



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI BARI  
ALDO MORO**

**DIPARTIMENTO DI  
MEDICINA VETERINARIA**

**INTERIM REPORT  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BARI**

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## **PREFACE**

A Team of experts assembled by the European Committee for Veterinary Education (ECOVE) visited the campus of the Department of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Bari between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2014 to carry out an evaluation of the veterinary training provided by the Department in accordance with the current standard operating procedures.

**The expert group was composed of:**

**Visitor on Training in Basic Sciences**

Prof. Patricia Fdz. de Trocóniz Revuelta, Lugo, Spain

**Visitor on Training in Clinical Sciences (Academic)**

Prof. Lars Moe, Oslo, Norway

**Visitor on Training in Clinical Sciences (Practitioner)**

Dr. Bertil Douw, Macroom, Ireland

**Visitor on Training in Animal Production (Chairman)**

Prof. Petr Horin, Brno, Czech Republic

**Visitor on Training in Food Safety**

Prof. Maria Gabriela Veloso, Lisbon, Portugal

**Student Member**

Dr. Veronika Simerdova, Brno, Czech Republic

**EAEVE Programme Coordinator**

Dr. John Williams, Leeds, United Kingdom.

Based on the final report of the Expert Group the ECOVE from the meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2014, in accordance with the EAEVE standards and based on the educational requirements of EC Directive 2005/36, article 38, decided that the status of Department of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) of the University of Bari is **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED**, due to one major deficiency found: Lack of strategic objective.

In order to rectify the major deficiency, the DVM of the University of Bari has undertaken several actions to overcome the deficiency and address the suggestions listed in the present interim report.

## 1. Major Deficiency - Lack of strategic objective

Based on the final decision of the ECOVE after visiting the Department of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) of the University of Bari (Italy) the Council of the Degree in Veterinary Medicine undertook careful analysis and discussion of the concerns raised in order to better define the strategic objectives of the Veterinary Medicine Course. Undergraduate education is established in accordance with the European Directive 2005/36/UE, current national legislation (Ministerial Decree n. 509/1999 and n. 270/2004) and EAEVE recommendations.

In this regard, the Mission, the Visions and the Values of the Veterinary Medicine Course have been redefined in order to meet the requests of the ECOVE, with forward planning for strengthening the processes involved in research and teaching activities.

These goals have been drawn, taking into account the final report by the expert group as well as the most recent data on the future of the veterinary profession in Italy and all of Europe. Strategic objectives focus on the need to adjust veterinary education to meet emerging demands in the job market and to re-define the role of professional services to the community, whilst also promoting a policy of public health protection.

Therefore, the **MISSION** of the Degree is to educate students, make scientific discoveries, and advance in One Health Medicine by acknowledging the interaction between human and animal health, thus benefitting both parties.

This may be achieved using a clear **VISION** by providing i) adequate, ethical, research based veterinary training, in both basic and applied research and innovation in the various subjects of the veterinary science and ii) services to members of the veterinary profession and the community as a whole.

**VALUE.** The strategic plan of the Degree in Veterinary Medicine is designed to assist and direct the course with professionalism in meeting its strategic challenges whilst continuing to aim for excellence. Under this framework, the main values will be i) to strive for continuous quality improvement, both individually and collectively; ii) to apply new concepts, ideas and creative approaches to teaching and research; iii) to promote teamwork, acknowledging the importance of all members of the teaching and administrative staff, technicians, external tutors as well as students; iv) to conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity, always open to racial, cultural and gender diversity and equality.

With these objectives the Council of the Degree in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bari, undertook an analysis of the training programs to identify future goals which need to be objective, clear and shared by all members involved in the training process (i.e., member of the teaching and administrative staff, technicians, external tutors as well as students). Therefore, the Annual Report of Quality Assurance (<http://www.uniba.it/ateneo/presidio-qualita/ava/rdr2014-15/rdr/RDRAnnuale201415MedicinaVeterinaria.pdf>) has already been approved, in January 2015, with the specific aim of identifying the short and medium term actions to undertake, and in the years to come constant improvement in the training offered by the Degree in Veterinary Medicine, University of Bari.

Specifically, the short-term objects to be achieved are:

- ✓ Modification of the study plan of the course with re-distribution of educational activities (lectures, practical classes);
- ✓ Recognition of the abilities, skills and competencies to be achieved by the students, such as specific learning objectives to be recorded in a student logbook;
- ✓ Increase in practical activities and training in the preparation of the basic disciplines;

- ✓ Integration between the basic and characterizing teaching activities.

