



**FEI**<sup>TM</sup>  
**DRIVING**

# FEI DRIVING FORUM 2023

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**Session 5**  
**Driving Development projects**



# National Federation: United States of America

# Greatest Challenges - USEF

- Geography
- Time
- Cost
- Exposure (Discipline and Sponsors)



# Pathways to Success - USEF

- **Emerging Driver Program** - Provides guidelines and grant support for introductory and grassroots education.
- **Developing Athletes** - Selected athletes from the National Preliminary level & above, who are seeking long term International goals.
- **Elite Athletes** - Selected athletes that meet result criteria and are thought to be competitive at the International (FEI) level.
- **Developing Driving Horse Program** - The Program is part of the Driving Pathway which seeks to assist athletes wishing to move their new equines to the next level of competition and performance.

# Resources to Athletes - USEF

- Clinics
- Semi-annual evaluations calculate the athlete's development in the following areas:
  - Performance & Training
  - Horse & Equipment management
  - Attitude
- Webinars
- Working Groups
- Contract position: Developing Athlete Advisor

# Show and Venue Development - USEF

- 6-9 National shows annually with 4-5 being combined with International Events
- Limited geographic exposure - East Coast (New Jersey to Florida roughly 1200 miles )
- Competition Grant Program to encourage growth
- Contract position: Organizer Mentor



# Resources to Officials – USEF

## Licensed Officials Program

- Ongoing development for Online education
- Testing
- Webinars
- Grants for USEF licensed officials and Learners seeking educational opportunities and experience

# Number of Licensed Officials - USEF

- 16 National Licensed officials in 2023
- 13 International Licensed officials in 2023
- 24 applicants in 2023, of which 9 applying for FEI Status





# National Federation: Germany

# GER NF – Subjects tackled

1. Events
2. Competitors/Participants/Athletes
3. Officials
4. Youth, the „Next Generation“

# Events/Shows/Competitions

FEI Events	2015	2019	2020	2022
<b>Worldwide (outdoor)</b>	56	62	10	52
<b>In Germany</b>	12	12	9	13
We lost: Riesenbeck, Drebkau, Donaueschingen, Minden, Schildau, ...				
GER	2015	2019	2020	2022
<b>Nat.</b>	2838	2751	351	2389
<b>Competitions</b>				
<b>(all classes/ disciplines)</b>	1289	Singles		1145
	1264	Pairs		1022
	288	4 in Hand		222

# Competitors/Participants/Athletes

FEI WRL	2015	2019 (GER)	2022 (GER)
P1	52	47 (4)	56 (11)
P2	36	47 (8)	47 (7)
P4	33	22 (7)	26 (3)
H1	96	85 (9)	148 (20)
H2	114	113 (16)	146 (13)
H4	80	53 (7)	75 (11)
<b>GER</b>	<b>3135</b>	<b>3003</b>	<b>2420</b>
<b>National Licenses</b>	1527♂/ 1608♀	1295♂/ 1708♀	981♂/ 1439♀

# Competitors/Participants/Athletes – continued

Licensed Competitors (nat.)	GER	2015	2019	2020	2022
Jun.	U18	210	236	168	178
JD.	U21	155	134	80	101
Sen.	U21	2770	2585	1928	2141
D/SJ/Eventing	GER	2015	2019	2020	2022
Jun. / U18		17883	13728	15932	13662
JR. / U21		10060	7572	9169	7834
Sen. / Ü21		53227	45124	53536	48979
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>81170</b>	<b>66424</b>	<b>78637</b>	<b>70475</b>

# Competitors/Participants/Athletes – continued

FEI Registrations	2009 - 2021
Dressage	+ 59 %
Jumping	+ 87 %
Eventing	+ 21 %
Driving	+ 4 %

# Officials

## GER Judges national

<b>On duty 2022</b>	<b>133</b>
New Candidates 2019-2022	26

## FEI Officials GER

<b>Function</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>Current</b>
Judges	18	5
TDs	13	7
CDs	18	8
Stewards	46	6

# Youth

## German national Championships since 2010, Age Classes U16 / U25 (Pony Single / Pony Pairs / Horse Single / Horse Pairs)

