

**Approval of the Application**  
**by European Association of Establishments for Veterinary**  
**Education (EAEVE)**  
**for Renewal of Inclusion on the Register**

**Register Committee**  
2023-10-13

Ref. RC40/A127  
 Ver. 1.0  
 Date 2023-10-19  
 Page 1 / 6

<b>Application of:</b>	2022-02-14		
<b>Agency registered since:</b>	2018-04-01		
<b>Type of review:</b>	Full	<b>Site visit:</b>	2023-12-16
<b>External review report of:</b>	2023-04-19	<b>Submitted:</b>	2023-04-26
<b>Review coordinated by:</b>	European Association for Quality Assurance of Higher Education (ENQA)		
<b>Review panel members:</b>	Andrea Nolan, Aurelija Valeikienė, Francisco Joaquin Jimenez Gonzalez, Mark Frederiks,		
<b>Decision of:</b>	2023-10-13		
<b>Registration until:</b>	2028-04-30		
<b>Absented themselves from decision-making:</b>	n/a		
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">External Review Report</a> (as external file), 2023-04-19</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Minuted document of clarification call with EAEVE</a>, 2023-07-18</li> <li>3. <a href="#">ESEVT Visitation Programme: Consultative Visitations completed between 2018/06/13 – 2023/07/13</a>, 2023-07-17</li> </ol>		

1. The application of 2022-02-14 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee confirmed eligibility of the application on 2022-03-17.
3. The Register Committee considered the external review report of 2023-04-19 on the compliance of EAEVE with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015 version).
4. The Register Committee invited EAEVE to provide further clarification on 2023-07-17. The Register Committee considered EAEVE's clarification on 2023-10-13.

## 5. Analysis:

6. In considering EAEVE's compliance with the ESG, the Register Committee took into account the following activities undertaken by EAEVE:

- The Standard Operating Procedure from 2016 (SOP 2016)
- The Standard Operating Procedure from 2019 (SOP 2019) and
- The Standard Operating Procedure from 2023 (SOP 2023).

7. The Committee noted that EAEVE could perform Joint visitations in the context of the International Accreditors Working Group (IAWG) and on a bilateral basis, and these evaluations are performed following the Standard operating procedures. The Committee further noted that the last Joint Visitation was performed in 2018 under the former SOP and there are no Joint Visitations planned in the near future.

8. In the clarification call, EAEVE explained that the Standard operating procedure contains 4 phases (Preliminary Visitation, Full Visitation, Re-Visitation and the Interim Report); the steps are perceived to be part of an integrated process rather than being procedures on their own. The Committee followed this rationale when following the panel's earlier judgment of compliance with standardS ESG 2.2, ESG 2.3, ESG 2.4, ESG 2.6 and ESG 2.7.

9. The Register Committee learned that after the clarification call in July 2023, EAEVE adopted a new Standards and Procedures (i.e. SOP 2023). EAEVE submitted additional clarification on the new changes in relation to ESG Part 2 which has been documented in the minuted document of 2023-07-18. The Committee understood that the new SOP does not introduce any changes in the content of the methodologies, but only further specifies the timeframes and deadlines.

10. The Register Committee further underlined that EAEVE is expected to submit a substantive change report, once the prescriptions from the new SOP are operationalised in practice (i.e. once the first cycle of reviews following the new SOP is completed), should the new SOP 2023 alter, in any way, the content of the reviews in comparison with the reviews undertaken following the SOP 2016 and SOP 2019.

11. The Register Committee found that the report provides sufficient evidence and analysis on EAEVE's level of compliance with the ESG.

12. With regard to the specific European Standards, the Register Committee considered the following:

### ESG 2.1 – Consideration of internal quality assurance

13. EAEVE was found to be partially compliant with the standard when registered on EQAR in 2017, due to the inefficient coverage of all standards of the Part 1 of the ESG in agency's criteria (i.e. the SOP 2016). The Committee found that the ESG 2015 were not fully incorporated but were

Register Committee  
2023-10-13

Ref. RC40/A127  
Ver. 1.0  
Date 2023-10-19  
Page 2 / 6

rather only technically “added on” to the SOP standards, creating overlap and omissions.

