

Session 7:

Towards global harmonisation and evaluation of the veterinary curriculum, and an internationally recognised diploma

The present situation of training evaluation in European Union

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Veterinarians, in public and in private positions, play a crucial role in protecting the health and welfare of animals and people. Therefore proper education and training are indispensable. The European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) together with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) run the European system for the evaluation of veterinary schools. It consists of a self-evaluation, a visitation by a team of experts and a final evaluation by a special committee. The system is a voluntary system and not all schools, especially not the weaker ones, participate. Apart from the good and even excellent schools, there is clear evidence that a number of schools provide curricula considerably below the acceptable minimum standard.

European Union (EU) legislation on veterinary education is limited. It focuses on the free movement of veterinarians and on guaranteeing access to the profession, instead of assuring a good level of training. The absence of an effective Europe-wide system to stimulate schools to provide adequate education jeopardizes the well functioning of veterinary services. It is a threat for the (inter-)national protection of health and welfare of animals and people. It also hinders European veterinarians applying for jobs outside the EU.