Participants		U16	U25	Total
	2010	33	99	(132)
	2016	40	107	(147)
	2019	42	82	(124)
	2022	39	79	(118)



# Youth – continued

## FEI Driving European Championships for Youth

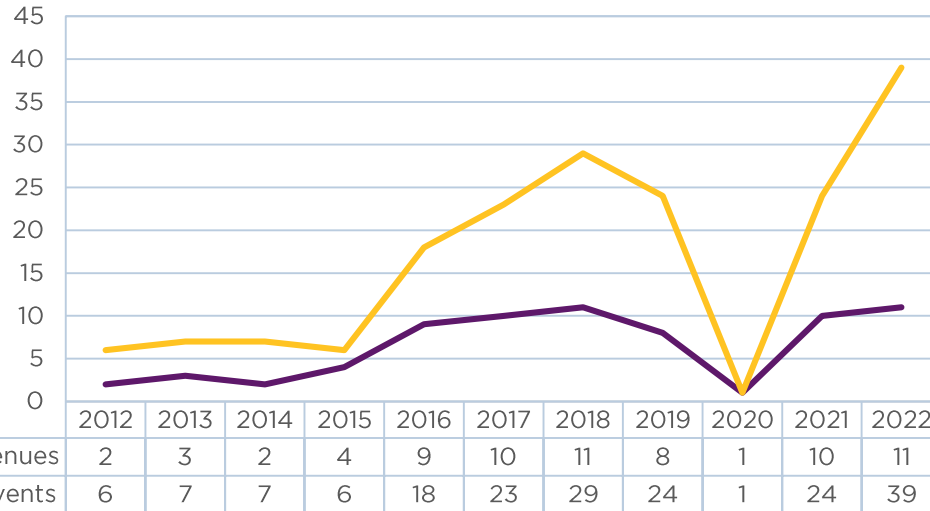
	Children	Junior	Young Drivers – U25	Teams
2012	10	13	16	3
2014	14	23	24 (14+10)	9
2016	24	28 (27+1)	30 (15+1+14)	9
2018	22	25 (22+3)	28 (17+11)	10
2021	30	32 (29+3)	28 (12+3+13)	11
2022	26	31 (27+4)	37 (15+4+18)	10

(in brackets: P1/P2/H1)

