

Conclusion

This work gives an instant overview of the situation in the different countries studied. Training policy is always a complex matter in any country. It is often impossible to compare training systems because as soon as it comes to details, there are too many distinctives from country to country for simple conclusions to be drawn. The emergence of occupations such as veterinary assistant and the training for these are the fruit of complicated processes, which often depend on several factors, particularly the organisation of the profession and veterinary teaching, relevant government and ministerial decisions, national regulations with respect to the practice of veterinary medicine and labour legislation. However our FOCUS study shows some common factors which are worth emphasising. It shows that the profession of veterinary assistant is largely made up of young women, which as a whole faces several challenges. There are efforts to be made, especially for training to become more adapted to professional needs. Assistants also clearly mentioned their need for ongoing professional training due to progress in veterinary medicine. Since assistants are largely very motivated and say that they are fulfilled in their job, it is good to give them career perspectives. Conditions vary from country to country according to resources available but inevitably there are issues related to pay, working hours and the possibility for the most highly qualified assistants to perform more specialised tasks recognising their expertise. The creation of this data bank is the first step towards working together across Europe in order to rise to new challenges:

- Training: there are many differences from country to country and many needs are expressed.
- Professionalising training and consolidating skills due to the youth of the profession.
- Professional and social promotion for assistants giving them the career perspectives they aspire to.
- Finally, streamlining tasks undertaken by assistants (particularly when GDP makes this possible): cf. some countries where assistants are used for relatively unskilled tasks compared to other countries with greater task delegation.

It will no doubt become easier as time progresses to set professional norms. Globalisation and the coming together of Europe will provide solutions to this concern. But above all, we are going to develop this centre so that all our European partners can play an active role. Our centre is the starting point for future harmonisation and recognition.



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Partners



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CNFA - Centre National de Formation par Alternance (France) - Project coordinator



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The Special Committee for Vet Nursing (Denmark)



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VETERINARY NURSES **FOCUS**



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Dr Rémi Gelle
SNVEL Chairman
UEVP Chairman

The opening of this site is a landmark event in European development and cooperation. It is just the beginning: this work will continue to flourish in the future, demonstrating the enormous investment of professionals. As promoter of this project, I am particularly proud of this joint effort and invite other countries to join us.

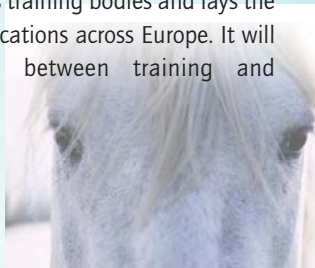
Project overview

The profession of veterinary health care assistant does not have the same profile from country to country within the EEC. Job descriptions and prerogatives, veterinary regulations, training and diplomas, veterinary surgeons' attitudes as employers all vary enormously. This makes it particularly difficult to harmonise qualifications for this function. This centre aims to be a focal point for EEC countries in the following areas:

- National and professional contexts in the practice of the profession of veterinary assistant or technician
- Levels of qualification required, officially recognised by training bodies and professionals
- Veterinary employers' expectations of the profession and changes in the roles of assistants.
- Assistants' expectations for the practice of their profession.

This study provides a better understanding of the relationship between work and training, thus encouraging staff mobility. This enables the promotion of professional training and makes it possible to provide better services to customers who are more and more demanding. Finally, this study compares training bodies and lays the foundation for harmonisation of qualifications across Europe. It will develop transnational cooperation between training and professional veterinary organisations.

Project Promoter
SNVEL - France



Our main goals

To set up a centre of expertise for the following areas:

- Obtaining qualitative and quantitative data on:
 - Employment profile
 - Job profile
 - Level of qualification
 - Employment criteria
- Fostering work together across Europe.

Other goals

- Assessing to what extent training is adapted to the job.
- Encouraging mobility and employment
- Promoting and consolidating the role of professional training
- Promoting cooperation between professional training bodies and companies
- Improving competitiveness and an entrepreneurial mentality
- Harmonising training and qualifications.

Results

- Creation of a new computer database
- A new website for those concerned
- Creation of a European centre of expertise for employment and qualifications.



Data is available on the site both as an overview and country by country

Global data

Population of the countries in the study
 Population of farm animals
 Pet population
 Number of veterinary surgeons by sector
 Number of veterinary surgeries by sector
 Profile of currently practicing veterinary assistants
 Job market for assistants
 Salaries for veterinary assistants
 Regulation of veterinary assistants
 Characteristics of veterinary assistants
 Characteristics of the training for veterinary nurses
 Qualifications for veterinary assistants

Global data

Ratios

Data overview

Veterinary assistants

Overall data by category

Age
 Seniority
 Expectations with respect to the profession
 Adapted to needs
 Length of time in profession
 Need for continued professional training
 Career perspectives

National features

Activities

Global data by category

Placement of trainees and their colleges

Relative frequency of tasks required of assistants

- Maintenance
- Reception and telephone
- Administration, secretarial work, etc
- Ordering
- Sales and advice
- Helping and assisting in specialist veterinary acts

National features

