



## European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training Update on activities

The first meeting of the year of the European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT) took place on 26 March at the FVE headquarters in Brussels. Prof. Laszlo Fodor chaired the meeting and coordinated the discussions of each item on the agenda. A new member, Dr Sabine Schüller, joined the Committee. She has been appointed to succeed Dr Remi Gellé as FVE representative for the next two years and is also the President of EVERI<sup>i</sup> (FVE Section).

Starting point of the discussions was the review of the ECCVT Terms of Reference (ToR) governing the establishment and function of the Committee. Considering the prevailing needs in veterinary education, the Committee proposes the updated rules, which will be adopted at the next ECCVT meeting.

ECCVT continues to look into improving the quality of the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT). EAEVE is developing a guidance leaflet to be used for the recruitment of practitioners to the visitation teams of ESEVT. In order to increase the reaching out to more motivated veterinary practitioners, EAEVE intensifies its collaboration with UEVP<sup>ii</sup> (FVE Section). In addition, EAEVE continues its efforts to get ESEVT officially recognised in Europe. For this purpose EAEVE tries for gaining a European-wide accreditation through ENQA and takes all necessary steps towards that direction.

EAEVE in collaboration with FVE conducted a survey among European faculties, in order to map teaching of lab-animal, aquatic-animal and bee-health medicine. Sixty-one (61) faculties replied to the questionnaire. [Preliminary results](#) have been presented to the members of the committee. Three separate reports including the outcome of responses in each field will be soon publicly available.

ECCVT looked into the Commission's "[Updated consensus document on "work in progress" for the development of a common, non-binding education and training framework to fulfil Directive 2010/63/EU](#)" and focused especially on the role and training requirements of the designated veterinarian. ECCVT members agree that the document provides in general a good guidance; however there are concerns that it considers only the needs for the designated veterinarian at the large research facilities. It was expressed some disappointment for the Commission's omission to look into

the issue from a more holistic approach. A. Robinson (UEVP President) explained that many practitioners in Europe provide services as designated veterinarians in smaller research facilities, an aspect that is not well-recognised in the consensus document. ECCVT members will continue their effort to have an open dialogue with the stakeholders and the EU Institutions. Additionally, EAEVE will look into the potential of establishing minimum criteria in the undergraduate veterinary curriculum, which fulfils the requirements for the role of the Designated Veterinarian according to the EU Directive 2010/63.

Part of the works on 26 March was the official signing of the VETCEE Statutes. ECCVT in conjunction with UEVP and with the help of FECAVA<sup>iii</sup> have been working on VETCEE establishment in the last years. VETCEE is now an independent international organisation registered in Belgium, which will validate the quality of middle-tier post-graduate programmes addressed to veterinary practitioners. It will agree on minimum standards and accredit programmes – both new and existing – that meet these standards. It will also promote mutual recognition of such programmes throughout Europe. VETCEE is expected to be fully functional in the next months, after the official publication of its Statutes.

ECCVT continues to closely follow the implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive and the discussions in EU Commission's group on the European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy (ESCO). EBVS in particular continues the efforts to get veterinary specialists officially recognised in the EU Member States. According to EBVS statistics, currently there are more than 3500 veterinary specialists in Europe, occupied in academia (58%), practice (31%), industry (6%) and government (4%).

Additionally ECCVT endeavors to increase the visibility of the Committee's activity and the communication with all stakeholders and interested parties.

<sup>i</sup> [European Veterinarians working in Education, Research and Industry](#) (EVERI)

<sup>ii</sup> [Union of European Veterinary Practitioners](#) (UEVP)

<sup>iii</sup> [Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations](#) (FECAVA)