14. Since the time of the last review, EAEVE has adopted new standards for evaluation (i.e. the SOP 2019, and most recently 2023). Through a mapping exercise, the panel concluded that the version of SOP 2019 tackles the requirements of the Part 1 of the ESG, with exception of standard ESG 1.4, which is only partially covered

15. **While the Committee noted that EAEVE has improved the coverage of the ESG Part 1 in their criteria it, however, highlighted the panel’s recommendation that EAEVE should explicitly include all the aspects prescribed with the ESG 1.4 in their methodologies.** Given that SOP 2023 follows the same criteria as SOP 2019, the Committee had no further concerns and could follow the panel’s conclusion of compliance with standard 2.1.

**Register Committee**  
2023-10-13

**Ref.** RC40/A127  
**Ver.** 1.0  
**Date** 2023-10-19  
**Page** 3 / 6

## ESG 2.5 – Criteria for outcomes

16. The panel described that at the time of the review, both sets of standards (i.e. the SOP 2016 and the SOP 2019) were considered as valid. In addition, by the time of the review the SOP 2019 had been amended twice – the original and the two amended versions were considered valid too. From the report, the Committee learned that the institutions can choose the SOP according to which the review will be made (especially in cases when significant time has passed since the contract for review has been signed). This results in reviews using (slightly) different sets of criteria, leading to differences in reports as well.

17. The Register Committee understood that the current set up brings confusion not only for the higher education institutions, but also for the agency itself. The Committee found that agency’s criteria are not always applied consistently in the reviews and this leads to different standards being covered in the reports. During the clarification call, the agency explained that the SOP 2023 will be stabile - only reviewed and amended after 3 years again.

18. **The Committee welcomed these changes but found that the agency still enables usage of different SOPs – a practice that can lead to different outcomes and inconsistencies in the conclusions of its reports. This is especially problematic considering the regulatory function of the agency’s reviews for veterinary education. Following this, the Committee could not agree with panel’s judgement and found the agency to be partially compliant with the standard.**

## ESG 2.6 – Reporting

19. When registered on EQAR, EAEVE has been found to be partially compliant with the standard as it didn’t publish the reports from the consultative visits – a phase of the evaluation process of obligatory nature for higher education institutions outside of Europe.

20. In December 2020, EAEVE has updated its procedures and the Consultative Visits (now referred to as “Preliminary Visitations”) are now also obligatory for higher education institutions based in Europe and undergoing a review with the agency for the first time. An explicit clause was introduced in the SOP 2019 requiring that these reports are also made public.

21. In its last decision, the Committee concluded that the reports from the Consultative Visits can be published once all the phases of the review are concluded. At the time of the review, the panel could not find any such reports published due to two reasons – the number of procedures involving a preliminary visit in the past years was very low and for the procedures that did involve this step, the full review cycle has not been completed yet.

22. While the Register Committee welcomed the recent changes of the standards, it could not verify whether EAEVE’s practice of publishing reports from the Preliminary Visitations. Following this, the Committee addressed the agency and inquired further evidence of the new approach.

23. EAEVE clarified that since the requirement for publication of the reports of the preliminary visitations was introduced, the agency undertook six such reviews. So far, only one of the institutions is undergoing a Full Visitation (i.e. there are no fully completed reviews so far); hence the implementation of the new approach cannot yet be demonstrated in practice.

**24. The Register Committee welcomed the new amendments. Though the practical implementation is still not in place as no (full) procedures are completed, the Committee found the developments promising and found the agency compliant with the standard. The Committee, however, underlined that the agency should inform EQAR once the reports from the first Preliminary Visits’ reports are published on its website. Should this not be the case, the next (targeted) review will include a request that the external review also evaluate the compliance status of the standard in the analysis.**

### **ESG 3.1 – Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance**

25. EAEVE’s structure involves two decision making bodies – one on the matters related to governance and strategic planning (i.e the ExCom) and another one on accreditations (i.e. the ECOVE). None of these two bodies had a student member at the time of the review. Furthermore, ECOVE is solely consisted by academics and does not include any other stakeholder group.

