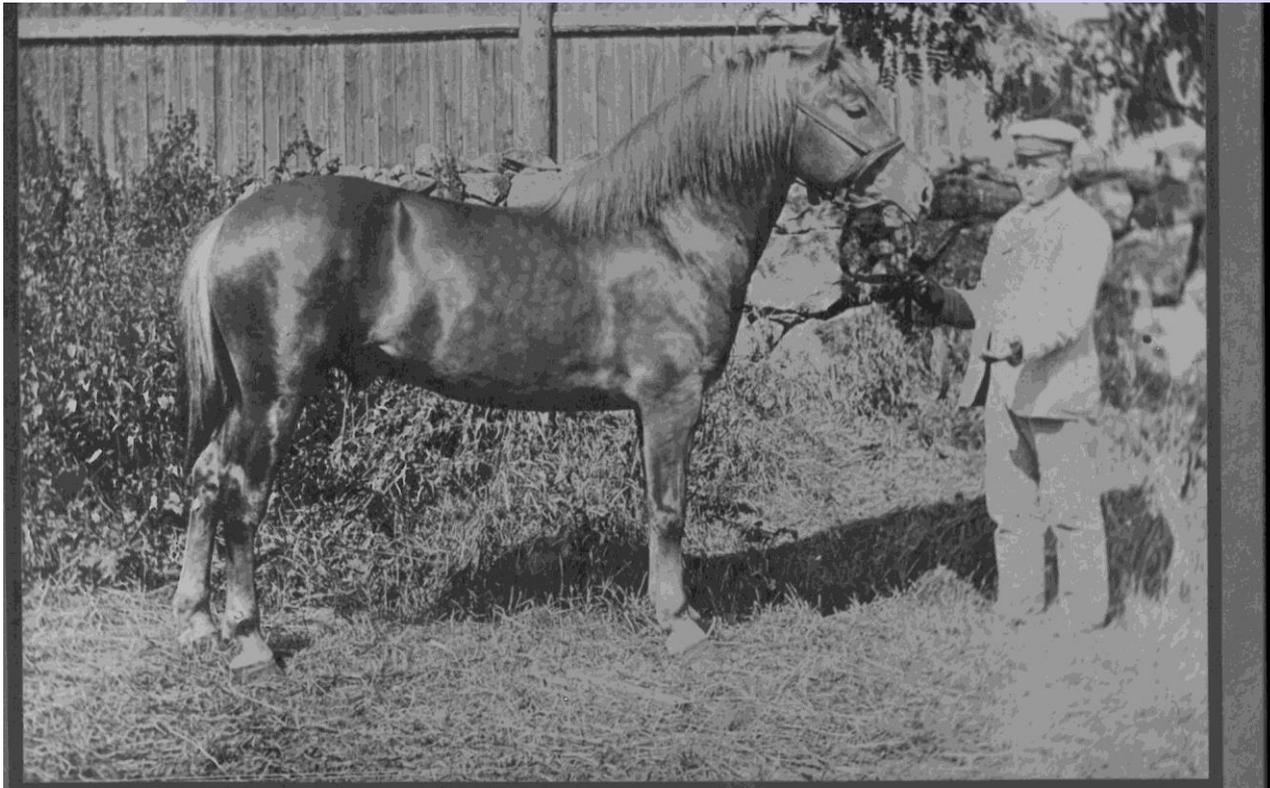
Year 1700 -

Isoviha (The Great Wrath) 1710-21, the first period of Russian occupation in Finland. Most of the best horses were left to Russians in the peace treaty. At the end of the century the road system starts to be built in the country. There is a need of fast and lasting distance horses for transports. This gives direction to the selection of horse population.



"A country road in Tawastland"
by Werner Holmberg, 1860

- The main goal the Emperor has set is to develop agriculture. Bigger and stronger horses were needed to pull the new agriculture machines made of iron. The terrain and circumstances in the country, though, required a light and fast enough draught horse proper for moving in both fields and roads. The state started to organize Trotting races to select the best sires for breeding a better all-round horse. Winner stallions were bought by the government and set around the country to serve breeders.
- In 1830-70 the large-scale export of Finnish horses, as well as years of the Great Famine reduced the horse population radically.



One of the State
breeding stallions
Hiippos, born year 1891

Выдающієся коренные жеребцы: „Хиппосъ“

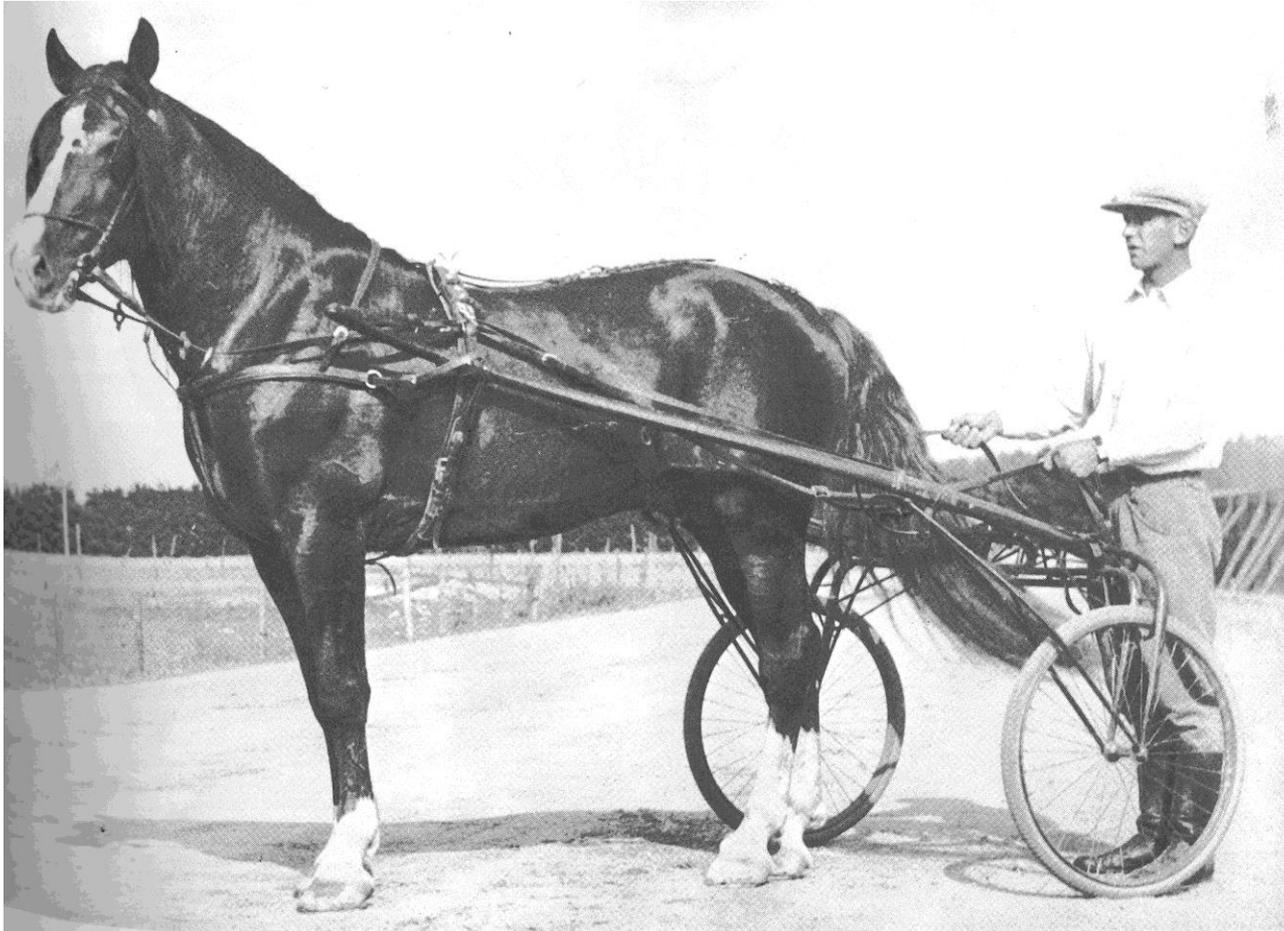
годъ рожденія 1891, высота 150.



Year 1907 -

Studbook of Finnhorse is founded. The population of Finnish horses exceeds 200 000.