# FEI Driving Youth Cup Project



# FEI Driving Youth - Events

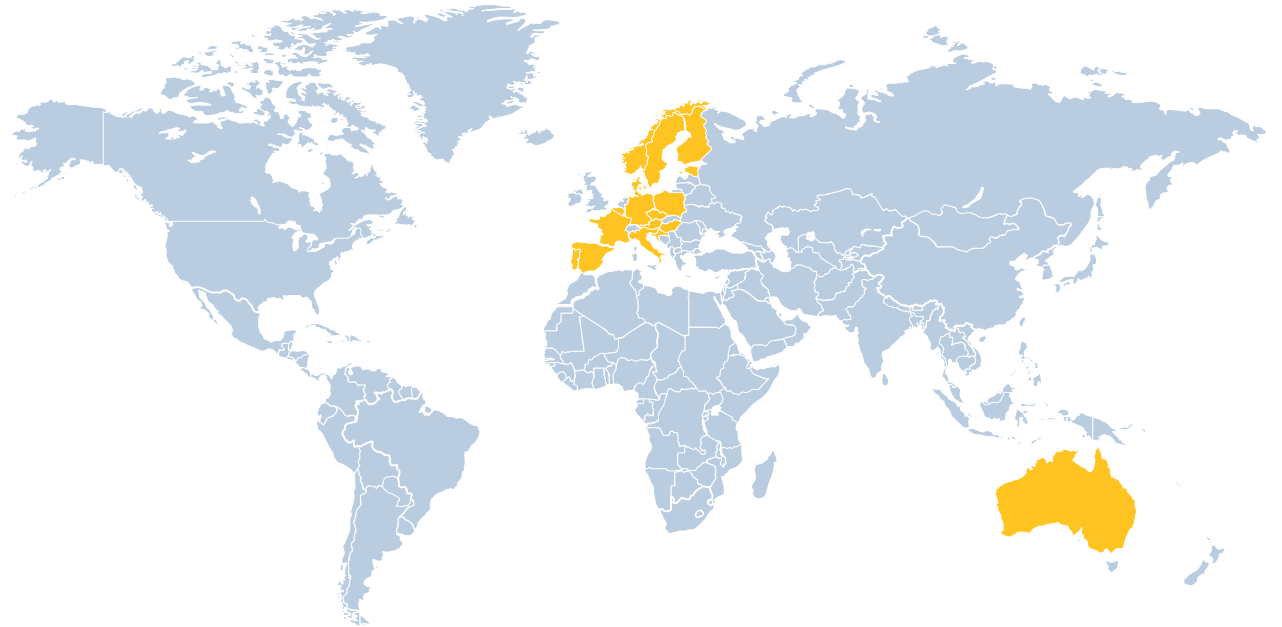


— Number of venues    — Number of Events

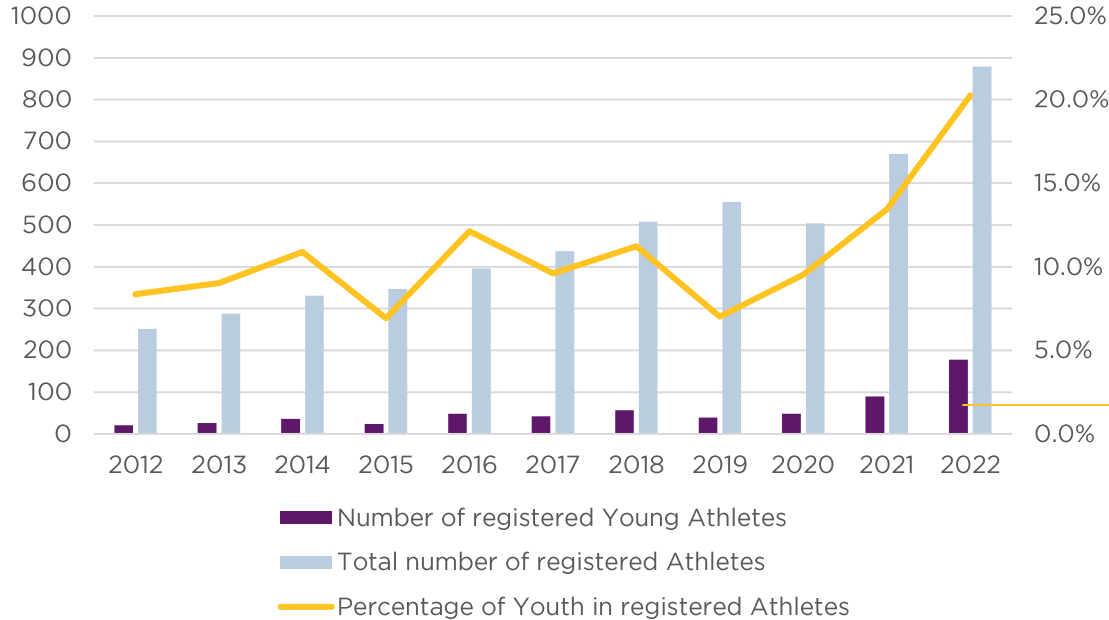
Increase in Youth Driving events :  
+650 % since 2012

# Geographical distribution of Youth Events 2012-2022

National Federations	
AUS	GER
AUT	HUN
BEL	ITA
CRO	NOR
CZE	POL
ESP	POR
EST	SLO
FIN	SWE
FRA	



