



European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT) Update on activities

European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT) met on 24 September 2013, at the FVE office in Brussels. Under the chairmanship of Prof. Stephen May, all members of the Committee followed up the ongoing items in the agenda and additionally agreed on the list of activities for the next year.

The member-organisations of ECCVT, having recognised the importance of communication for raising awareness of policy makers and relevant stakeholders about the role and work of ECCVT, decided to put more emphasis on activities which will increase visibility of the Committee and its goals.

Extended part of the discussion was dedicated to the development of a new framework to improve the quality of the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT). EAEVE with the support of the other two member-organisations (FVE and EBVS) will develop the necessary tools, which will help the experts, involved in the assessment of the quality of veterinary education, to better perform and deliver optimum results during the visitation process of the faculties.

Laszlo Fodor on behalf of EAEVE updated the members on the latest developments with respect to the EAEVE's efforts to become an Associate Member of ENQA¹. Following the EAEVE evaluation by ENQA in June, the first draft report has been received. After the necessary clarifications on behalf of the profession, ENQA final response is expected by late autumn. It is worth saying that while ENQA put much emphasis on the quality assurance of academic education, all ECCVT members advocate also the fundamental importance for the veterinary profession of the quality assurance of practical education, along with the compliance with the European legislative framework.

An important agenda item, was the progress in the work of VETCEE² project. The VETCEE pilot programme on companion animals, which tests the functional and financial sustainability of the project, is running the final phase. The outcome will be presented to all the ECCVT member-organisations, which will have to decide the way that VETCEE objectives will be achieved in practice and ensure the quality of life-long learning for veterinarians.

A new item, related to the education and training of the veterinarians working in lab-animal medicine, is introduced in the ECCVT agenda for the next year. Following the publication of the Dir. 2010/63, where it is clearly stated that the designated veterinarian has to be involved in all the research facilities, ECCVT looks closely on how appropriate undergraduate and post-graduate education in lab-animal medicine could be ensured. As a first step, ECCVT will try to gain information on the teaching of lab-animal medicine in the undergraduate education in Europe. For this purpose EAEVE will soon launch a survey among European faculties, with a view to collect data that will enable veterinary profession to provide valuable input on the qualification of graduates to efficiently perform the role of the designated veterinarian (junior level).

On the occasion of this survey, EAEVE will also seek information on teaching of two additional subjects in the undergraduate veterinary curriculum in Europe; aquatic animal health and bee health.

With reference to the expected publication of the Professional Qualifications Directive, ECCVT will continue to follow its implementation in practice and evaluate those results in the coming years.

Finally, ECCVT members discussed about the work of the EU Commission's group on the European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy (ESCO) and indicated that they would like to see more progress in that exercise in the future.

- ECCVT Action Plan 2014**
- ***ECCVT Communication***
 - ***EAEVE membership of ENQA***
 - ***ESEVT***
 - ***VETCEE***
 - ***Education and training in Lab-animal medicine***
 - ***PQD & ESCO***

¹ European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

² Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe