



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE  
**NEUROFARBA**  
DIPARTIMENTO DI NEUROSCIENZE,  
PSICOLOGIA, AREA DEL FARMACO  
E SALUTE DEL BAMBINO



**Associazione "Lapo" ONLUS**  
Associazione Italiana Famiglie, Enti e Professioni  
contro le Malattie Neurologiche e Psichiatriche dell'Età Evolutiva

## **THEORETICAL/PRACTICAL COURSE IN EQUINE-ASSISTED INTERVENTION THERAPEUTIC RIDING**

**LAPO ASSOCIATION  
in collaboration with  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE - FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSCIENCE**

**Year 2020**

**XX<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**consistent with the National Guidelines on Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI)**  
inclusive of the whole scheduled training for the specific professionals

**TRAINING OF THERAPIST/INSTRUCTOR IN EAI/TR**

**ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE IN AAI** specific for the individual professionals  
**accredited at National Level**

**The date will be established on the basis of the situation of the COVID-19 Infection**

**Duration: one year, 250 hours, including an Internship of 80 hours,**

**Teaching venues: Lectures:** University Educational Centre, Firenze

**Theoretical-Practical activity:** at accredited Lapo TR Centres

**Internship in TR:** at accredited Lapo TR Centres.

**DIRECTOR:** Prof.ssa Anna Pasquinelli, Associate Professor in Child Neuropsychiatry, specialized in EAI/TR (Project Manager, Person in Charge, Horse Handler).

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:** Chair Professor in Neurology; University Medical Researcher in Child Neuropsychiatry specialized in EAI/TR; Child Neuropsychiatrist; Equine Veterinarians specialized in EAI and in Ethology, Psychologist specialized in AAI.

**TEACHERS AND SERVICES:** Teachers University Professors of Chair of Child Neuropsychiatry specialized in EAI/TR, Chair of Neurology and Psychiatry; Child Neuropsychiatrists, Physiotherapist, Social Education Workers specialized in EAI/TR; Psychologist specialized in AAI; Therapists of Lapo TR Centres; Equine Veterinarians specialized in EAI and in Ethology; F.I.S.E (The Italian Federation of Equestrian Sports) Riding Instructors.

Services for practical experience and Internship: Lapo TR Centres accredited by the University; F.I.S.E. Horse Riding Centres.

**LANGUAGE:** Italian

**The COURSE PROGRAMME** is also established according to the National Guidelines for AAI (2015) and is also inclusive of the whole scheduled training path (Preparatory Course, Basic Course, Advanced Course) for the specific professionals: **Project Manager, Person in Charge of Intervention, Horse Handler, Veterinarian expert in AAI.**

**OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:** providing education and training in the fields of disability (main clinical aspects of child neuropsychiatry, neurology, psychiatry, intellectual disability), of AAI and specifically of EAI with particular attention to the methodology of application, programming and verifying, of the equestrian sector (horse biomechanics, horse management, riding), necessary to conduct EAI/TR activities and to acquire the indispensable theoretical-practical competencies required for multi-disciplinary integration within the EAI/TR team.

**SUBJECTS OF THE COURSE:**

Social/Health Care, Rehabilitation and Education: Child Neuropsychiatry, Neurology, Psychiatry, Psychology, Rehabilitation.

EAI/TR: AAI, EAI/EAAT, Hippotherapy, Remedial/Educational Riding, Recreational Riding, Integrated Vaulting, Therapeutic Carriage Driving, Sport Riding for the disabled.

Particular attention is given to acquiring adequate techniques of observation and analysis of the subjects, to teaching the correct methodology of application of EAI/TR, according to the subject's disorders and goals, and to the assessment of the results.

An important part of the Course consists of practical activity at the "Lapo TR Centres" and subsequent analysis of the work carried out with individual subjects.

Equine Veterinary Science: a brief reference to ethology, human-animal relationship, welfare; analysis of horse's movement in relation to his morphology and the different gaits; criteria for choosing and managing the horse for EAAT.

Horse and Horse Riding: a brief reference to techniques of riding and vaulting; biomechanics of the horse; care of the horse.

**AIM OF THE COURSE:** setting up and training the professional figure of Therapist/Instructor in EAI/TR also to achieve the *Eligibility Certificate in AAI* specific for the individual professionals according to the National Guidelines for AAI.

- **CERTIFICATE OF SPECIALIZATION IN EAI/TR - TR THERAPIST/INSTRUCTOR**
- **ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE in AAI, accredited at National level,** specific for the individual professionals (health professionals, social education workers, veterinarians, riding instructors, horsemen) **according to the National Guidelines for AAI:** Project Manager, Person in Charge of Intervention, Veterinarian expert in AAI, Horse Handler. The Eligibility Certificate is **mandatory to work in EAI/TR** in Italy.

**ENTRY CRITERIA:**

A) *Curriculum Requirements:-* the Course is addressed to those who are interested in acquiring theoretical/practical knowledge in the field of EAAT/TR: professionals in the social, healthcare, and educational area, in the riding sector, in Veterinarian Sciences and so on.

B) *Horsemanship Requirements:* a fairly good riding ability even not on a competitive level is required.

Note: the Horsemanship requirements for those who want to achieve the **Eligibility Certificate in "Horse Handler"** according to National Guidelines on AAI are: good riding ability

(comparable to a F.I.S.E. Horse Riding License B) and good knowledge of horses and of their management.

### **Compulsory attendance**

**THEORETICAL/PRACTICAL ACTIVITY (170 hours)** (at the University and at Lapo TR Centres):

- A) Week A and B; plus a weekend: general topics; theoretical and practical education/training in EAAT/TR with particular regard to the methodology of application
- Week C: detailed study and verification with direct participation in conducting TR, video-recording and subsequent analysis of data
- B) Internship in Therapeutic Riding: 80 hours, at accredited Lapo TR Centres.

**Examinations:** Intermediate and final multiple-choice tests in AAI, according to National Guidelines.

**Final examination** on EAAT/TR at the end of the Course: it consists in a written elaboration and oral discussion provided of an assembly of serial video recordings relative to the follow up of a subject personally followed during the TR training and in an oral examination concerning the theoretical subjects of the Course with particular regard to Neuropsychiatric Disorders and to the applied TR methodology.

**Maximum No. of participants:** 20 persons.

**Cost:** € 1,950 paid in three installments: € 850 the first one and € 550 the second and third one

**ORGANISATIONAL SECRETARIAT:** Associazione Lapo ONLUS, Sig.ra Chiara Martigli: e-mail: info@associazionelapo.com, www.associazionelapo.com Prof.ssa Anna Pasquinelli: anna.pasquinelli@unifi.it, cell. 347.5398994

-----  
*Note:*

*TR= Therapeutic Riding*

*EAAT= Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies*

*EAI = Equine-Assisted Intervention,*

*EFI= Equine Facilitated Intervention*

***TR, EAAT, EAI, EFI have an equivalent meaning.***

-----  
*AAI= ANIMAL ASSISTED INTERVENTION is a goal oriented and structured intervention that intentionally includes or incorporates animals in health, education and human service (e.g., social work) for the purpose of therapeutic gains in humans. It incorporates human-animal teams in formal human service such as Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT), Animal Assisted Education (AAE) or under certain conditions Animal Assisted Activity (AAA)». IAHAIO White Paper 2014, 2018.*