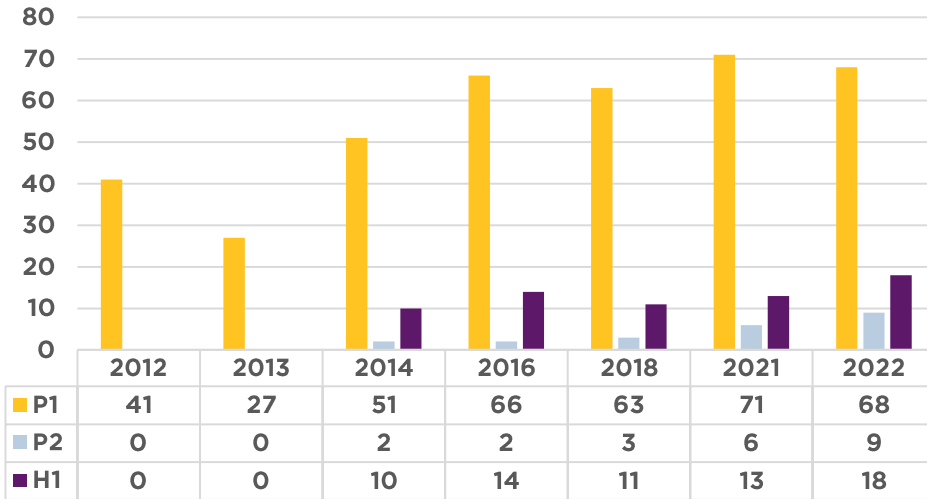
# FEI Driving Youth - Athletes



Increase in Registered Young Athletes: +848 % since 2012

Large increase in 2022 due to addition of the U25 Category

# FEI Driving Youth – Participation at Championships



- Most popular class: P1
- Average number of National Teams: 10

Only P1 Class for all age categories

# FEI Driving Youth Cup – Purpose of the Project

- Aim: Encourage Young Athletes to join the sport

## **Only Current FEI Named Event for Youth:**

FEI Driving European Championships for Youth

- Held biennially
- Restricted to European Athletes

# FEI Driving Youth Cup – The Project

- Innovating: New Format and reduced costs
- Ensuring: Safety and Sport Values
- Promoting: Youth and Driving Globally
- Safeguarding: Horse Welfare



# FEI Driving Youth Cup – Format

- Single Horse and Ponies classified together across all Age Categories (Children, Junior, U25)
- One arena of min. 60x20 : Indoor or Outdoor
- Event held over 1 or 2 days
- Two competition : Dressage and Combined Marathon

Size	Minimum Width	Number of Marathon-type obstacle	Number of boxes (zig zag or speed)	Number of Cones-type obstacles
1200 - 1800 m <sup>2</sup>	20 meters	Max. 2 (if no box) Max 1 (if box)	Max. 1	Max. 12
1800-2000 m <sup>2</sup>	20 meters	Max. 2	Max. 1	Max. 15
>2000 m <sup>2</sup> . Max. 5000 m <sup>2</sup>	20 meters	Max. 3	Max. 1	Max. 20

# FEI Driving Youth Cup – Safety and Sport Values

- Qualification via standard events
- Individual classification
- 5 FEI Officials in function at each event:

Function	Number	Level
Judges	2	President: Level 2 (foreign) Judge: National
Chief Steward	1	2
Course Designer	1	2
Veterinary Delegate	1	2 (Driving)

# FEI Driving Youth Cup – Horse Welfare

- Events start with a Dressage test to build Driving skills
- Promotes a safe style of Driving in Combined Marathon through point system
- Reduced number of simultaneous efforts

# Current challenges and solutions

Challenge	Solution
Growth of the Youth classes	Specific format tailored for Young Athletes
Promotion of the Youth classes	The Youth Cup will provide more exposure for the sport
Retention of Athletes	The series encourages Athletes to compete every year in this dedicated circuit
Dressage	New FEI Driven Dressage modification policy

# Current challenges and solutions – continued

Challenge	Solution
Geographical Distribution	The Cup will be open Globally and promoted to nations inside and outside of the EU
Limited number of Youth Competitions	The aim of this series is to create a circuit for Young Athletes to compete at and compare results with other countries
Limited number of Venues hosting Youth Competitions	The Format of this series is ideal to implement the event with other disciplines or shows
Financial and time constrains	Reduced competition time and requirements – A Youth Cup event can be done over two days maximum

# Timeline for FEI Youth Cup implementation

Early 2022  
Creation of  
Working  
Group

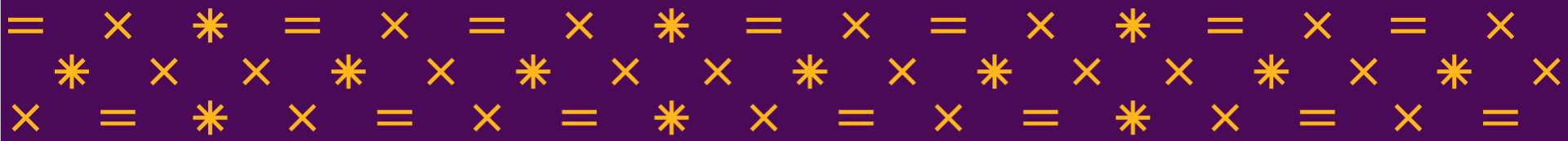
Presentation  
at the FEI  
Driving  
Forum 2023

