

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF VETERINARY EDUCATION (ECOVE)

RULES OF OPERATION

The European Committee of Veterinary Education (*hereafter named* ECOVE) is an independent entity. ECOVE has been mandated by the parent organisations EAEVE (European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education) and FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe) to act as final arbiter in the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT).

The office of ECOVE operates under the umbrella of EAEVE. The ECOVE office site is the same as the office of the EAEVE, in Vienna, Austria.

The current “Principles and Processes of Evaluation and Accreditation”, and the Manual of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) serve as legal basis for the activities of ECOVE.

Primary tasks of ECOVE

- Approve the Visitation Programmes to Veterinary Educational Establishments for Evaluation and/or for Accreditation.
- Approve the selection of Members and their respective roles in the Visiting Teams.
- Make the final consideration of the Visitation Report, giving full justice to the suggestions made by the Visiting Team, and based thereupon, decide whether “Accreditation” “Conditional Accreditation” or “Non-Accreditation” (or “Approval”, “Conditional Approval”, “Non-Approval” status during the transition period) should be assigned, or any other approval status, as defined in the EAEVE Statutes.

Members of ECOVE

- ECOVE consists of 7 full members; all have to have been expert members of at least 2 on-site visitations of veterinary teaching establishments, by the ESEVT, within the past 5 years before taking office. 4 members will be appointed by the Executive Committee (ExCom) of EAEVE; 3 members will be appointed by the Board of the FVE. While serving on the Committee, members shall not act as team members in any full Visitation, Re-visitations or Consultative Visitations. EAEVE and FVE shall nominate one alternate member each, who will be called upon in case of conflict of interest of a full member. The same rules and restrictions apply to full members and alternate members.
- Members are appointed for a 3-year term by ExCom/EAEVE and Board/FVE and may be re-appointed once.
- The ExCom of EAEVE and the board of FVE should ensure, as far as possible, that their representatives are not of the same nationality or working in the same country.
- Members’ expenses (travel and accommodation) will be paid by their respective Organisations (EAEVE/FVE).

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- The Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson of ECOVE will be elected by its members from among its members. The Chairperson is appointed for a 2-year term and may be re-appointed once. In case of absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson is acting as chair.
- The President of EAEVE and the Director of the ESEVT may attend ECOVE meetings *ex officio* as observers without voting rights. Furthermore, at least one *ex officio* member from FVE should attend ECOVE meetings as observer without voting rights; in case of unavailability, the President of FVE could be replaced by the Director of FVE or any other member on the FVE Board.
- The staff of EAEVE Office will also act as Secretary of ECOVE and will attend meetings *ex officio* without voting rights. S/he will be responsible for arranging meetings, for generating the Minutes and for the correspondence of ECOVE. The draft Minutes of the meetings will be circulated within 2 weeks of the meeting. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Office Manager within a further 2 weeks. The final version shall be adopted via e-mail exchanges no later than 4 weeks after the meeting.

Meetings of ECOVE

- Meetings will be held as frequently as necessary; however, a minimum of 2 meetings shall be held per year.
- The agenda for meetings will be decided by the Chairperson, in liaison with the Director of ESEVT and the Office Manager. Every member can suggest items for inclusion in the agenda consistent with the role of ECOVE. These should be sent to the Secretary of ECOVE no later than 4 weeks before the meeting. The agenda along with all relevant documentation will be sent to all ECOVE members not later than 4 weeks before the meeting.
- ECOVE decisions are taken independently of all external influences and the content of all discussions until reaching decisions shall be confidential.
- Each ECOVE member shall sign a statement of conflict of interest prior to any meeting.
- Where conflicts of interest arise (e.g. in discussions of Visitation Reports with one of the members being a national of the country in which the establishment in question is located or currently working in that country or having worked or studied at the establishment in question for a significant period of time), the member in question may not participate in the evaluation, has no voting rights and shall leave the room. S/he shall be replaced by an alternate member. Alternate members have the right to vote only in the decision of the specific visitation when acting in substitution of a full member with a conflict of interest.
- Decisions concerning the results of Evaluations and Accreditations are based uniquely on the suggestions made by the Visiting Team in the Visitation Report, the Self Evaluation Report and on the verbal report given by the Chairperson and/or Coordinator of the Visiting Team. Decisions should preferably be unanimous. Should voting be necessary, each full member has one vote. A simple majority prevails and the Chairperson has a casting vote.
- ECOVE decisions shall be communicated to interested parties by the Chairperson of ECOVE, the Director of ESEVT and/or the staff of EAEVE Office.



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ECOVE's Rules of Operation and general activities shall be published in the "public section" of the EAEVE Website (www.eave.org).

Tracking system

ECOVE Rules of Operation

	Prepared by:	Reviewed by:	Approved by:
Name:	President of EAEVE	Director of ESEVT EAEVE ExCom	EAEVE ExCom FVE Board
Date:	October 2015		On 18/11/2015

Revision Nr.	Prepared by:	Date:	Approved by:	Date:
1	EAEVE Office	19/06/2017	ExCom (via email) FVE Board	July 2017 15 December 2017
2	EAEVE Office	14/05/2020	ExCom	June 2020
3			FVE Board	June 2020
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