

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

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The National School of Veterinary Services (ENSV: *Ecole Nationale des Services Vétérinaires*) forms part of “VetAgro Sup”, an education establishment in France for veterinarians and agronomists. The ENSV can be considered a “joint venture” between the competent national authority for veterinary sanitary governance and a higher education establishment for veterinary science.

A Collaborating Centre of the OIE for the training of official veterinarians, the school is dedicated to the provision of training in veterinary public health governance, a concept that in its French equivalent (*gouvernance de la santé publique vétérinaire*) is seen as embracing animal health and protection and the sanitary quality of food.

Adopting the concept of **“Veterinary Services”** as defined by the OIE (*the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement OIE recommendations*), the ENSV develops training products aimed at:

- official veterinarians within the French public administration;
- veterinarians in private practice licensed by the State to assist the public administration;
- livestock producers' organisations;
- food industry professionals;
- English-speaking official veterinarians in France's partner countries.

The ENSV therefore targets all those working in the field of veterinary sanitary governance and systematically opts for a collaborative process with the stakeholders of training courses and adopts a resolutely public-private partnership approach.

The target group of official veterinarians includes young, recently graduated veterinarians as well as experienced veterinarians, all of whom study at the school for a year before taking up their first position as civil servants. The ENSV gives them 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 and the environment).

Training is based on a network of 150 specialist and professional lecturers representing public administration, research, higher education, professional organisations, etc. They describe the practical aspects of their work and share their experience through lively exchanges with participants. Training is also based on the collective handling of real events (objectives, resources, deadlines and deliverables), enabling students to experience real situations and develop their team skills. Fieldwork accounts for 40% of the training course.



Students also visit international organisations responsible for regulating veterinary sanitary governance (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Organisation for Animal Health, World Trade Organization, European Commission) to acquaint themselves with the work done by the staff of these organisations and discuss their missions and constraints.

In parallel, the school organises continuing education for official veterinarians throughout their professional career, updating their knowledge and helping them acquire new skills. This will ensure that the actions they carry out are suitably adapted to the changing needs of the Veterinary Services.

In this way, the school helps the national administration to ensure compliance with the international standards of the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius, and with European sanitary regulations.

Veterinary practitioners in the private sector working in the field of livestock production (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, equids, poultry) are in many cases licensed by the State to carry out certain official tasks on behalf of the public administration. In partnership with veterinary professional associations, the ENSV organises courses tailor-made for this target group (very short modules, mixed official veterinarian/private veterinarian training teams, 150 sessions/year organised throughout the country). These



courses increase practitioners' vigilance for emerging diseases and strengthen their links with the public administration. Course content is adapted to the tasks they are licensed to perform: tuberculosis control, post-mortem examination of



poultry and sampling, use of medicinal products and safeguarding of public health, etc.



Livestock producers' organisations invite the school to co-organise training courses for their officers to bring them up to date on developments in the field of international sanitary constraints and their consequences for national sanitary governance.

Food industry professionals commission very short (1-day) partnership courses to improve their knowledge of export conditions (audit of the authorities of importing countries,

certification procedures, etc.). Together with a major French insurance group, the school has created a two-week training programme for insurance agents, to help them better evaluate the sanitary risks faced by food industry professionals and better determine their risk insurance cover.

English-speaking official veterinarians from partner countries of France can also take advantage of courses at the school, which organises summer courses on "animal health and welfare" and "food safety".

These courses are organised in collaboration with **France Vétérinaire International (FVI)** – a French organisation dedicated to veterinary international cooperation with a membership comprising all French public and private bodies operating in the veterinary field: training, research, public administration, medical practice, risk evaluation, pharmaceutical industry, etc.

Each course lasts 3 weeks. The first 2 weeks are residential and consist of lectures, field trips and case studies, giving participants the chance to share their professional experiences with one another. The third week consists of a study tour of European capitals hosting the main international organisations responsible for regulating veterinary sanitary governance (Rome, Paris, Geneva, Brussels). Participants meet senior officials of these organisations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Organisation for Animal Health, World Trade Organization, European Commission) to discuss their activities. These summer courses give participants an opportunity to reflect on their own practices, in light of European and international management rules on these topics.

