



ECCVT FOCUS 2014

The European Coordination Committee for Veterinary Training (ECCVT) was created in 2005. Through this committee the three founding organisations the “European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education” (EAEVE), the “European Board for Veterinary Specialisation” (EBVS) and the “Federation of Veterinarians of Europe” (FVE) aim to coordinate their views on veterinary education. ECCVT is supervised by the organisations’ executive committees/boards, who meet twice every year under a rotating chairmanship.

In the dawn of the New Year, the Presidents of the three founding organisations put together their views on veterinary education in Europe, which is the cornerstone of developing highly competent veterinarians and guarantee exceptional veterinary services and that way health and safety of animals and people in our continent.



*Prof Laszlo Fodor,
EAEVE President*

EAEVE was founded 25 years ago in order to maintain and develop the standards of veterinary education in Europe and so ensure that those trained in veterinary medicine meet the requirements of society. The association reinforces cooperation

between establishments for higher education in veterinary science and acts as a forum for the discussion of matters related to veterinary education. EAEVE strives to improve and harmonize teaching of veterinary medicine among the members. **Our main activity is managing the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT), the only profession specific evaluation/accreditation system in Europe.** It combines the aspects of the profession specific evaluation with evaluation of quality assurance and management methods of the school.

EAEVE membership is voluntary; it counts presently 97 member establishments; 75 within the EU and 22 from the wider European-Mediterranean region. As a result of the 25-year-long activity of the EAEVE the number of the accredited, approved and conditionally approved schools has been continuously increasing. More than 60% of all our members and more than 70% of the schools of the EU fall in these categories.

The main aim of EAEVE is to further improve the evaluation system, to increase the number of the accredited and approved schools among the members on the one hand, and on the other to get wider acceptance of the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training in the EU member states. In the field of education EAEVE is going to intensify its collaboration with FVE and EBVS.



*Prof Stephen May,
EBVS President*

EBVS was formally established in the Netherlands in 1996. It is an umbrella organisation of 23 veterinary specialist colleges, committed to ensuring superior animal and public health and wellbeing, by providing high and consistent standards

in the training and certification of veterinary specialists in Europe. **Each College represents a key discipline that spearheads advances in their branch of the profession,** through a diverse group of certified specialists working in education, practice, government, research and industry.

Until about 40 years ago, our profession and those responsible for licensing veterinarians were focused on the first clinical qualification and what we now call “day one” knowledge and skills. Nowadays, we recognise that the first qualification is the beginning of a career of constant updating, professional development and for some the pathway to becoming a specialist. Governments and industry, as well as animal keepers, need specialists in various clinical arenas relating to problems at both herd and individual levels.

Through close collaboration with key stakeholders across the veterinary profession, **EBVS leads the development of veterinary specialisation, contributing to the provision of advanced veterinary services to the public and their animals.** EBVS ensures the quality of veterinary specialists in Europe through a standardised, regulated framework for veterinary-specialist professional training and qualifications; maintains a public register of active veterinary specialists in Europe; promotes the availability of veterinary specialists and the services that they provide; and promotes scholarly and evidence-based progress in all areas of veterinary activity.



*Dr Christophe Buhot,
FVE President*

FVE is an umbrella organisation representing 43 national veterinary organisations from 38 European countries. FVE aims to unite and promote the veterinary profession for the benefit of animal health, animal welfare and public health. We support

veterinarians in delivering their professional responsibilities at the best possible level, recognised and valued by society.

FVE, together with our sister organisations EAEVE and EBVS, promote high level pre- and post- graduate education and training. Education is, without any doubt, the backbone of our profession. In order to deliver the best services whatever the field of activities, high standard education and training must be provided to veterinarians. This explains why FVE and EAEVE carry on developing an independent, objective and reliable system to evaluate veterinary schools. We also work on updating the curriculum of veterinarians, as well as the “day one” competences. It is essential to ensure educational programs meet high standards and strive for continuous quality improvement.

