

Veterinary Education Establishments in Europe

Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs) have a key role in our society. They prepare the future veterinarians, who will have to deliver quality veterinary services and ensure health and welfare of animals as well as public health in Europe.

In order to assure this Public Good, the European veterinary profession and the VEEs in Europe have agreed minimum standards that must be achieved by existing VEEs and any new ones, which are incorporated into the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT).

The accreditation of each VEE according to the ESEVT Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) after their visitation ensures the level of providing education and training throughout Europe.

The veterinary profession's core competences include the protection of animal health, animal welfare and public health. Many issues, such as the prevention and control of animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted to people, food safety, fighting antimicrobial resistance, and safe interactions with companion animals, hinge on the involvement of well-trained veterinarians. This Public Good means that it is of particular importance that all veterinarians in the European Union (EU) are well trained by a Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) that ensures at least the minimum level of training that has been agreed by both the European veterinary profession (represented by the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe (FVE)) and the European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE).

This is implemented by the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT) which guarantees that the European VEEs are compliant with the EU Directives and that its graduates acquire the relevant knowledge, skills and competences (i.e. Day One competences) required for the entry-level of a veterinarian¹.

ESEVT evaluates VEEs against internationally-recognised Standards to ensure that they are well managed, have adequate financing and appropriate resources (staff, buildings, equipment, patients' caseload), provide up-to-date professional curriculum, and operate a fair and reliable Quality Assurance System.

More precisely, Each VEE must be compliant with all eleven Standards (and 90 sub-Standards), i.e. Objectives and Organisation, Finances, Curriculum, Facilities and equipment, Animal resources and teaching material of animal origin, Learning resources, Student

¹ [ECCVT Statement on Day One Competences & Annex V of Directive 2013/55](#)

admission, progression and welfare, Student assessment, Academic and support staff, Research programmes, continuing and postgraduate education, and Outcome Assessment and Quality Assurance.

These Standards and the procedure for evaluating the compliance of a VEE against them are described in depth in the ESEVT SOP² which is available on the EAEVE website.

ESEVT is based on the above core principles. ESEVT SOP presents a concrete framework that all European VEEs should follow to ensure quality, up-to-date and science-based teaching in Europe.

The importance of the ESEVT in protecting the health of the citizens of Europe and their animals is demonstrated by the number of VEEs that strive to meet the requirements and go through the ESEVT evaluation, which increases year by year².

Employers and individuals wanting to reassure themselves of the quality of veterinary graduates with whom they may be dealing can seek reassurance on their degree standard and the accreditation status of their VEE on the EAEVE website³.

² [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\) as approved at the Uppsala General Assembly, 12 May 2016](#)

³ [EAEVE Member Establishments' Status](#)