- World War I, Russian Revolution. As a result of the global historical events the Republic of Finland declares its National Independence on the 6th of December 1917.
- In 1924 the "Trotting King Race", is organized for the first time. Since then the competition has become an institution, the yearly highlight of Trotting sports in Finland, with 50 000 – 60 000 spectators.



Trotting King of the year 1943,
Eri-Aaroni with his driver
Arvi Räikkönen

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



- World War II begins in Finland 30th November 1939 (Winter War) and ends 13th March 1940. Finland loses large areas of land (Carelia) to Soviet Union. 400 000 Carelians were evacuated to the west, with their horses and cattle and what else they had time to take with in the half an hour warning time.
- After a little more than a year's break the war starts again (Continuation War) at Midsummer 1941, to be ended in September 1944. Finnish horses were in a key role both in war and at home in farming. 60 000 horses served in the war, 22 000 of them died on the frontier.
- The population of horses exceeds 400 000 in the beginning of 1950's. Year 1946-56 was the time of great rebuilding of the country and paying the war reparations. Horse was the main source of power in agriculture and forestry, but at the same time mechanization in agriculture started to displace the horse.
- In 1930-55 the Finnish Cavalry represented equestrian sports up to the Olympic level, Ypäjä Cavalry School being the center of education and training.



The Finnish Eventing Team in Helsinki Olympic Games 1952



- By 1970's the population of horses had collapsed to 15 000.
- First warm blood Trotters were imported to Finland in 1957: two pregnant Orlov trotter mares, as a present from the Sovjetunion President Mr Hrutshv to Mr Kekkonen, the President of Finland. The mares foaled in the State Stud in Ypäjä in the spring of 1958. Trotting races were opened for warm blood trotters in 1960.
- Finnish Cavalry was dismantled in 1960's. Riding as a sport and hobby for civilian population started, the number of riding schools for civilians started to rise, first in cities and towns, later also around rural areas throughout the country. - Finland as a modern equestrian country and nation is "young", but the history of horsemanship in trotting racing and cavalry goes back for centuries.



Trotting racing has hundreds of thousands fans in Finland. The yearly two day event "Trotting King and Queen Race" brings together up to 60 000 spectators.

Photo: Kari Nummila

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Year 2000 -

Horse is no more needed as a source of power in agriculture and forestry, but importance of horse as a companion in Equestrian sports and Trotting racing is firm. The field of using horse for "new" purposes is growing remarkably:

- Horse assisted activities in social, physical and mental therapy and recreation
- Using horse in various traditional ways in work and leisure
- Special native skills, knowledge and legends – the whole cultural heritage around the horse
- Hacking out, experiencing the nature on horseback or in the sledge or carriage



Photo: Timo Yli-Hollo

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





The population of horses is around 75 000, of them around 30% warm blood trotters, a bit under 30% warm blood sport horses, around 25% Finnhorses and the rest ponies for trotting and riding. Enterprises in trotting racing, riding school business and various services in the field offer job for 15 000 whole day entrepreneurs and employees.

Finnhorse, the special native horse breed is used in trotting racing in its own classes, in riding from hobby to competition level and in various services as mentioned on previous page. This is the result of the long term breeding program aiming at a versatile allround horse. A special national top event of the year, "Finnhorse Breeding Championship" for Finnhorses in riding has been organized since 2002 in Ypäjä, with 500-600 finalist horses.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Ypäjä Equine College and Ypäjä Training Center Finland is the heart of Equestrian Education in Finland



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Sources for more information:

About Equestrian sports in Finland: www.ratsastus.fi

Get to know the Finnhorse, edited by Margit Ticklen, Forssan kirjapaino 2006

Ypäjä – Kruunun ratsuja ja valtion työjuhtia (Horses of the Crown and Equine Servants of the State), Juha Erola, Helena Jansson, Päivi Laine, Bookwell Oy, Porvoo 2017

About Equestrian sports in other countries: links to the websites of National Equestrian Federations of the equestrian world

Materials of the Global Equestrian Educational Conference, Ypäjä 2017:

www.geec2017.com



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). The texts produced in the Extra Qualification by the partners of the SPINE project are freely accessible through open license.

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

