



# FVE ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2021- JUNE 2022



# FVE Activity report

## November 2021 – June 2022

### **A message from the FVE President, Rens van Dobbenburgh**

Dear Colleagues,

*It is a happy President, Board and Staff who look forward to meet you - our members - in person at the occasion of our General Assembly in London. Although we can't say we're 'past-Covid', we do live in another world by now. Of course, we keep our fingers crossed to keep it like that.*

*The FVE General Assembly is the place where veterinarians representing 46 associations and statutory bodies across 38 European countries, meet, discuss and try to make circumstances the best for veterinarians as well as for veterinary medicine at large. This is exactly why we are FVE.*

*Having said that, in a way we are victims of our – your - success. FVE is increasingly invited to meetings, networks, consultations and more. Continuously we have to review priorities. Even our General Assemblies are too short to cover all topics of importance. Therefore, we are happy to offer you this report of activities to share as much information as possible. We feel it is crucial to give our members 'value for money'*

*I hope that like us, you feel this is helpful!*

Rens van Dobbenburgh  
FVE President

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## Most important realisations in 2021 and priorities to boost in 2022

The FVE strategy 2021-2025 was adopted in November 2020. The goals in the strategy were worked out further in an **action plan**, with timelines, milestones and delivery targets. At the end of 2021, the Board reviewed the action plan, reflecting on the main FVE realisations in 2021 and the priorities to boost in 2022.

### Main FVE realisations in 2021

- FVE performed the **largest lobby activity ever** to reject the European Parliament Resolution requesting to ban many important antimicrobials for use in animals. Thanks to the great support of all our members we won this important fight!
- All FVE **activities continued at the same or higher level** despite the pandemic, which obligated teleworking and prevented all physical meetings.
- FVE organised **two successful General Assemblies**, one being the first hybrid GA with special guest Commissioner Stella Kyriakidis.
- **Seven (7) FVE position papers were adopted** in 2021.
- The organisation of **many successful webinars**: 3 together with the European medicines Agency (+1000 participants), a One Health Webinar (+100 participants) and 2 on Wellbeing and DEI Webinars (+100 participants).
- Publication of the [FVE strategy Brochure](#) and the [FVE Sustainability campaign](#)
- Finalisation of a report on veterinary Wellbeing and DEI
- Start of the 3rd survey of the veterinary profession in Europe
- FVE leadership in important EU projects and prepared applications for 3 future projects

## Priorities to boost in 2022

- Find a new home for FVE in Brussels (Done)
- Run the 3rd survey of the veterinary profession in Europe
- Medicines: ensure veterinary interest in the outstanding delegated and implementing acts e.g., regarding reserved antimicrobials, use of antimicrobials under the cascade, etc
- Continue the work on veterinary wellbeing, DEI and workplace shortages
- Continue to lobby for more One Health/Welfare
- Continue to lobby for a satisfactory implementation of the animal health visits under the AHL
- Continue to organise successful webinars
- Boost further our communication
- Ensure we meet all deliveries in EU projects involved.

In the last 5 months, we worked hard on the priorities for 2022. Underneath you will be able to get an update on how far we got.

## The FVE Board



The FVE Board meetings held **8 virtual meetings** since November, of which **6** were Board only (7/12/2021, 12/01/2022, 2/02/2022, 14/02/2022, 14/03/2022, 21/04/2022, 16/05/2022, 30/05/2022) and **2 together with the Section Presidents** (02/02/2022 and 21/04/2022).

## The FVE Secretariat



The FVE Secretariat moved to a nice new home!

Our current office in which we were housed for the last 10 years will be turned into small apartments, so had to start searching for a new home at the end of last year. In early April, we moved into our new address Rue Victor Oudart 7, 1030 Brussels, around 15 min walk to the European quarter around Shuman.



The building is very new and modern, situated on the ground floor with a small lovely garden attached, where we had already many lovely staff lunches in the sun. The building is energy-sustainable with solar panels and heat pumps. We have a small meeting room in our office but in addition a large meeting room for 20-30 people in the building.



At the beginning of 2022, the Belgian measures obliging telework slowly started to relax in Belgium, allowing people to return to the office. Physical meetings slowly started up again. The new normal now is a mix between office and teleworking, virtual and physical meetings.

In the last 6 months, we did not have any staff changes for FVE. We did however welcome several interns. Florentine Timmenga, from Utrecht veterinary faculty, finished her stage on 31 December 2021.

