

Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe (VETCEE)

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Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is crucial for all veterinarians to develop and maintain the required expertise. Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe (VETCEE) is a joint initiative of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP). In collaboration with a European network of experts, VETCEE runs an accreditation scheme for structured CPD for veterinarians. Accreditation by VETCEE assures the level/quality of these CPD programmes and facilitates their mutual recognition across Europe.

VETCEE was established in 2014. It has developed a general Standard complemented by Dossiers of Competences (DoC) for different animal species. In collaboration with European associations with expertise in the different species, five DoC have been adopted; namely in Companion Animal Medicine, Porcine Health Management, Equine Medicine, Bovine Health and Production and Laboratory Animal Science and Medicine. The VETCEE Standard and DoC are under constant review to keep abreast of developments in veterinary medicine.

VETCEE accredited programmes consist of approximately 750 hours of blended learning over a period of approximately 3 years.

VETCEE does not award qualifications to veterinarians. It accredits programmes structured in modules according to the Standard. Accreditation is awarded to the entire programme. Programmes have to be reevaluated every five years to maintain accreditation. Programmes that successfully pass the evaluation are granted the VETCEE approval logo.

Continuing Professional Development is fragmented across Europe, varying from no available CPD in some countries, to individual courses, and finally, structured programmes that lead to recognition by the national statutory body and the awarding of a title to each veterinarian who completes the programme (e.g. CertAVP in the United Kingdom; Fachtierarzt in Germany; vakdierenarts in Belgium). The intent of VETCEE is to bridge these gaps. Countries can use the VETCEE Standard to develop their national programmes structured in modules.

More information on <http://www.fve.org/education/vetcee.php>

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