Using an Online Platform to Align VEE Curricula and Day 1 Competencies

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The Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH), in Ames, Iowa USA, developed and delivers an online course called Emerging and Exotic Diseases of Animals /Initial Accreditation Training (EEDA/IAT) used by all US veterinary schools. The course raises awareness of emerging and exotic animal diseases. Veterinarians who plan to sign health certificates and perform regulatory duties must be "accredited" by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); components of the course are required as part of the accreditation process. The USDA provided funding to translate the course into Spanish which has enabled its use at veterinary education establishments (VEEs) and with government officials in Central America and Mexico since 2011 (4900+users). The Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA) added content specific to the region. Each institution selects which components of the course are the most relevant; and within those components content can be customized to reflect the animal health situation in each country.

The OIE's Day 1 Competencies, published in 2012, provide a framework for VEEs on key competencies that should be part of their minimum curriculum requirements. The CFSPH would like to leverage the current EEDA/IAT materials and develop an online resource to cover two of the Day 1 Competencies: transboundary animal diseases and emerging and re-emerging diseases. A demonstration project is proposed to assess: 1) the feasibility of using online resources for teaching Day 1 competencies; 2) the feasibility of incorporating online resources into teaching programs of VEEs outside the U.S. and Central America; and 3) the benefits VEEs may gain from using these online resources.

The overall goal of the proposed project is to strengthen veterinary education by providing high quality teaching materials on an online platform for educators for each of the OIE Day 1 Competencies and to deliver this content in the three official OIE languages.

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