26. In the panel’s view, the ESG 3.1 calls for stakeholders’ involvement, but does not specify the groups, leaving the standard to a broad interpretation. The Committee could not share this view, as both the ESG (pg. 6) and EQAR’s Use and Interpretations of the ESG (pg. 14) define the stakeholders as “all actors within an institution, including students and staff, as well as external stakeholders such as employers and external partners of an institution”.

27. In its last decision, the Committee found the agency to be compliant with the standard, even though it didn’t involve students (and other stakeholders)

in its governance. At that point, the Committee recognised the efforts of the relatively new agency, to engage student members in a short amount of time and was of belief that EAEVE will expand the stakeholder involvement.

28. In the clarification call, EAEVE explained that the efforts did not lead to positive outcome as for the students taking part in such processes, this could be a time-consuming endeavour. The agency further explained that currently, again, it is in a process of discussing the options of including students in its governance structure with a domain specific student association.

29. The Committee was displeased to learn that EAEVE has not involved students and other stakeholders in the decision-making bodies since its registration on EQAR in 2017. While the Committee understood that involving students from a narrow scientific field in the work of the agency could be a challenging task, it found that EAEVE could have found alternatives since its registration (e.g. establish stronger ties with stakeholders associations and or/create incentives for motivating other stakeholders to participate in the work of the agency, expand the involvement of students from closely related scientific fields etc.). **The Committee found that the agency’s involvement of stakeholders, including students, in its governance and work is insufficient. Following this, the Committee could not concur with the panel’s conclusion, but found the agency to comply only partially with the standard 3.1.**

30. For the remaining standards, the Register Committee was able to concur with the review panel's analysis and conclusion without further comments.

### Conclusion:

31. Based on the external review report and the considerations above, the Register Committee concluded that EAEVE demonstrated compliance with the ESG (Parts 2 and 3) as follows:

Standard	Previous decision (2018-06-13)	Review panel conclusion	Register Committee conclusion
2.1	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.2	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.3	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.4	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.5	Partial compliance	Compliance	Partial compliance
2.6	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.7	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.1	Compliance	Compliance	Partial compliance
3.2	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance

3.3	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.4	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.5	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.6	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.7	Compliance	(not expected)	Compliance (by virtue of applying)

**Register Committee**  
2023-10-13

**Ref.** RC40/A127  
**Ver.** 1.0  
**Date** 2023-10-19  
**Page** 6 / 6

32. The Register Committee considered that EAEVE only achieved partial compliance with some standards. In its holistic judgement, the Register Committee concluded that these are specific and limited issues, but that EAEVE continues to comply substantially with the ESG as a whole.

33. The Register Committee therefore approved the application for renewal of EAEVE’s inclusion on the Register. EAEVE's renewed inclusion shall be valid until 2028-04-30<sup>1</sup>.

34. The Register Committee further underlined that EAEVE is expected to address the issues mentioned appropriately and to resolve them at the earliest opportunity.

---

<sup>1</sup> Inclusion is valid for five years from the date of the external review report, see §4.1 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.

# Application by EAEVE for Renewal of Registration

Register Committee

## Clarification provided by the EAEVE

**Ref.** A127  
**Date** 2023-07-19  
**Page** 1 / 2

<b>Date of the conversation:</b>	2023-07-18
<b>Agency representatives:</b>	Stephane Martinot Philip Duffus Zsuzsanna Nagy
<b>Representative of EQAR:</b>	Aleksandra Zhivkovikj