But competence is not static and not fixed for life when veterinary graduates are licensed to practice their profession. As science and ethics advance and evolve, veterinarians have to follow lifelong learning to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills and be able to respond to the increasing national or international demand for the development of advanced scientific skills. **Any veterinarian must keep his professional knowledge up to date in order to be able to meet his clients’ needs, protecting animal health, animal welfare and human health, and FVE works towards that direction.**

ECCVT Policy on education

Current Achievements and Action Plan for 2014

Background information

In 2000, EAEVE and FVE started running in cooperation ESEVT with the basic objective to evaluate the compliance of the education establishments with the minimum requirements of veterinary education in the Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications (RPQ). For this purpose, the two organizations have a joint European Committee of Veterinary Education (ECOVE) with the operative task to decide on the accreditation/approval of the evaluated schools.

In order to strengthen the relationship and to improve the cooperation of EAEVE and FVE with EBVS, a tripartite Committee of EAEVE, FVE and EBVS was created in 2005: the European Coordinating Committee for Veterinary Training (ECCVT).

Mission

The pillars of the ECCVT's vision are:

- the assurance of high quality of veterinary undergraduate education throughout Europe based on an accreditation system mandatory for all veterinary faculties
- the promotion of life-long learning of all veterinarians by encouraging post-graduate programmes, which ensure that European veterinarians can fulfil the needs and expectations of society.

In order to achieve this, the ECCVT has a political remit to develop and propose policies on education matters to the boards/executive committees of the founder organisations. The ECCVT shall support the mission and vision of the founding organizations in the parts that relate to education under the overarching goal to ensure a veterinary competence of high quality, in Europe. The Committee acts on behalf of, and makes suggestions to its founding organisations and represents a channel for the three organizations to speak with one voice in educational matters.

Achievements

ECCVT has established very good collaboration and contributed to the advancement of veterinary profession by:

- improving the quality of ESEVT for undergraduate veterinary education;
- providing input at EU Institutions. All the three founding organisations of ECCVT joined their forces in order to give valuable feedback to the EU Commission during drafting of the new proposal of the Professionals Qualifications Directive. This has resulted in a [concrete proposal](#) on behalf of the veterinary profession on a list of subjects that should be included in the veterinary curriculum and the [definition of veterinarian](#). Further to that, ECCVT closely follows the progress of European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy (ESCO) working group, where all its members actively provide input.
- collecting information with a view to assess the current situation, gaps or needs in veterinary undergraduate and post-graduate education, such as the latest [EAEVE-FVE survey](#) on the teaching of minor species in the European veterinary faculties;
- encouraging free movement of veterinary students throughout the EU;
- assisting to the establishment of REEV-Med Network, a system similar to ESEVT, based mainly on the OIE minimum requirements and addressed to the veterinary faculties in the Mediterranean countries;
- initiating VETCEE, standing for Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe. VETCEE will be an assessment body, setting the minimum standards for the evaluation of post-graduate programmes addressed to veterinary practitioners and at a level between graduate veterinarians and veterinary specialists;

Action Plan 2014

Through ECCVT, the organisations will continue with our joint efforts. Moreover we envisage sharing our views and opening a dialogue with the EU legislators and other stakeholders, with the purpose to show that the veterinary profession takes its responsibilities seriously starting from the beginning with undergraduate education. We should not forget that ***the veterinary profession is the only profession, which has taken the initiative to assess the quality of education throughout Europe.***

More specifically, ECCVT this year will focus on:

- the development of a new framework and the necessary tools, in order to improve the quality of ESEVT;
- the recognition of ESEVT. EAEVE will keep on working in order to become a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) with the support of FVE;
- following the implementation of the new Directive on Professional Qualifications, once it is published, such as looking into developing a framework for the recognition of veterinary specialisation in Europe, according to the requirements of the new Directive;
- the establishment of VETCEE as an independent body in charge of the quality assessment of post-graduate programmes for veterinary practitioners in fields, such as companion animal medicine, porcine medicine, laboratory animal medicine, etc.;
- providing input to the EU working groups, including the ESCO meetings. Special attention will be paid on the development of minimum requirements for the training of Designated Veterinarians, in compliance to the EU Directive 2010/63.

ECCVT Secretariat: Despoina Iatridou

Avenue de Tervueren 12, 1040 Brussels, Belgium / Tel: +32 533 70 20 / despoina@fve.org

www.eaeve.org – www.ebvs.org – www.fve.org