Test events  
in 2024

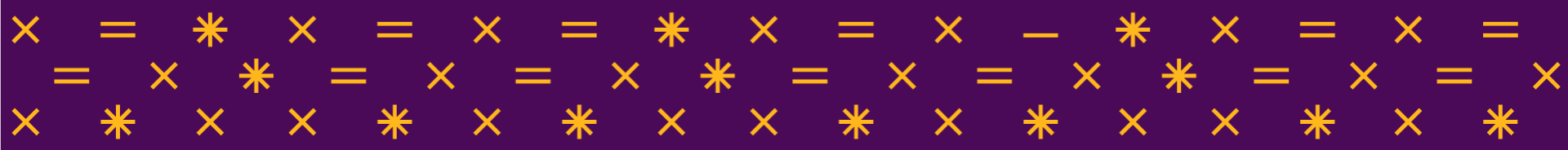
Format &  
Rules  
Creation

Review and  
approval by  
the FEI  
Board

Launch in  
2025



# FEI Driving World Challenge



# FEI WORLD CHALLENGES

The basic **Concept** of the FEI World Challenges:

- Provide less experienced **athletes** with an opportunity to compete on an International level without having to leave their own countries.
- The series are “hybrid” type competitions which propose formats meant as a “bridge” between the **National** level and the first **FEI** level of competitions.
- Provide opportunities for **National Officials** and **Coaches** to gain experience.
- **Develop** the sport and activity by giving **NFs** the possibility to use the Challenges as goals or qualifications to National/Regional Championships (i.e.: YOG, CAC Games).



# The aim of FEI World Challenges

- Good pathway from National to International events:
  - ⇒ Allow a smooth transition/progression from National to International level for the athletes as well as the NFs/OCs and an opportunity for National Officials to gain experience.
- Create opportunities in developing Nations and a starting point
- Different levels within the Challenge ex:
  - Category C - Beginner (as an introduction to the discipline / accessible to new athletes)
  - Category B - Intermediate (to motivate athletes in their progression)
  - Category A - Advanced (a step just before the first International level)

# FEI World Challenge – Key information on existing series in other disciplines (prior to COVID):



## JUMPING – since 1978:

- 3 Categories - A: 1.20-1.30m; B: 1.10-1.20m; C: 1.00-1.10m
- 40+ Countries
- 330+ Competitions
- 1900+ Athletes



## DRESSAGE – since 1980:

- 5 Categories / Classes
- 30+ Countries
- 30+ Competitions
- 400+ Athletes

- EVENTING, VAULTING, PARA DRESSAGE and DRIVING all in their Pilot or first year phase in 2023

# FEI Driving World Challenge

- ❖ Open to Single Horses and Ponies turnouts, classified together

## Categories

- Category A (bridge to the first FEI level)
  - 1x Dressage Test + 1x Cones Course + 1x Short Marathon (total 3 Competitions)
- Category B (novice level)
  - 1x Combined Dressage/Cones test + 1x Combined Marathon (total 2 Competitions)
- Category C (beginner level)
  - 1x Combined Dressage/Cones test (total 1 Competition)

# Interests for National Federation and Organiser

- No organising fee
- No FEI Registration requirement for Athletes & Horses/Ponies
- Financial contribution towards Per diem & Travel Expense of FEI Appointed Official
- Minimal number of officials
- Packaged competition
- Format organisable over one day
- One single arena

# Interests for Athletes and Officials

- Carriages:
  - No minimum/maximum width
  - No minimum weight
  - No required type of carriage
- Ability to compare Athlete's level with other country
- Athletes may compete twice a day
- National Officials receiving mentoring from a top level FEI Official

# Timeline for FEI Driving World Challenge implementation

Early 2022  
Creation of  
Working  
Group (Driving  
Committee /  
Department & FEI  
Solidarity)