1. EAEVE submitted on 2022-02-14 an application for renewal of registration on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). On 2023-04-26, EAEVE submitted the external review panel's report of 2023-04-19.
2. In order to prepare the deliberations of the Register Committee on EAEVE' compliance with the ESG, EQAR contacted EAEVE to clarify the matter(s) below.
3. In regard to the Standard operating procedure (further: SOP):
  - The agency perceives the 4 stages (Preliminary Visitation, Full Visitation, Re-visitation and the Interim Report) as part of one integrated process
  - The Preliminary visitation is now more integrated in the procedure and is seen as integral part of it. It is performed by 2 panel members checking whether the institution is ready to undergo though a robust external review. The check is done following the same standards used in the full visitation. The check is not too detailed as in the full visitation.
  - The Re- visitation also includes a panel, usually consisted by 2 members. The re – visitation involves a site visit at which the panel performs interviews and collects further evidence on the improvements made to address the remarks made in the report of the full visitation.
  - In July 2023, EAEVE has introduced new Standards and Procedures (further SOP 2023). The new document mainly clarifies definitions and timelines – there has been no changes in the evaluation criteria.
4. In regard to **ESG 2.3 – Implementing processes**
  - Since the SOP is frequently updated, it could happen that different versions of the document are valid at the time of the signing the

agreement for review with the institution and the (Preliminary or) full visitation. The institution can choose which version of the SOP to be applied in the review.

- The same SOP must be applied to all 4 stages once the process starts.
- Since 2021, the Full Visitation must be completed within a 3-year period after the completion of the Preliminary Visitation for all candidate institutions seeking membership of EAEVE.
- Twelve months before the intended Full Visitation at the latest, an official Full Visitation Agreement must be signed by the VEE (SOP 2023, SOP2019, SOP2016, SOP2012).
- The Re-Visitation phase, aimed at institutions whose reviews noted major deficiencies, must be performed two years after the previous (Full) Visitation at the latest.
- In order to provide clearer procedures and more consistency in the decision making, the agency plans to only revise and amend the new SOP (2023) after 3 years..

**Register Committee**

**Ref.** A127  
**Date** 2023-07-19  
**Page** 2 / 2

#### **5. In regard to ESG 2.4 – Peer-review experts**

- While the agency considered the inclusion of students in the panels valuable, it highlighted that the students felt that participation in the agency's activities could be time-consuming.
- The agency is currently developing ideas with the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA) regarding bigger student involvement in the agency's work (also see ESG 3.1). One of the areas of potential collaboration is establishing a larger pool of student reviewers.

#### **6. In regard to ESG 2.6 – Reporting**

- Since the agency introduced an amendment requiring publishing of the reports of the preliminary visitations in December 2020, it implemented 6 visits of such kind (see the list attached at the end of the document). So far, only one of them (i.e. of an institution based in Surrey, UK) is undergoing a full visitation.

#### **7. In regard to ESG 3.1 – Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance**

- The agency is currently developing ideas with the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA) regarding including a student member in the ExCom and ECOVE.



## ESEVT Visitation Programme

Consultative Visitations completed between 2018.06.13 – 2023.07.13

Stavropol (Russia)	CV	2018 September 10-14
Ufa (Russia)	CV	2018 October 01-05
Bila Tserkva (Ukraine)	CV	2018 November 26-30
	FV	2021 October 04-08
Bangkok (Thailand)	CV	2019 June 24-28
Ljubljana (Slovenia)	CV	2019 October 21-24
	FV	2021 June 07-11
Rakuno Gakuen (Japan)	CV	2019 October 28-31
Vitebsk (Belarus)	CV	2021 March 22-26
Surrey (UK)	CV	2021 October 11-14
	FV	2024 February 19-23 – to be completed
Sao Paulo (Brazil)	CV	2021 November 15-19
Irbid (Jordan)	CV	2021 November 29 – December 03
Cairo (Egypt)	CV	2022 May 16-20
Bogor (Indonesia)	CV	2022 September 05-09
----- CVs are no longer carried out -----		
Valencia UCV (Spain)	PV	2023 May 08-12

Consultative Visitation (CV)

Preliminary Visitation (PV)

Full Visitation (FV)