

An example of collaboration between a VEE, national veterinary services and veterinary associations

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The *Ecole Nationale des Services Vétérinaires* (ENSV), an internal school within a French teaching establishment for veterinarians and agronomists, is a very special organisation at the interface between:

- higher education, from which it borrows its teaching methods for graduate courses and continuing education,
- and the competent national authority for animal health and veterinary public health governance, which entrusts it with:
 - o training all official veterinary inspectors before taking their first position and throughout their career,
 - o training for private sector veterinarians for activities governed by a contract with the administration, within the framework of an animal health accreditation mandate (surveillance, prevention, controlling notifiable diseases).

The target group of official veterinarians includes young recently graduated veterinarians and experienced veterinarians, for which it provides additional expertise in law and regulations, rural economics, project leadership, collective action management and communication, while enhancing their knowledge of veterinary public health issues (animal health, food safety, animal welfare, environment).

The training is based on a network of 200 specialist lecturers representing the administration, research, higher education, professional organisations, etc. who describe their practical activities and share their experience through lively exchanges with participants.

The training is also based on the collective handling of real events (objectives, resources, deadlines, deliverables), enabling students to experience real situations and to develop their working practices as a team. Fieldwork accounts for 40% of the training course.

For veterinarians in private practice, the school provides specific training for the target group in partnership with professional associations (very short modules, cross interventions official/private veterinarians, 150 sessions organised throughout the country).

The school also organises summer courses aimed at English-speaking official veterinarians from partner countries of France, who come to share experiences and to reflect on their practices in the context of European and international management of animal health and food safety.

Key words: veterinary public health – veterinary officers – veterinary services.