

**European Association  
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**

**Association Européenne  
des Etablissements d'Enseignement Vétérinaire**



**RE-VISITATION REPORT**

**on the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Re-Visitation to UVMP in Kosice**

**On 26-28 September 2016**

By the Re-visitiation Team:

**CHAMBON Thierry (France): Chairperson**

**RUOHONIEMI Mirja (Finland): Stage 2 Expert**

**DUFFUS Philip (UK): ESEVT Coordinator**

## **Introduction**

The University of Veterinary Medicine in Košice (UVMP) was founded in 1949 and is the only veterinary education establishment in the Slovak Republic.

The Establishment was visited by EAEVE in October 2015 for both a Stage 1 as well as a Stage 2 evaluation.

## **STAGE 1**

Following the report from the expert team there was a decision from ECOVE for **Non Approval for Stage 1** due to three major deficiencies:

- 1. Inadequate equine isolation unit*
- 2. Lack of mandatory clinical rotations for emergency and out-of-hours services*
- 3. Insufficient (computerised) clinical records and insufficient involvement of undergraduate students in the completion of these clinical records, particularly but not exclusively for those on the English-speaking programme.*

## **STAGE 2**

For Stage 2 the evaluations of the AP sections proposed by the experts during the 2015 visitation were:

- AP1: non satisfactory*  
*AP2: less satisfactory*  
*AP3 to AP12: satisfactory*

Following this report, ECOVE classified UVMP as holding the status of: **Conditional Accreditation** due to the following major deficiency:

*With the principal suggestion for improvement, in order to be in agreement with the EAEVE SOP and European framework for QA in Higher education, to consist of the implementation of formal procedures that must include the complete quality loop (PDCA).*

Prior to the visit the Re-visitation Self Evaluation Report (Interim Report) was sent on time to the Re-visitation Team and provided all the relevant information for Stage 1, whilst for Stage 2 additional information was requested to be provided during the re-visit.

The Re-visitation programme itself was well prepared and well organised by the Establishment. It was performed in agreement with the ESEVT 2012 (Budapest) SOP.

## **STAGE 1**

### **1. Correction of the Major Deficiency: Inadequate equine isolation unit**

#### **1.1. Findings**

The establishment has created a new isolation unit for horses within the pre-existing isolation facilities for other species, such as ruminants, pigs, dogs and cats. This new equine isolation unit consists of two boxes independent of each other with separate access for both animals and staff, utilizing a discrete and well fenced separate area. The boxes have been designed with an adequate sloping floor and drainage leading to a separate covered cesspool. The manure and bedding from each stable is stored in a separate closable container. Both liquid and solid waste is then collected by an outside contractor for destructive disposal.

For staff and/or students accessing the facility through a separate entrance there are washing and changing facilities with disposable clothing.

#### **1.2. Comments**

During the Re-visitation, the overall director of the Clinical Facilities and Head of the Equine Hospital provided the visitors with a detailed presentation and explanation of the facility.

#### **1.3. Suggestions**

The visitors would encourage the Establishment to further develop the showering facility and to improve the colour barrier coding on the floor of the access corridors.

#### **1.4. Decision of the Re-visitation Team**

The Major Deficiency of an **Inadequate equine isolation unit** has now been fully corrected.

### **2. Correction of the Major Deficiency: Lack of mandatory clinical rotations for emergency and out-of-hours services**

#### **2.1. Findings**

The Establishment has developed a revised system of teaching clinical subjects based on the clinical rotations for emergency and out-of-hours services. All students are now divided into four groups of students for each course (Slovakian and English) and then further divided within the clinics for ruminants, swine, horses and small animals. This is on a mandatory basis covering 24/24 and 7/7 call duties.

The visitors spoke to several students on an ad hoc basis confirming that this newly established system of rotations is working effectively.

## **2.2. Comments**

Both teachers and students have accepted this innovative system as a real improvement

## **2.3. Suggestions**

None

## **2.4 Decision of the Re-visitation Team**

The Major Deficiency of a **Lack of mandatory clinical rotations for emergency and out-of-hours services** has now been fully corrected.

## **3. Correction of the Major Deficiency: Insufficient (computerised) clinical records (especially in English) and insufficient involvement of undergraduate students in the completion of these records**

### **3.1. Findings**

A computerised clinical record system utilizing the software programme ProVet has been introduced within all university clinics, including those for swine and ruminants where previously only written records were available. The ProVet system consists of two separate servers, one for the clinicians and one for the students (ProVet-Edu). The programme is available in both Slovak and English versions. There are now an increased number of computer terminals allowing students considerable access to the ProVet system. The students are not only involved in the completion of clinical records, they are able to work independently within the system utilizing ProVet-Edu.

