

## INTERIM REPORT 2018

Edited by

The Head of the Establishment Prof. Domenico Cerri

Contributors

The person responsible for the veterinary curriculum  
and 13 teaching staff: 6 involved in Basic Sciences; 4 involved in Clinical Sciences; 2 involve in  
Animal Production; 1 involved in Food Safety and Quality

### Preface

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Pisa was evaluated by EAEVE between November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. ECOVE pointed out two unrelated Category I Deficiency (facilities for ruminants and teaching in bovine medicine; lack of mobile clinic for farm animals) and several minor deficiencies whereby decision was: NON-APPROVAL. In 2012 (1st – 2nd February 2012), after a revisit, it was concluded that Category I Deficiencies were amended and large improvements of other minor deficiencies were observed. The decision by ECOVE following this last visit was: FULL-APPROVAL.

### Name and details of the current Establishment's Head

From the last EAEVE Visitation, the full governance of Italian University Institution was revolutionised by the Italian Law 30 December 2010, n. 240.

Since September 2012, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and its three original Departments (Department of Veterinary Clinics; Department of Animal Production, Department of Animal Pathology, Prophylaxis and Food Hygiene) merged into a single Establishment, the Department of Veterinary Sciences (DVS) of the University of Pisa. Since November 2016 Prof. Domenico Cerri is the Head of Department.

Also, the Italian Law 30 December 2010, n. 240 introduced two assistant professor figures: type A - junior (three year term position) and type B – senior (three year tenure track position). Type B assistant professors will become permanent associate professor after obtaining a National scientific qualification and a positive evaluation from the Department.

In March 2019, ANVUR (National Agency for Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes) will evaluate our DVM program. As an independent agency, ANVUR has developed its own assessment criteria, methodologies and procedures, in strict adherence to Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

### Any major changes, which may affect the compliance to the ESEVT Standards since the previous SER

#### *Standard 1: Objectives and Organisation*

- Development of a Mission Statement and a 2018-2022 Strategic Plan of the Establishment, which includes a SWOT analysis.
- New organizational structures: a Steering Committee, strengthening the interaction between the Establishment and stakeholders; a Planning Committee, facilitating decision-making processes concerning the human, economic and structural resources of the Establishment.

## *Standard 3: Curriculum*

- Revision of teaching programs, available in advance for students, where specific learning objectives, abilities, skills and competencies to be achieved are clearly stated.
- Introduction of the annual monitoring report and of the five years self-evaluation report. Both documents include self-evaluation of quantitative indicators on student careers, attractiveness, internationalization, employability of graduates, quantity and qualification of the teaching staff, satisfaction of graduates. The process helps in adjusting teaching objectives in relation to the current needs of the veterinary profession.

## *Standard 4: Facilities and equipment*

- The Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) is open 24/7 all year round.
- Introduction of new equipment in the VTH: dialysis, 16 slices CT-scan, land-treadmill for horses. Most of the previously existing instruments (e.g.: anaesthesia, ultrasound and x-ray machines) have been substituted or supported by new purchases.
- High increase of contracts for veterinary clinicians, covering different subjects (e.g.: small and large animal emergency and critical care, large animal internal medicine and surgery, small animal cardiology, small and large animal ophthalmology, diagnostic imaging, anaesthesia, equine reproduction, dermatology, behavioural medicine).
- Better link between the University farm and the Establishment: the vice-head of the farm is a professor of the Establishment; University farm management linked to the training activity of the DVM program.

## *Standard 6: Learning resources*

- Development of a self-learning safety course.
- Introduction of the Moodle e-learning platform.

## *Standard 8: Student assessment*

- All students must evaluate teachers and the quality of facilities before taking the exams. Results are analysed by an Educational Committee formed by an equal number of students and professors.

## *Standard 10: Research programmes, continuing and postgraduate education*

- Increased number of postdoctoral and PhD positions also supported by independent funding.
- Development of a general research strategy.
- Introduction of a Research Committee promoting paths and actions to improve research and the third mission activity.

## *Standard 11: Outcome Assessment and Quality Assurance*

- A Quality Assurance (QA) Unit, involved in permanent internal assessment of the teaching quality of the DVM, has been formed and its activity is presented in the SUA-CdS document.
- Some laboratories of the Establishment have been certified UNI EN ISO 9001:2015.

**In addition, several changes have been made to address the minor deficiencies indicated in the ECOVE Final Report (1-2 February 2012)**

*Suggestion 1: Despite improvements in the hands-on practice, the case flow is not really high*

Practical work, with hands-on experience focused on approaching and handling animals, has been organized. Proportions between theory and practice and between direct teaching and self-learning has been improved. The proportions between basic, preclinical and clinical subjects have been optimized, although necessarily within the limits and in accord with the National system.

*Suggestion 2: Clinical research could still better develop*

The Strategic Plan 2018-2020, also refers to research, plans to improve: the development of internal communication and sharing of research results and collaboration, strengthening of research facilities (laboratories), internationalization of research activities, through the strengthening of links and the mobility of researchers.

*Suggestion 3: Reduction of the number of students that will contribute to the quality of practical teaching, especially in the clinics.*

In recent years, the number of enrolled students has been reduced by the Ministry of Education, Universities & Research (MIUR) in all the Italian Veterinary establishments. This allowed to reduce the number of students involved in groups performing clinical practical activities.

*Suggestion 4: Optimization of Stage 3 Project at San Piero a Grado in terms of better logistics and biosecurity.*

The structures for animal isolation were built (for dogs, cats, horses, cattle, pigs). The Standard Operating Procedures for isolation will be approved by the end of 2018. A strengthening of public services (greater number of bus routes) has been ensured to ameliorate the movement of students and teaching and support staff to San Piero a Grado.

### **Plans for the near future**

- Innovation techniques in practical activities to reduce the costs and improve the animal welfare in these activities (innovative training methods – video tutorial, use of phantoms);
- Completing, the planned Stage 3 of moving to San Piero a Grado (see the decision n. 194/2017 of the University which allocates resources for the period 2017-2019);
- Greater attention paid to the topic of “One Health, One Medicine” inside the veterinary course;
- Strengthening the internationalization: increasing the potential for exchanges at European and extra-European level and implementation of some lectures in English;
- Purchase of new minibuses to bring students during the visits to cattle, small ruminant and pig herds or to poultry and farmed rabbit units.

**Expected date of the next Visitation: march 2022**

### **Appendix: Updated ESEVT Indicators**