In January 2022, Yvonne Niño Vázquez, a lawyer from Spain, joined us until the end of April 2022, after which she started to work as an administrative officer for WVA.



In February 2022, we were joined by Julia Jerab, who studies at the veterinary faculty of Ghent. She will stay until the end of June.

Table 1. Permanent FVE secretary staff and their responsibilities

Person (in order of pictures above)	Title	Responsible for:
<b>Nancy De Briyne</b>	Executive Director	General Management
<b>Francesco Proscia</b>	Senior Policy Officer	Food safety and sustainability, Statutory bodies and professional matters, communication, UEVH
<b>Despoina Iatridou</b>	Senior Policy Officer	Education, medicines, One Health, EVERI
<b>Ulrike Tewes</b>	Office Manager	Keeps our office running smoothly, mailings, bookings, FECAVA, EAPHM, EAZWV, etc
<b>Yael Dotan</b>	Project assistant	EU projects (HealthyLivestock, AVANT, ENOVAT etc), FEEVA
<b>Wiebke Jansen</b>	Policy officer	Animal welfare, medicines and gives support to animal health and food safety issues
<b>Jan Vaarten</b>	Project officer	Following together with Yael the EU projects 1 day per week



## FVE Working Groups

All FVE Working groups remained highly active in the last period, despite all meetings being online. FVE is enormously grateful to all the working group experts who dedicate their time and expertise to FVE. They are the motor of the work we do in FVE.

### Animal Welfare Working Group

#### *Members*

- Sean Wensley – UK (Chair)
- Dominique Autier-Dérian - FR
- Theron Leonard - BE
- Stefan Gunnarsson - SE
- Thomas Richter - DE
- Vibe Pedersen Lund - DK
- Ann Criel – BE – FECAVA
- Mette Uldahl – DK – FEEVA
- Giovanni Guadagnini – IT – EAPHM
- Heather Bacon - UK – Observer
- Kenelm Lewis – UK – UEVP Observer



FVE Secretariat: Nancy De Briyne and Wiebke Jansen

**Meetings.** The FVE/UEVP Animal Welfare Working Group remained very active. They met in March and 2 further meetings are planned, one in July and one physical meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the new FVE office. This will be the last meeting of this working group, as their mandate is ending in autumn this year. Sub-groups met on topics such as animal welfare labelling, transport, and on the welfare of wild domesticated animals.

**Position Papers.** Animal welfare issues are currently extremely high on the agenda of the European Commission and the European Parliament with the Farm to Fork Strategy and the review of all EU animal welfare legislation. The AW WG finalised the FVE's input for the 'Revision of the Transport Regulation: 10 points' as well as the 'Animal Welfare Labelling draft position', each after three consultation rounds. The revised papers are on the GA agenda for discussion and potential adoption in London (Tab. 2).

Table 2. Timeline and feedback received from FVE delegation on FVE's input for the Revision of the Transport Regulation: 10 points as well as the animal welfare labelling position

Consultation Round	Animal Welfare Labelling	Revision of the Transport Regulation
1 <sup>st</sup>	28.07.2021-29.09.2021	
	16 delegations submitted comments	18 delegations submitted comments
2 <sup>nd</sup>	16.03.2022-06.04.2022	18.02.2022 -15.03.2022
	5 delegations submitted comments	14 delegations submitted comments
3 <sup>rd</sup>	08.04.2022 -20.04.2022	
	5 delegations submitted comments	10 delegations submitted comments

The AW WG, together with FEEVA, FECAVA and WSAVA finalised their joint draft position paper as well on animal welfare implications of animal **behavioural modification and training methods**. It went out for consultation for two months and resulted in 29 comments from 24 delegations. The paper will be revised accordingly in the upcoming months and if possible, prepared for discussion and potential adoption at the November GA 2022.

Some members of our AW WG also drafted a scientific paper on 'A Transparent Methodology for Society Addressing Animal Welfare–Proposal for an Ethical Based Framework for Decision Makers ', which was [published in the Journal of Veterinary Science](#).