### **3.2. Comments**

The ProVet computerised record system has a very user-friendly interface and is one that should allow future developments.

### **3.3. Suggestions**

This newly installed system should now allow, once sufficient records are available, for some meaningful analysis of clinical work.

### **3.4. Decision of the Re-visitation Team**

The Major Deficiency of a **Insufficient (computerised) clinical records (especially in English) and insufficient involvement of undergraduate students in the completion of these records** has now been fully corrected.

#### **4. Correction of the Minor Deficiencies**

As described within the RSER (Interim Report) and then observed on site by the visiting team, several of the suggestions for improvement documented by the previous Visitation Team have now been implemented. These include:

1. A cooling trailer for storage of large animal cadavers
2. A system of posters with instructions about cleaning, disinfection or biosecurity measures displayed in places that previously lacked such instructions.
3. An e-learning team has been established with the objective to extend e-learning activities through the MOODLE platform.
4. To optimize their communication abilities, Slovak language will become a compulsory subject for foreign students from the academic year 2016/2017.
5. In order to improve communication of foreign students with technicians, English language courses for technical staff have been running since April 2016.

#### **5. Conclusion of the Re-visitation Team**

The Re-visitation Team considers that the Major Deficiencies identified during the Visitation undertaken during October 2015 have now been fully corrected by the Establishment and therefore recommends to ECOVE the status of Approval for the UVMP.

## **STAGE 2**

**1. Correction of the Major Deficiency: With the principal suggestion for improvement, in order to be in agreement with the EAEVE SOP and European framework for QA in Higher education, to consist of the implementation of formal procedures that must include the complete quality loop (PDCA).**

### **1.1 Findings**

An entire day was set aside for the Visitation team to consider the improvements that had been implemented since the Visitation undertaken in October 2015. The team firstly meet up with the different groups involved with the QA process, including meeting and hearing from several students who have been active in the QA process at UVMP.

In addition, the team was shown a series of documents covering all aspects of QA in UVMP.

There was no doubt in the team's view that most of such QA processes had already been in place for several years at UVMP, but due to a lack of shared understanding of QA much of this work was not presented or had not been clarified to the Visitation team in October 2015.

Nevertheless, UVMP has taken the 2015 evaluation results seriously and has shown a serious commitment towards making their QA processes both clear and explicit.

The QA organisation and the role of the overriding QA Committee has been clarified. The Internal Regulation No 57 has been amended to reflect this.

The visiting team were given evidence, both verbal and written, that the PDCA cycle has been included in the long-term strategic planning up to 2023.

The team were also shown clear evidence that the PDCA cycle has been effectively included in both short-term academic and daily activities.

## **1.2 Comments**

The visitation team were especially impressed with the ability of academic staff, students and key support staff to fully work together to both improve and then showcase the QA processes at UVMP.

## **1.3 Suggestions**

There remain a number of the initial 2015 suggestions that remain in progress and still need to be followed up. For example, these include improving the response rate of student feedback questionnaires, complementing course aims with students' learning outcomes and checking students' actual workload in relation to the ECTS credits.

## **1.4 Correction of the Minor Deficiencies**

There was also evidence that a number of the suggestions of the 2015 team have been taken into account such as:

1. The number of students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, in the QA committee has been increased
2. Student support has been improved and attention has been paid in helping students to proceed in their studies. New positions of class supervisors have been established during the first year of study
3. As mentioned above, Slovak language courses for foreign students and English language course for support staff have been organised
4. As also mentioned above, an e-learning strategy has been adopted.

## **1.5 Conclusion of the Re-visitation Team**

The Major Deficiency of **the principal suggestion for improvement, in order to be in agreement with the EAEVE SOP and European framework for QA in Higher education, to consist of the implementation of formal procedures that must include the complete quality loop (PDCA)** has now been sufficiently corrected. Therefore the recommendation to ECOVE, given the status of Approval for Stage 1, is Accreditation for UVMP.

**Annex 1    Decision of ECOVE**

The Committee concluded that the Major Deficiencies identified in 2015 had been rectified.

The 'University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice' is classified after Re-visitiation as holding the status of **APPROVAL and ACCREDITATION**.