

VETERINARY EDUCATION IN EUROPE

Ana Bravo^{(1)*}, Binek M⁽²⁾, Cameron E⁽³⁾, Corradi A⁽⁴⁾, Greif G⁽⁵⁾, Kennerman E⁽⁶⁾, Lekeux P⁽⁷⁾, Martinot S⁽⁸⁾, Nagy Z⁽⁹⁾, Pohl L⁽¹⁰⁾, Sukura A⁽¹¹⁾, Tavares L⁽¹²⁾

All authors are members of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE):

- (1) President
- (2) Representative of VEEs from Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia
- (3) Representative of VEEs from Ireland, the Netherlands and UK
- (4) Representative of VEEs from Albania, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan and Romania
- (5) Representative of VEEs from Austria, Germany and Switzerland
- (6) Representative of VEEs from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey
- (7) Director of the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT)
- (8) Vice-President and Representative of VEEs from Belgium and France
- (9) Office Manager
- (10) Assistant to the office
- (11) Representative of VEEs from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden
- (12) Representative of VEEs from Portugal and Spain

* office@eaeve.org

Our study analyses data of 96 Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs) in Europe from 34 countries that are members of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE).

Most VEEs in Europe are public institutions and duration of studies varies from 5 to 6.5 years.

Many of the VEEs in Europe must follow an evaluation process by a National Accreditation Body. All 96 VEEs follow an International Accreditation procedure, the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT), managed by EAEVE with the collaboration of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE). ESEVT is a high quality, efficient, economical and straight-forward accreditation system, working for the last 30 years, unique in Europe as a profession-specific evaluation of VEEs.

ESEVT is fully transparent and based on a system of Visitation together with periodic Interim Reports provided by the VEEs. To be accredited/approved by ESEVT, the curriculum provided by a VEE must meet all the standards to be compliant with the EU Directives establishing the minimum training requirements for veterinarians relevant for the automatic recognition of their qualification throughout the EU (Directive 2005/36/EC amended by Directive 2013/55/EU) and the Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

ESEVT evaluates VEEs against standards to ensure that they are well managed, have adequate financing, appropriate resources (staff, facilities, animals), provide up-to-date professional curriculum, operate a fair and reliable students' assessment as well as an *ad hoc* Quality Assurance System.

Compliance of a VEE with all ESEVT Standards guarantees that its graduates acquire the relevant knowledge, skills and competences (including OIE day-1 competencies) required for the entry-level of a veterinarian.

Of the 96 European VEEs 14 (14.6%) are pending evaluation by the ESEVT; 82 (85.4%) have been evaluated and 66 (68.75%) approved/conditionally approved. From the 75 VEEs of the European Union, 59 (79%) are approved or conditionally approved.

ESEVT has proven to be more focused on the acquisition of professional skills by undergraduates (including OIE day-1 competencies) and better adapted to the market and societal needs than the current National Accreditation Systems that are not profession specific.

Keywords: EAEVE – ESEVT – Europe – veterinary – education – competencies.