Medium term objectives to be achieved:

### **Internationalization of the curriculum**

- ✓ Implementation of the student curriculum with a mandatory English language course (B2 level);
- ✓ Enhancement of student and teacher exchange agreements with foreign Academic institutions of Europe (Erasmus, Erasmus Placement and scholarships);
- ✓ Implementation of delivery of some lectures in English.

### **Online training**

- ✓ Implementation of distance learning and online access to educational and training material;
- ✓ Creation of an e-learning platform.

In order to achieve the short term goals the practical activities have been introduced since the first year of the course and the teaching programs have been modified to integrate basic and characterizing sciences. Some of these actions require modification of the study plan, which will be proposed in the SUA CdS 2015.

## **2. Comments and Suggestions**

In addition, several changes have been made to the course of Veterinary Medicine, mainly addressing the minor deficiencies indicated in the ECOVE Final Report (20th May 2014).

### **Insufficient practical, hands-on learning in Anatomy**

Substantial changes have been undertaken in the percentage of the interactive hands-on practice with respect to lectures in subjects such as Anatomy and Pathology.

In particular, based on the suggestions of the Committee, the hours dedicated to hands on-practice in Anatomy have been significantly increased. A 50/50 hour reorganization, instead of 66/33 has been permanently achieved.

Connection and integration between basic and clinical sciences, especially surgery, has been effectively implemented with several practical works done by students in very small groups under the supervision of both the teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

An informal agreement, with a private dog shelter, allows the DVM to be supplied with dog carcasses for anatomy dissection and necropsy teaching.

### **Low caseload of food producing animals for necropsies**

An increase in food producing animal necropsies has been recorded since the EAEVE visit, allowing the achievement of the borderline ratio required by ECOVE. This positive trend has been observed, even in the presence of troubles related to the structural changes, and a temporary unavailability of the necropsy rooms.

Furthermore, following the comments and suggestion made by the Team and the ECOVE, other actions have been oriented toward:

## **Finances**

Although tuition fees cannot be increased by the University, over the last year some funds (26,500€) were sourced for improvement of undergraduate teaching and as a contribution for the Mobil Clinic service.

## **Learning objectives**

Subject programs available to students have been revised with specific learning objectives reformulated in order to improve the abilities, skills and competencies to be achieved and to make these objectives clearer to the students (DOS).

A Quality Assurance (QA) group, involved in permanent internal evaluation of the teaching quality of the Course in Veterinary Medicine, has been formed and its activity is documented in the publication of SUA-CdS document on the University website.

## **Practical work**

Practical work, with hands-on experience focused on approaching and handling animals, has been organized since the first year of course as extra-curriculum activities (on a voluntary basis). This type of activity will be planned within the new curriculum, which will start shortly.

## **English**

An English course has been established, from the first year, up to the achievement of the B2 level by the students.

## **e-learning platform**

The central administration has recently started the development of an e-learning platform. Pending the activation of the e-learning platform, DVM has implemented an own e-system for free sharing and transferring of teaching material (google drive).

## **Physical facilities & equipment**

According to the comments by the expert group, structural changes have been made to the Vinci Pavillion. A wall has been built to separate the Anatomy facilities from the Pathology ones (with exchange of rooms and cold storage) in order to make them completely independent. Both the dissection and necropsy rooms have been equipped with sanitary services. Moreover, Anatomy and Necropsy tools have been purchased to meet adequate working standards.

## **Job Placement**

Several meetings regarding job placement have been successfully organized. Among them the Evil and Jones Recruiting days organized by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA, England) on the 28th of May 2015 received a great deal of attention from a large number of undergraduate and graduate students. The event resulted in a high number of interviews with some people recruited for training with the company.

## **Internship**

A rotating small animal clinical internship program has been established for postgraduate students, starting in January 2016. The internship will last for 1 year and consist of the rotation of the students in the main clinical disciplines: internal medicine (3 months), surgery (3 months), obstetrics (2 months), diagnostic imaging (2 months) and anesthesia and intensive care (2 months). The students will be directly involved in the clinical activities to provide them with advanced training in the basic clinical sciences.

### **Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH)**

The main concerns of the committee regarding the hospital were related to the implementation of a more organized multimedia system for the management of cases and the logistic organization of the small animal emergency, intensive care and hospitalization services. In order to overcome these problems the VTH is experimenting new software for the management of cases, which will allow the clinician and the student to access the clinical case records at anytime from the computers on campus.

A new area of the hospital has been dedicated to the small animal emergency and intensive care services. This area is organized in several rooms (previously there was only one room for the entire service), with the possibility to separate the emergency service from the intensive care and to differentiate the hospitalization area based on the animal species (dogs and cats).