**EU Platform on Animal Welfare.** Within the framework of the Animal Welfare platform, recently five FVE representatives have been appointed to attend the following European Commission subgroups on animal welfare:

- Subgroup on pigs: Giovanni Guadagnini (IT)
- Subgroup on poultry: Vibe Pedersen Lund (DK)
- Subgroup on labelling: Stefan Gunnarsson (SE)
- Subgroup on slaughter: Maurizio Ferri (IT, FSS WG)
- Subgroup on Companion Animal legislation and Improving dog's health & welfare in trade: Ann Criel (BE), N. De Briyne (Secretariat)

**Other activities.** A recent film by the Animal Welfare Foundation showed unacceptable blood collection practices in pregnant mares in Iceland. It was followed by articles in newspapers across the EU. The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) is currently investigating the issue. The extraction of ECG from pregnant mares has been a rapidly growing industry in Iceland; blood from almost 5,400 mares, on 119 farms, has been drawn in 2021. The Icelandic Veterinary Association also reacted with a statement (in Icelandic) denouncing the practices seen and urging everyone to critically debate this and take responsibility. The FEEVA and FVE Board together adopted the following statement:

***'FEEVA and FVE call to stop both the import and European production of PMSG and other related products if blood collection procedures in horses do not live up to animal welfare standards.'***

Nancy De Briyne, has further worked as a scientific expert on the EFSA opinions on the welfare around the transport of cattle, small ruminants, pigs and horses. All opinions will go for adoption in June and will be publicly available in summer.

FVE congratulated our colleague Heather Bacon, a member of the animal welfare working group, who received a special award “insignia” from the Royal Highness Princess Royal in Edinburgh acknowledging her services to veterinary education, animal welfare and charity work in the UK and abroad.

## FVE Food Safety & Sustainability Working Group *Members*

- Maurizio Ferri – (Chair- IT)
- Alvaro Mateos – ES
- Conny Rossi-Broy – DE
- Marek Kubica – PL
- Ole Alvseike – NO
- John Matthews – IE
- Simon Doherty (former chair)



Secretariat: Francesco Proscia

The Food Safety & Sustainability Working Group was set up with a 2 years mandate (2020-2022). The group met on 29 October 2021, the chairman had two preparatory meetings with the Secretariat for the sustainability webinar. A last meeting is scheduled for July 2022.

Topics the group worked on:

- EU Official Controls Regulation (OCR) tertiary legislation (namely imports/exports certification, audit and inspections, risk-based meat inspection);
- Sustainable livestock production & sustainable food systems with a focus on the Farm to Fork strategy targets, the Soil Health strategy and the Carbon Removals strategy;
- Feedback to the EU Commission public consultations (Norovirus proposal, [PAPs feed ban partial removal](#), [amending Reg. 853/2004 on the shelf life of eggs](#));
- Inputs to the Animal Welfare Working Group concerning mobile slaughterhouses and Animal Welfare labelling schemes;
- Press release on the World Veterinary Day: [Infectious diseases & the role of veterinarians in wider society](#);
- [Livestock Infectious diseases factsheet](#);
- [“Vets talk sustainable” webinar and campaign](#).

Further work was carried out on the [WHO food safety strategy](#) (commenting & reviewing), the EU organic sector promotion strategy, the

evaluation of the Horizon 2021/2025 (FVE met with the Animal Task Force) and the EFSA project on circular economy and food safety vulnerabilities.

R. van Dobbenburgh gave an important speech at the Cordoba general meeting of the RIBMINS project (April 2022). F Proscia gave an update of the FVE actions and policy concerning food safety and the PAP ban to the RIBMINS working group.

M Ferri attended the EFSA emerging risks discussion group focusing mainly on covid-19 epidemiology and [potential emerging risk arising from the wildlife-livestock-human interface](#), the EU food value chain resilience and on the *Streptococcus equi subsp. Zooepidermicus* in humans.

M. Ferri was appointed to represent FVE in the Expert Group on the EU food security crisis preparedness and response mechanism. He attended four meetings that focused on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the food/energy value chain disruptions and externalities for animal and public health.



The webinar on [sustainable food systems and the role of the veterinarian](#) gathered around 75 participants. It was the first webinar focusing on the innovation and technology applied at farm level to achieve sustainable livestock and food production.

Co-moderated by Fran Proscia (FVE) and Anna Cieckiewicz (International Veterinary Students' Association President), hosted three speakers who went through the three dimensions of sustainability up to digitalization, data integration management and new technology as the best tools for producing high-quality and safe food and improve productivity and income of both farmers and veterinarians.

## FVE/UEVP Medicines Working Group

### *Members*

- Rens van Dobbenburgh – NL – FVE  
President (Chair)
- Arturo Anadon – ES
- Raffaella Barbero – IT
- John Blackwell- UK
- Eric Lejeau – FR
- Per Starcke Henriksen – DK
- Robert Hertzsch – DE – FEEVA
- Andreas Palzer – DE – UEVP
- Athina Trachili – GR
- Jobke Van Hout – NL
- Annalisa Scollo – IT
- Stephan Neumann – DE – FECAVA
- Sabine Schueller – DE – EVERI



Secretariat: Nancy De Briyne, Despoina Iatridou and Wiebke Jansen

The FVE/UEVP Medicines Working Group (MWG) was highly active in the last period with issues concerning the **new veterinary medicines legislation which came into force in January 2022**. They MWG met in January and worked continuously via email.

### **Main topics.**

- The ***Implementing Act on (groups) o antimicrobials to be reserved for treating infections in humans only***

FVE very much welcomed the proposed legal text by the European Commission with the list of antimicrobials or groups of antimicrobials to be reserved for treating infections in humans based on the [robust scientific EMA advice](#). The proposed list is very favourable for the profession as it ensures the availability of all antimicrobial products for use in animals that are currently on the EU market, including those with colistin. The draft implementing act was in [consultation](#) in May. FVE launched a whole campaign engaging its members and affiliate organisations to support the Commission's proposal, which was very successful. The Implementing Act is now at the WTO for comments until 20<sup>th</sup> June. The Commission plans to adopt the Act in July. As the issue is subject to strong political pressure from



certain lobbies with an interest in public health and some MEPs for imposing restrictions on certain substances, such as colistin, FVE is extremely vigilant and follows closely activities around this issue.

In respect to colistin, FVE prepared a reflection paper on the importance of polymyxin antibiotics in veterinary medicine and worked with EPRUMA on an [easy leaflet on colistin](#).

- ***Implementation on Art. 106*** requiring that veterinarians should strictly follow SPC on prescription.

FVE together with Copa-Cogeca has raised a question to the European Commission about issues with the implementation of provisions laid down in the Regulation about veterinary prescription, namely that veterinarians always have to follow the dose and duration according to the SPC. While European Commission insisted on a strict interpretation of this point, FVE informed further CMDv – the EMA committee where representatives from the National Medicines Agencies participate -who acknowledged the importance of the point – and to the recent meeting of the Heads of Medicines Agencies. FVE closely follows this issue and strives to get a formal EU decision that allows veterinarians the flexibility to adapt regimes in prescription according to their best knowledge for ensuring the health of animals under their care.

- ***Implementation Art. 152 on new rules on packaging and labelling***

At the end of December 2021, this issue came up endangering veterinary medicines supply. The new regulation required the industry to strictly follow the new rules on packaging and labelling at the time legislation would enter into force. Such an approach would have had a detrimental impact on the availability of all veterinary medicines leading to potentially severe disruptions in the supply chain. FVE together with AnimalhealthEurope and VetMedAccess (generics industry – former EGGVP) wrote to Ursula von der Leyen and after deliberations managed to get a formal decision allowing for a transition period of 5 years in the implementation of this article, to allow industry to integrate the necessary changes in the chain of production and avoid shortages of veterinary medicines in EU.

- ***Reciprocity***

This is noted as a priority for the French Presidency. FVE works together with SNVEL and the Presidency on this topic and developed a joint press release.



FVE replied to the EU Commission's call for evidence on imports and trade agreements with third countries. The Commission proposal will mirror residues legislation / MRL concept for food-producing animals and which products are of animal origin, and it seems this approach has wide support from the Member States. FVE welcomed the proposal aiming to reinforce the reciprocity policy between EU and third countries, especially in light of the EU legislation updating process concerning veterinary medicines and animal welfare and sustainable food systems. FVE called also for a strong audit-control plan allowing for full traceability without too excessive burden on the national as well as on EU control authorities.

- ***Revision FVE position on coccidiostats***

The [FVE position on coccidiostats](#) (adopted in 2015) has been challenged by veterinarians working mainly in the poultry sector and the industry. Therefore, FVE opened up the position paper for review. The consultation with the FVE members resulted in feedback from 17 delegations. The comments are now analysed, and a revised version will be circulated after the summer break.

- ***Metaphylaxis survey***

A subgroup of the Medicines Working Group worked on a survey on the metaphylactic use in livestock and poultry. The survey was open from December 2021 to February 2022. The report will give insights into practices and drivers as well as on the use of colistin. The feedback has been very good (700+ responses from 29 countries), most from practitioners with extensive experience of >25 years and mixed practices. This gave valuable insights and the results indicated that metaphylaxis is necessary for the majority of veterinarians as a treatment option for routine work but very much depends on the species treated. The preliminary results will be presented at the London GA and a scientific publication will be submitted in due course.

## **European Medicines Agency (EMA)**

### *Veterinarians' representative to the EMA Management Board*

After six years, the mandate of Nancy De Briyne ended in March 2022 and Despoina Iatridou was elected as the new EMA Management board member representing the veterinary sector for the next 3 years.

### EMA-FVE series of webinars

FVE continues the close collaboration with EMA to support veterinarians to implement the new legal provisions and make use of the new available tools in their daily practice. The 'Union Product Database' is a novel tool serving as a single source of information on all authorised veterinary medicines and their availability in the European Union (EU) and the Member States.

The next [Joint EMA/FVE webinar on the Union Product Database](#) will be held online on 27<sup>th</sup> June. It will demonstrate the functionality of the Union Product Database and show how veterinarians can search and compare medicines. Save the date!

## Consultations

FVE/UEVP MWG has been monitoring discussions on all matters relevant to veterinary medicines. Over the last months, FVE responded on a large number of consultations. Several ones are currently under review.

Deadline	Topic	FVE response
15 Nov	Impact assessment feed additives	Replied
17 Dec	EMA Reflection paper on Art 18 if Reg 2019/6 – environmental risk generics	Replied
17 Dec	EMA Guideline on injection site residue	Replied
21 Dec	Drug resistance – format for collecting data on antimicrobial medicines used on animals	Replied
31 Jan	EMA Concept paper on an update to the CVMP's reflection paper on the use of macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins (MLS) in food-producing animals in the EU	Replied
16 Mar	EC: Imports of agricultural and food products – applying EU health and environmental standards (report)	Replied
24 Mar	EC: Call for Evidence AMR recommendations for greater action	Replied

29 Mar	EMA Concept paper on quality, safety and efficacy of bacteriophages as veterinary medicines (PDF/204.27 KB)	Replied
29 Mar	EMA Reflection paper on prophylactic use of antimicrobials in animals in the context of Article 107(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 (PDF/754.06 KB)	Replied
30 Apr	EMA Concept paper on the elaboration of guidance for the application of Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 2019/6	Replied
31 May	EMA Reflection paper on criteria for determining that an active substance is essential when considered in the context of Article 37(2)(j) of Regulation 2019/6	Replied
21 Jun	ICF Research: survey for the European Commission on the fight against anti-microbial resistance (AMR)	In preparation
13 Sep	Reflection paper on criteria for determining that an active substance is essential when considered in the context of Article 37(2)(j) of Regulation 2019/6	In preparation
18 Sep	Tripartite: Public discussion on the key elements of the proposed AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform	In preparation

## FVE Statutory Bodies Working Group

### *Members*

- Marc Veilly – (**Chair** – FR)
- Roberta Benini – IT
- Siegfried Moder – DE
- Manuel Sant'Ana – PT
- Lino Vella – MT
- Stuart Reid – UK



Secretariat: Francesco Proscia

The dossiers covered by the statutory bodies working group deal mainly with the regulatory framework for veterinary professionals and the provision of services. The Working Group, renewed in 2019, just finished its mandate.

Topics the group worked on:

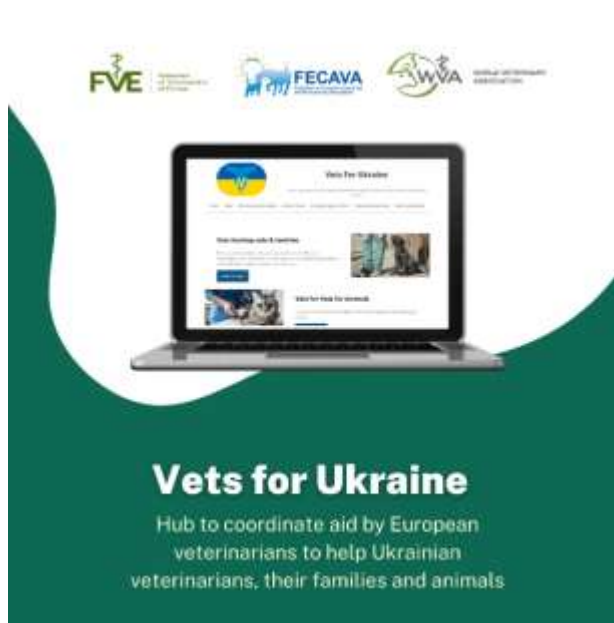
- [Telemedicine briefing/recommendations paper](#)  
(adopted in the FVE November General Assembly);
- The temporary provision of services;
- Rules to access the profession;
- The UK-EU recognition of diplomas;
- The new VetCee strategy;

