
Report of the Committee for Internal Quality Assurance

General Assembly of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)

Turin, 2021

The Committee for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) is a standing committee of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE).

Since the internal quality assurance (QA) of an accreditation agency is a precondition of trustworthy, reliable, and transparent evaluation, EAEVE has founded CIQA at the General Assembly (GA) in 2009. CIQA's primary tasks are to check the procedures of EAEVE from a QA point of view, give suggestions for improvement and provide guidance on QA matters. The activities of CIQA are defined in the "CIQA Rules of Operation". Since CIQA was created and its members are nominated by the GA, CIQA reports to it every year.

This Report summarises CIQA's work since the 33rd GA, which was held online on 3rd December 2020. During the 33rd EAEVE GA, two new members of CIQA were elected; Prof. Massimo Castagnaro and Ms. Eva Orban. During the 22nd CIQA meeting, Prof. Mirja Ruohoniemi was elected as the new Chairperson of CIQA. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that CIQA has not been able to hold any meetings in person since 17th October 2019, but online meetings and email correspondence have been utilized to good effect.

1. Dates of CIQA meetings

- 22nd CIQA Meeting 15th June, 2021, Online;
- 23rd CIQA Meeting 28th September, 2021, Online and in Turin (activities of which will be covered in CIQA's next Annual Report)

2. CIQA internal issues

- Summary of EAEVE Activities 2020-2021;
- CIQA Quality Improvement Action Plan 2019-2021;
- Election of CIQA Chairperson;
- Expiration of one CIQA member's mandate and candidature of new CIQA member;
- Receiving ExCom's feedback to CIQA's suggestions;
- Providing feedback from CIQA to ExCom;
- CIQA's annual Report to the 33rd GA was discussed and accepted.

3. Action points completed

- PowerPoint Presentation to new ExCom members on the tasks of CIQA and the global perspective of QA;

- CIQA Rules of Operation were updated and revised;
- The EAEVE Policy for Assurance of Quality document was updated and revised;
- The CIQA Quality Improvement Action Plan 2019-2021 was discussed;
- Amendments to the Guide for GA Organisation were made;
- The list of the SOP WG's proposals for amendment of the ESEVT SOP 2019 was discussed and amendments suggested;
- Addition of new E-Learning chapter was discussed and amendments suggested;
- Feedback from E-Learning participants was evaluated;
- Discussion with the EAEVE President about the tasks and responsibilities of CIQA;
- Introduction of new CIQA Chairperson during the ExCom meeting on 21st June.
- The promotional project for student experts from IVSA was discussed.

4. Regular activities of CIQA

- Evaluation of Post-GA Feedback from GA 2020 participants;
- Evaluation of EAEVE yearly activities;
- Evaluation of Visitation Teams' Composition 2020-2021;
- Evaluation of Post-Visitation Feedback 2020-2021;
- Evaluation of outcomes of the ESEVT 2020-2021.

Conclusions of CIQA

- The EAEVE Office and EAEVE committees are working in line with established procedures;
- The role of CIQA is clear and well defined;
- Feedback from the GA 2020 was generally positive and 92% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the electronic voting was straightforward, clear and well organized;
- The Visitation teams were assembled according to approved procedures; Visitation Teams were assembled in line with Chapter 2, point 1.2 of the ESEVT SOP where possible and when needed, in line with the 'Exceptional rules for ESEVT Visitations planned in 2021 considering the extraordinary circumstances linked to the COVID-19 pandemic';
- All experts who participated in Visitations had successfully completed the E-learning course and declared their lack of conflicts of interest;
- The majority of the post-Visitation feedback, including for those Visitations conducted in a hybrid format, was positive and CIQA was able to confirm that the hybrid Visitations generally functioned well.
- CIQA made suggestions on how to adapt the systematic recording of those ESEVT experts who participated in Visitations to be in line with changes in procedure necessitated by the pandemic.
- CIQA will continue to monitor the conduct of hybrid Visitations from a QA point of view and in the event that hybrid Visitations become a permanent activity, CIQA will consider whether further QA procedures are needed.

Overall, CIQA is able to verify that EAEVE is carrying out its activities in line with established and well documented procedures. Any temporary and necessary changes to procedures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have been thoroughly revised and formalized in such a way that the ESEVT system continues to be equally applied to all member VEEs.

Since the second and final term of CIQA member Asger Lundorff-Jensen expires during the 34th EAEVE GA, CIQA members would like to thank Prof. Jensen for his commitment and dedication and would like to extend a warm welcome to the CIQA candidate for election, Prof. Preben Dybdahl Thomsen.

Helsinki, 10th August 2021

Mirja Ruohoniemi,
Chairperson of CIQA