

1st Annual Conference, October 8-9, 2005, D-64711 Erbach (Germany)**Gerhard J. Krebs:
Welcome, Vision, and Mission**

Welcome, welcome to all of you! We are really pleased to have you here on this first annual conference. And we really believe, that we all together will make these two days a historical event.

First of all let me say - thank you, thank you for coming here, thank you for preparing ten exciting presentations and practical exercises, thank you for being willing to share your knowledge and wisdom with us in three brainstorming sessions.

When Karin and I started our horse assisted education business in ninety six -- we **did** dream of a new way to help people find their own attitude of business behaviour and leadership: authentic, honest, truthful, with integrity, conscious, humble and caring. And we chose a very special name for our company: HorseDream, one word, with a capital D in the middle.

For us, the horse was a creature, who was absolutely real, absolutely present, and a being, to whom we ourselves needed to be one hundred percent present, too.

But at the same time, for us the horse was a dream, a big, beautiful dream.

And now, nearly ten years later, we chose "Easy Dreams" as a motto for the first annual conference of the European Association for Horse Assisted Education, with fifty people from eleven European countries - actually, it's unbelievable.

"Easy dreams at the end of a chain-smokin' day" - if you want to smoke, please, do it only during the breaks and please, outside this room. And please, turn off your mobile phones. Thank you for this.

You find the conference contents and timetable in your handouts, so I need not explain, what we are going to hear and see the next two days. I think it's a very tough programme and we all are asked to show a lot of discipline to do well with the schedule.

Let me say some words to the vision, the mission, and the purpose of the European Association for Horse Assisted Education, the E A H A E.

We understand the E A H A E as a platform, an European platform for everyone, who is dealing with Horse Assisted Education in personal or professional development.

The purpose is to work together in and share ideas about information, communication, education, certification, research and publication of every kind of Horse Assisted Education. Everybody, who is already working with horses in educating people and everybody, who wants to do it in future, is very welcome to join us.

You only pay the membership fee for the current year, and you have to renew your membership in January of the following year by paying the fee again. If you don't want to stay a member, you need not to write or phone, just stop paying the membership fee - that's it.

Full member can become, who is already providing Horse Assisted Education in Europe.

Associate member can become, who is providing Horse Assisted Education outside Europe or who is not yet providing Horse Assisted Education but who wants to cooperate with a full member or to support the work of the association somehow.

The full membership fee is 150 Euro per year. The associate membership fee is 75 Euro.

Only members are allowed to apply to the annual conference and to other conferences of the EAHAE. Only members are allowed to take part in EAHAE seminars and trainings. Each member, who has an own website, will get the possibility to publish text, picture and link on the EAHAE website. Each member is allowed to use the phrase "Member of the European Association for Horse Assisted Education" on the own website and in letters, papers or brochures.

The EAHAE is a non-profit platform. This means, all the money coming in is to be spend for purpose of our vision to establish and develop Horse Assisted Education as a general form

of personal and professional development in European enterprises, organisations, institutions, societies and for personal purpose.

We would like you to see yourselves as first movers in your own country, area, town or whatever.

We would like you to make contacts here on this conference to work together or to share ideas.

We would like you to be successful in your own horse business, because we deeply believe that the more Horse Assisted Education programmes are offered, the more all of us will benefit.

So please, don't look at each other as competitors in a small market. Look at each other as human teachers who have the incredible possibility to change cold and cruel business behaviour into a conscious, caring, trustful, humble and human attitude towards the people spending a lot of their lifetime in their companies.

Who can imagine a better job as to earn money by helping people to establish a human, honest, conscious business attitude having one of the **most honest beings** as an assistant or guide on one's side: the horse.

"We are the citizens of the planet

We were born here

We're going to die here

Come what may

We are entitled by our birth

To the treasures of the earth

No one must be denied these

No one must be denied"

Let us together dream this easy dream at least in these two days of our first conference.

Thank you!