A follow-up survey on the use of telemedicine was carried out along with the drafting of a position paper on the obligations on temporary provision of services veterinary practitioners need to follow. Current actions focus on the procedure country-by-country to practice the profession and to move to another EU country, the UK-EU requirements for diplomas and digital automation in the profession. The WG finished its mandate in April and a report with recommendations was released and sent to the Board. A call for members to renew the group will be launched after the General Assembly in London.

## Relief measures for Ukraine

Immediately on the day of the Russian invasion, FVE called publicly for more flexible rules for dogs/cats entering the EU with refugees and for derogation of sanctions for medicines and medical equipment. Following our call, the EU relaxed the rules for pet imports. FVE set up in the first week of the invasion a call with Ukrainian and neighbouring member countries to list needs and coordinate actions. The biggest challenges identified were the many refugees travelling with pets and rabies control, shortages of feed/medicines/medical equipment in Ukraine as well as the shortage of resources to take care of farms/abandoned animals in Ukraine.

This first coordination meeting showed the enormous amounts of support being offered by the veterinary profession. At the same time, it showed a lack of coordination. For that reason, FVE with the support of FECAVA and WVA set up the website [www.vetsforUkraine.com](http://www.vetsforUkraine.com), which was developed within a week. The website details import rules and treatment options for pets and other animals, diploma recognition of the Ukraine Veterinarians in EU, in-kind and financial support available for Ukrainian veterinarians and their families and Ukrainian veterinary students as well as disease risk analysis and features Ukrainian translations. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, FVE suspended the observership of our Russian member. FVE organised kept continuously in close contact with our Ukrainian observers and the neighbouring countries to coordinate support through online meetings and emails.

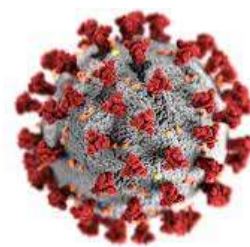


FVE also developed a voucher system funded by Humane Society International (HSI) and in collaboration with FECAVA to reimburse veterinarians via the application form for veterinary treatment given to pets of Ukrainian refugees with up to 1250 € per veterinarian until 30<sup>th</sup> June. The voucher system is proving to be a great success with so far more than 1000 veterinary treatments reimbursed.

In addition, FVE representative Maurizio Ferri was appointed to the European Commission expert group on Food Security Crisis Preparedness and Response Mechanism (EFSRM), which looks specifically at options to tackle the consequences of crises. Currently, the expert group is focusing on the effect of the war on feed, food and fuel in the short-medium – and long term. Maurizio Ferri joins on behalf of FVE. Reports of these meetings are available.

## COVID related activities

COVID stayed high on our agenda over the winter months and monthly COVID news emails giving the latest updates on research and policies concerning COVID and the veterinary profession and animals were sent. Since the seasonal peak passed in February, FVE continuously monitored the situation on COVID-19 and its potential impacts on veterinary medicine. Our goal is to support you with relevant information as soon as the situation evolves. We are in regular contact with WHO, WOAHA (formerly known as OIE), ECDC, EU and all our sister veterinary associations (FECAVA, EBVS, WVA, AVMA, etc).



## Animal Health Law

In April 2021, the Animal Health Law came into force. FVE continuously promoted a 'prevention is better than cure' approach and the need for all Member States to **put in place regular veterinary visits**. The [FVE position paper](#) has been largely distributed through several meetings with the Eu Parliament, other stakeholders aiming to raise awareness and consensus over the issue.



## FVE survey on the implementation of regular animal health visits

FVE carried out a survey in early 2022 among its members to gain a broad insight on the implementation of Article 25 (AHL) requiring all operators to receive regular veterinary animal health visits. The survey looks at how this article is implemented per country, the scope, animals, holding type and execution. The survey had a response rate of 93% (n=27/29). Figure 1 shows the participating countries based on the available information.

