Basic veterinary training in Europe is governed by national legislations, by European Commission directives as far as EU member states are concerned and by recommendations from the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE). The situation is evolving with more and more non-EU countries taking into account both the EAEVE recommendations and the recent OIE recommendations on Veterinary Education.

This training is organized by a university or a higher institute for education and comprises at least five years of full-time theoretical and practical studies.

The programme is mainly based on the one hand on a list of essential subjects to be taught and on the other hand on the day-one skills to be acquired by a general practitioner.

The essential subjects are subdivided into basic sciences, clinical sciences, animal production, food hygiene and professional knowledge.

The EAEVE day-one skills are mainly devoted to general veterinary practice and include essential competences in three main areas, i.e. general professional skills and attributes, underpinning knowledge and understanding, and practical veterinary competences. They are consistent with OIE recommendations on Day 1 competencies. Specialised veterinary training in Europe is governed by national legislations and by recommendations from the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) and its different colleges. Usually, the training includes a one-year internship followed by a full-time three-year residency, which needs to be approved by the relevant college of specialists and supervised by one of its diplomates.

Research veterinary training in Europe is governed by national legislations and by EU directives (e.g. the Bologna process). Usually the training includes a one-year doctoral education (MSc) followed by at least a full-time three-year research programme in order to reach the doctorate (PhD).

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