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Policy for Assurance of Quality

The main mission of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) is to evaluate, promote and further develop the quality and standard of Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs) and their teaching within, but not limited to, the member states of the European Union. The continuous improvement of VEEs through the positive outcomes of Visitations and maintenance of requested standards are considered very important points by states, stakeholders and the public.


In order to achieve these aims a structured profession-specific evaluation system has been developed (European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training - ESEVT) with joint responsibility together with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE). All activities are fully transparent; a list of Evaluated, Approved and Accredited VEEs is maintained.

EAEVE is committed to reinforcing cooperation between member VEEs and acting as a forum for discussion in order to improve and harmonize veterinary education. The internationalization and continuous development of VEEs is facilitated through the exchange of information, staff, students and teaching materials between members during, but not limited to, the EAEVE General Assembly (GA), Educational Day, and ESEVT Visitations.

EAEVE is committed to the quality assurance of veterinary training as published in its mission statement. To reach this goal, all major documents are made publicly available, and a structured internal quality assurance system is run by EAEVE. In 2018, EAEVE was granted membership in the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and therefore it is now formally acknowledged that “EAEVE provides ‘quality’ and quality assurance in Veterinary Medicine” and fulfils its mission by reaching substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) while fully conforming to the EU Directives.

EAEVE has full responsibility for its activities and outcomes, procedures and methods, as well as for defining the procedure for experts’ nomination.

EAEVE runs a no-conflict-of-interest mechanism in the case of all participants of the evaluation and decision-making process. All participants have to sign a statement

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declaring that they have no direct connection or personal interest with regards to the VEE to be visited, and they have to be replaced if any potential conflict of interest exists. All signed statements are archived in the head office.

Internal quality assurance

An adequate internal quality assurance system is the basis of accountability, transparency and reliability of the EAEVE. Being an association involved primarily in evaluating and assessing teaching quality and outcome assessment of its member VEEs, EAEVE submits itself regularly to an internal process of quality assessment and assurance control in line with the ESG Guidelines. As a consequence of this commitment to quality assurance, EAEVE established the Committee on Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) in 2009. CIQA is an independent body, accountable to the GA, consisting of 5 members not involved in any other EAEVE governance bodies. The responsibilities and tasks are laid down in the CIQA Rules of Operation.

Results of internal quality assessment are followed up and implemented by EAEVE. Recommendations and statements of CIQA are thoroughly discussed by the Executive Committee (ExCom) and at the GA of EAEVE. Suggested improvements which are approved by ExCom and/ or by the GA are subsequently implemented.

A system wide analysis, performed every four years, provides important material for structured analysis across the higher education in veterinary medicine and on the compliance of EAEVE member VEEs with the EU Directives.


External quality assurance

All actions and procedures of EAEVE are regularly monitored by international organisations: e.g. by ENQA. The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the main stakeholder of the profession, the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) regularly provide feedback and evaluate the evaluation activities of EAEVE.

Publicity


All documents and results of the evaluations done by EAEVE and the activities of the Association are publicly available on the homepage, including the evaluation processes, the Standard Operation Procedures, the various guidelines, Self Evaluation Reports, Final Reports and results.

Knowing that a well-functioning quality assurance system is a precondition of the widely accepted work of EAEVE in the veterinary academic society, EAEVE is

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continuously developing quality assurance. The Educational Day of the annual General Assembly is devoted to the constant improvement of veterinary education. Internationally-known invited speakers summarise their opinions and the participants can thoroughly discuss the issues. All member VEEs are invited to share their ideas on the development of quality assurance, with all suggestions and improvements being welcomed for the benefit of the ESEVT and of the profession in general.

The payment of membership fees and evaluation fees shall constitute the basic funding of the Association. Furthermore, the Association may receive grants from organisations and donations from individuals with a view to financing its activities and all other contributions as authorised by the law. All donations will be a noted matter of public record. Apart from the Director and secretariat, all subjects involved in EAEVE activities are voluntary. This ensures that sufficient funds and personnel are allocated to carry out the work.

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Original document

SOP EAEVE/serial number	Prepared by:	Reviewed by:	Approved by:
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Date	September 2016	October 2016	25 January 2017
Signature			

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2				
3				
4				