

## **President's Report 2011**

Let me welcome the representatives of the member schools of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education at the General Assembly 2012. In the present report I would like to summarise the activities of our organisation in the year of 2011 and in the first months of 2012.

The year of 2011 was a special one of our profession, since the first veterinary school of the world was opened 250 years ago in Lyon. The year of 2011 was declared to be a Veterinary Year to commemorate the anniversary of this remarkable event. Our association wanted to honour the anniversary of the foundation of the mother school of all veterinary schools, for this reason the recent General Assembly was held at the VetAgro Sup in Lyon followed by an International Education Conference. We enjoyed the kind hospitality of the staff of the Veterinary School in Lyon.

We had a very active year in 2011. The main activity of our organisation remains the evaluation of the veterinary schools in Europe. Veterinary training is one of the seven regulated professions in the European Union but the only one, which has a Europe-wide evaluation and accreditation system. Since maintaining a comparably high level of veterinary education throughout in Europe is vital for our member schools, the continuous development of the evaluation was on the top of our priority list as well. I am happy to inform you that this activity is very successful, both the number of the accredited and the approved establishments have increased, by now 4 schools are accredited, 48 have been approved and 5 conditionally approved. So the majority, 58% of the schools are in the above categories. I would like to encourage all approved schools to ask for a stage II evaluation, which will result in an accreditation. Being accredited or approved is a great success for the schools and has a great prestige within the veterinary community but the official acknowledgement is still missing.

We are going to intensify our connections with the European Commission and had very promising discussions with representatives of the Directorate General Internal Market and Services and the Directorate General for Health and Consumers last year. Our evaluation system is known and acknowledged by them; however, the principle of free movement has a higher priority. Inclusion of the evaluation system into the Directive of Professional

Qualifications was suggested and we were promised to be involved in the process of amendment of the Directive.

To receive official recognition in the field of higher education becoming member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, ENQA remained an important aim of our association. I am happy to inform you that some weeks ago the application of EAEVE for membership was forwarded to ENQA. In the first step we asked for an affiliate status in order to be involved in the activities of ENQA but our intention to become an Associate Member of ENQA was expressed at the same time. This category was created just recently for European quality assurance agencies and other quality assurance organisations in the field of higher education. Associate Members need not be formally recognised by competent public authorities in one of the member states, so an important obstacle has been eliminated. To become Associate Members of ENQA our Association and the evaluation system have to undergo an external review coordinated by ENQA. In this process we and our evaluation system will be evaluated in a similar way like we do it in the case of our member schools. It will be a huge but necessary work since as a result of a positive evaluation EAEVE will have the same power as the national accreditation agencies with an additional advantage, that this evaluation is profession-specific, hence can give more useful and specific advice and can better promote the development of the schools visited.

In order to improve the professional level of the evaluation the Executive Committee decided last year to set up an SOP Working Group, which has begun to revise and update the SOP. It made great steps forward and I hope that at the next General Assembly the results of this work can be presented.

I am happy to inform you that the international connections of our association are getting more active, the excellent connections with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), its member organisations and with the European Board of Veterinary Specialists (EBVS) are taken for granted, and more intensive connections are being built with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE). Being involved as observers in each other's evaluation process is an excellent tool to harmonise them and reach a reciprocal acknowledgement in the future. We are going to help the recently created South Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary

Education (SMNEVE) and are pleased to welcome representatives of these organisations at the General Assembly.

It is a pleasure for me to mention that the interest towards our organisation is growing, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Irbid, Jordan applied for membership of EAEVE and after a successful consultative site visit in February the Executive Committee of the EAEVE accepted their application. In the name of the member schools I welcome representatives of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Irbid.

EAEVE is continuously getting more professionalized. In September 2011 the office staff in Vienna was completed by Ms. Zsuzsanna Nagy, whose valuable contribution helped to reduce the extreme workload on our Office Manager, Dr. Uschi Deimel.

It is a great pleasure for me at the end of my dean's term to greet all of you at my school, the Faculty of Veterinary Science in Budapest. I am convinced that the General Assembly of EAEVE in Budapest is a remarkable part of the events held to commemorate the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of our school. I hope, several representatives can remain at the anniversary ceremony on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

At the end of my report I would like to thank for the help of everybody. Our organisation is based mainly on voluntary work and enthusiasm of the academic staff of the member schools. Members of the Executive Committee, ECOVE, CIQA, SOP working groups and other ad hoc working groups, members of the visiting teams all did a great job. My special thanks go to Dr. Uschi Deimel Office Manager and Ms. Zsuzsanna Nagy, Assistant to Management, whose work enabled a smooth running of the office. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Gert Niebauer, Executive Director, whose help and hard work was indispensable to the successful work of the association. Since the term of several members of the Executive Committee expires, I would like to thank them not only for their enthusiasm and devotion but also for the friendly atmosphere they created during our meetings. I would also like to express my gratitude to the member schools and their academic staff for their continuous help and hope that we can continue to count on their support also in the future.

László Fodor

Budapest, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2012