

**European Association
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**

**Association Européenne
des Établissements d'Enseignement
Vétérinaire**



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 medical establishments and their teaching within, but not limited to, the member states of the European Union. In order to achieve these aims a structured profession-specific evaluation system has been developed.

EAEVE is committed for quality assurance of veterinary training as published in its mission statement. To reach this goal all major documents are made available and public, a structured internal quality assurance system is run by EAEVE and the Association is going to undergo an external quality control in the future as well. All activities of the organisation are fully transparent.

Internal quality assurance

A strong 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 establishments, EAEVE submits itself regularly to an internal process of quality assessment and assurance control. To that end, a standing Committee on Internal Quality Assessment (CIQA) was created in 2009 and is regularly active since. CIQA consists of 5 members not involved in any other EAEVE governance bodies and is independent.

CIQA's main responsibilities are:

- To direct the development, implementation, revision and improvement of quality in the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT):
- To present to the EAEVE General Assembly (GA) an annual report on the fulfilment of the policies and objectives of internal quality assessment and management and on the proposals and measures taken for improvement;
- To control the effective management of the office;
- To control the effective management of and the reaction/action to the post-on-site-visit questionnaires;
- To perform a critical review on the development, results and persons involved in all the steps of the annual evaluation processes, including the final decisions taken by European Committee of Veterinary Education (ECOVE), looking for the equal application of the system to all the members without any type of discrimination, and controlling absence of conflict of interest. The review should include as a minimum an evaluation of the procedures followed
 - During the on-site visits
 - On the composition and quality of the site visit reports
 - On the quality assurance feed-back from faculties and team members
- To meet at least 2 times a year,
- To inform the Executive Committee (ExCom), the EAEVE Executive Director and the EAEVE President about the outcome of the meetings,
- To evaluate and control the composition of the visiting teams.

Feedback from the visitations is an important way of quality assurance. Questionnaires to be filled-in both by the visited establishment and the members of the team are designed to act as quality assurance tools. The questionnaire involves critique of the team, individuals and procedures, and invites the visited establishment to suggest improvements.

- visiting team members file post-visit evaluation forms (self-evaluation, peer evaluation, system evaluation),

- each Dean and his/her office are required to complete a feedback questionnaire involving critique of the team, individuals and procedures, expressively invited to suggest improvements.

All evaluation forms are forwarded to and collected by the EAEVE office for analysis and final evaluation by CIQA. CIQA in turn reports outcomes and makes suggestions for changes and improvements and checks their effectuation (internal reflection mechanism). An online feedback evaluation system has been implemented and is used on a regular basis.

EAEVE runs a no-conflict-of-interest mechanism in the case of all participants of the evaluation and decision making including team members and ECOVE members. Conflict of interest avoidance mechanisms are well in place on several levels: the composition of the visiting team experts rigorously follows the published rule that experts cannot have any past or present affiliation with the visited establishment; that involves citizenship, residency, study place, research collaboration or family affiliations. All experts and all ECOVE members have to sign those statements. ECOVE members have to leave the room and being replaced by an alternate member if any potential conflict of interest exists. All signed statements are being collected for inspection by CIQA. These declarations are archived in the head office.

Results of internal quality assessment are followed up and implemented by EAEVE. Recommendations and statements of CIQA are thoroughly discussed by the ExCom and at the GA of EAEVE. As a rule, the suggested improvements are implemented without delay.

External quality assurance

EAEVE has not gone through formal cyclical external reviews yet; however, we are looking forward to a formal cycle of review procedures in the future. Nevertheless, all actions and procedures of EAEVE are fully transparent and are continuously monitored by several international organisations: by our partners within the International Accreditors' Working Group (UK, US, Australian and South African accrediting agencies), by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX), by the Directorate General

for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) and the Directorate General Internal Market and Services (DG MARKT) of the European Union. FVE, the main stakeholder of the profession regularly evaluates the evaluation activity of EAEVE.

Publicity

All documents and results of the evaluations done by EAEVE and the activity of the Association are publicly available on the homepage, so not only the evaluation processes, the Standard Operation Procedures, the different guidelines, rules, self evaluation reports, final reports and results but most documents of the Association can be reached.

Knowing that a well working quality assurance system is the precondition of the widely accepted work of EAEVE in the veterinary academic society, we are continuously developing quality assurance. Topics related to quality assurance are always on the agenda of the Education Conference which is a consistent part of the annual General Assemblies. Internationally known invited speakers summarise their opinion and the participants can thoroughly discuss the issue. All member schools are invited to share their idea on development of quality assurance, with all suggestions and improvements being welcomed for the benefit of the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training and of the profession in general.