

**European Association  
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**

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



**RE-VISITATION REPORT**

**To the Department of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Bari, Italy**

**On 05-06 April 2016**

**By the Re-visitation Team:**

**Petr Horin (Brno, Czech Republic): Chairperson**

**Pierre Lekeux (Liege, Belgium): ESEVT Coordinator**

## **Introduction**

The department of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Bari (DVMUB), Italy was evaluated by ESEVT in January 2014. The decision by ECOVE who met in May 2014 was Conditional Approval because of the identification of 1 Major Deficiency, i.e. 'Lack of strategic objectives'. The conclusion of the previous Visitation team was: 'A definitive strategic plan should be prepared and implemented as soon as possible, to assist in directing and carrying forward some of the other suggestions made in the Evaluation report. A long-term vision aiming to better define the school's specificity and exclusivity in the national and European context should be formulated in this plan'.

The Re-visitation Self Evaluation Report (Interim Report) was provided on time to the Re-visitation Team and provided all the relevant information.

The Re-visitation was well prepared and well organised by the Establishment. It was performed in agreement with the ESEVT 2012 (Budapest) SOP.

## **1. Correction of the Major Deficiency ('Lack of strategic objectives')**

### **1.1. Findings**

A material called "Strategic plan" has been produced by the Establishment, discussed with the staff, students and teachers from other departments involved in teaching veterinary students, approved by the Establishment and by the University of Bari. Specific aims and mid-term and short-term objectives have been included into the Annual Report of Quality Assurance (QA) of the University: (<http://www.uniba.it/ateneo/presidio-qualita/ava/rdr/RDRAnnuale201415MedicinaVeterinaria.pdf>) in January 2015. The strategic plan is available at the Establishment's website and will be part of the Annual Report of QA 2015 in the near future.

According to the Strategic plan, the Mission of the Establishment is to educate students, discover scientific knowledge, and advance research in One Health Medicine by proposing an interaction between human and animal health to produce benefits to both fields. A vision how to accomplish the mission has been formulated in the second part of the material, followed by formulation of mid-term and short term objectives.

Six priorities have been defined by the Strategic plan: Teaching and curriculum, diagnostic and clinical services, finances and infrastructure, research, community outreach (third mission), and communication and marketing.

### **1.2. Comments**

The Interim Report does contain a mission statement, a vision, and the value of the veterinary course. These statements cover all the important aspects of a modern veterinary course and all attributes of a standard veterinary teaching establishment. Medium- and short-term objectives are presented, together with the strategy to implement them in the particular environment of the University of Bari.

During the Re-visitation, the director of the Establishment provided a more detailed presentation and explanation of this material, which showed that the mission and the vision have been well integrated into the University's strategic vision and the material has been processed, discussed and approved from the bottom up to the top of the Establishment's structure, including students and teachers from other departments teaching veterinary students.

All together, the documents submitted and/or referred to represent a standard set of materials required for a proper functioning of a veterinary teaching establishment. Besides these standard statements, the new concept of the third role of a university has been properly reflected.

In addition, they also represent a more active and pro-active concept related to the personality of the new director who motivated his staff and students to address many really crucial issues presented in the final Visitation report as minor deficiencies. The mid-term and short-term objectives thus represent a realistic plan how to correct those in a relatively short-term perspective under the revised SOP integrating QA issues in all standards. However, the description of QA approaches, the flow charts and their usage in the Establishment's daily life have not been completely characterised and described.

In formal terms, this material has been approved as a part of the Annual Report of QA issued by the University of Bari, and its implementation has been in progress since 2015. The material will be published at the Establishment's website in the near future.

### **1.3. Suggestions**

The team encourages the director and the Establishment to develop the concept outlined in the context of the entire university and to work with the Strategic plan at all levels of the Establishment's and university's structures.

The planned QA procedures should be completed according to the standards in tertiary education as defined by ENQA/ESG, taking benefit of the revised SOPs when approved by the EAEVE GA.

### **1.4. Decision of the Re-visitation Team**

The Major Deficiency ('Lack of strategic objectives') has been fully corrected.

## **2. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies**

### **2.1. Findings**

As described in the RSER (Interim Report) and observed on site, the DVMUB has implemented some suggestions of improvement proposed by the previous Visitation Team.

A new person responsible for teaching Anatomy has been nominated, and it is a veterinarian. The content of the course has been extended in terms of topics taught as well as of teaching methods. The hands-on training in anatomy has been increased by 50% and interdisciplinary training has been improved by the organisation of practical works under the supervision of both anatomists and surgeons.

Bio-security has been improved in anatomy and necropsy by re-structuring the Vinci building and by implementing some standard procedures. An agreement with a private dog shelter has been formalised in order to increase the number of companion animals cadavers for dissection and necropsy. The numbers of necropsied food-producing animals has also been increased (the number of ruminants & pigs necropsies/number of students graduating annually being now at the level of the ESEVT recommended minimal value).

The concept of electives in the final years has been revised and it reflects better the omni-competence of vets, preserving at the same time the concept of tracking.

The post-operative care has been moved to another area of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and an Intensive Care Unit for Companion Animals with separate spaces for dogs and cats has recently been organised.

For other suggestions, an on-going process has been initiated by the DVMUB to achieve these

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improvements in the near future. For instance, the learning objectives aiming to achieve the Day One Competences have been better defined and a QA committee has been created in order to review the curriculum on a cyclical basis.

External Practical Trainings for the handling and management of domestic animals have been initiated (on a voluntary basis so far).

An English course has been formally included in the curriculum, an e-learning platform has been developed in order to share some teaching materials.

Job placement meetings have been organised by the Establishment in order to facilitate contacts between final-year students and potential employers.

An internship in Companion Animals has started this year.

An in-house electronic patient record system is being implemented.

### **2.2. Comments**

Although improved since the last Visitation, optimal biosecurity procedures have not been fully implemented yet, especially in the necropsy facilities. A culture of biosecurity needs to be acquired by all teaching and support staff.

The DVMUB has undoubtedly done important efforts to also correct Minor Deficiencies and to implement most critical suggestions proposed by the previous Visitation Team. The DVMUB and the University have to be commended for their desire and efficiency to continuously improve the quality of its veterinary education and research.

### **2.3. Suggestions**

Biosecurity procedures in the necropsy building need to be further improved.

Following the initiation of the internship in Companion Animals, the DVMUB is encouraged to develop residency programmes especially in clinical disciplines, which could contribute to further increase the caseload in the VTH.

### **3. Conclusions**

The Re-visitation Team considers that the Major Deficiency identified during the Visitation done in January 2014 (i.e. 'Lack of strategic objectives') has been fully corrected by the Establishment and therefore recommends to ECOVE the status of Approval for the DVMUB.

## **ANNEX 1 Decision of ECOVE**

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiency identified in 2014 had been rectified.

The 'Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Bari' is classified after Re-visitation as holding the status of: **APPROVAL**.