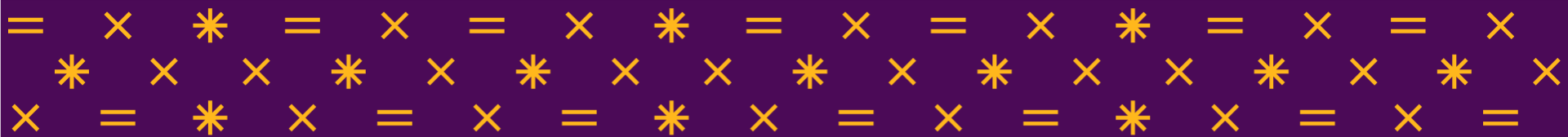
Creation of  
Tests and plans

1<sup>st</sup> April 2023  
Application  
deadline and  
Implementation  
of WCHA-A  
series

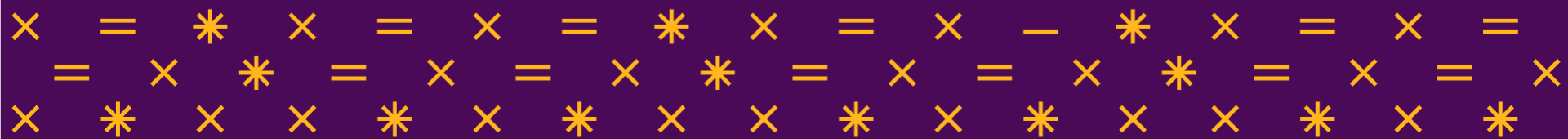
Format & Rules  
Creation

Beginning of  
2023 approval  
of the series and  
rules by FEI  
Board

Sep-Oct 2023  
Year one  
evaluation of  
the format and  
NF feedback for  
2024 updates



# FEI Driving Coaching System



# National Coach Education Programme

The basic Concept of the Coach Education Programme:

- Created for **developing NFs** to help them organise their own coaching structure.
- We talk about “**On-going education**” for practicing **National Coaches**.
- From **basic** coaching methods to **high performance** coaching (oriented towards competitions)



For Olympic Disciplines Only:  
Pre-requisite for Level 1 course  
Basic Coaching – Introduction  
of the Methodology

**Olympic Disciplines:**

- Jumping: 1.10 – 1.20
- Dressage: Preliminary/Elementary
- Eventing: Novice up to 1\*
- Vaulting:** Fundamentals - CVN up to 1\*
- Endurance:** National up to CE11\* 80km

**Olympic Disciplines:**

- Jumping: 1.20 – 1.30
- Dressage: Medium/Advanced
- Eventing: 1\* up to 2\*  
*(Eventing module upon request)*
- Vaulting:** up to CVI2\* focus on  
Compulsory Tests and lunging

**Regional + Continental Games & CHs:**

- Jumping:** CSI2\*
- Dressage:** PSG
- Eventing:** CCI2\* & CIC2\*



- **Each level** is supported by a set of didactic (pedagogical) material composed of a **Workbook** and **videos/DVDs** produced by the FEI Solidarity Department in collaboration with discipline technical experts and Coaching Ireland.
- The **course material** is available in **different languages** including: English, Spanish, Russian, French and Arabic.
- All **FEI Tutors** receive a special education on **adult learning techniques**.
- We are constantly working on developing **new modules** to answer the demand and needs of National Federations wishing to develop FEI Disciplines. The most recent module which was created was the Level 1 course for **Para-Dressage** coaches.

- Each coach's progression is **monitored** and **recorded** in our Coaching Database.
- On average between **30 and 40 courses** organised each year.
- Representing approximately **400 to 500 individuals** educated every year.
- Currently more than **3000 coaches** registered in the database of National Coaches.

# Timeline for Driving Coaching Module implementation

March 2022  
Meeting with  
Working  
Group  
(brainstorming about  
Education pathway  
and Level 1 content)

Further  
development of  
course content  
Technical Skill  
Development

Tutor's Course  
organised in the  
framework of a  
Level 1 Pilot  
Course

July – Nov 2022  
First Draft of  
Course Content

Mid 2023  
Finalise  
Workbook  
content

End 2023 –  
Early 2024  
Level 1 Course  
for National  
Driving Coaches  
available to all  
NFs