Figure 1. European map indicating the participating countries. Green: information available from 2022, Yellow: information available from 2017, Blue: no information available

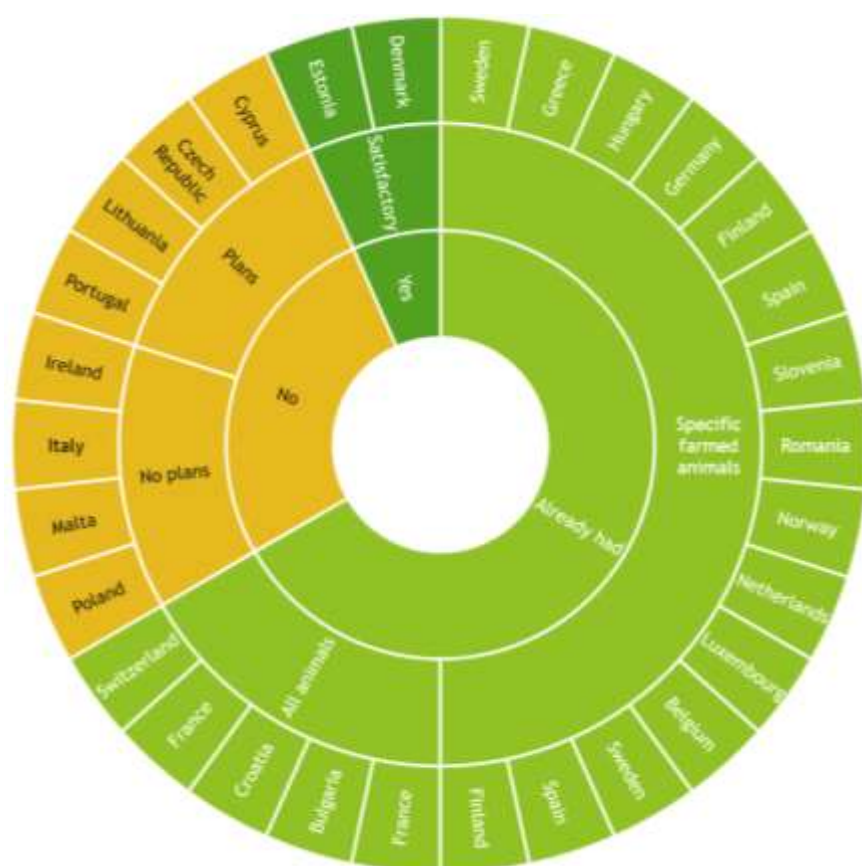
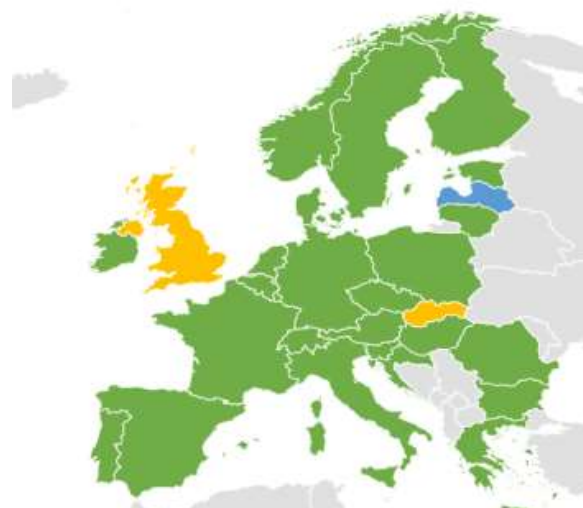


Figure 2. Responses of FVE members per implementation status of regular animal health visits

A total of 15 EU MS/EFTA countries (60%) already had implemented regular animal health visits before the Animal Health Law came into force, but most of them only in specific farmed animal species. Only two EU MS (8%) responded that they felt that Article 25 was implemented satisfactorily. Of those countries, that haven't implemented regular animal health visits, half said they had plans to do so in the future (Fig. 2).



In those countries that already had regular animal health visits, most were performed by **private practitioners with a one-to-one contract with the farm (13/19 responses)**, whereas two countries required authorisation by the competent authority (CA) and four countries additional education to perform the visits.

Alongside private practitioners, official veterinarians performed the animal health visits in Finland, France, Spain and Sweden. In Switzerland and Estonia, solely official veterinarians were in charge of the animal health visits.

Based on combined data from 2017 and 2022, in slightly more than half of the countries (n=10/19) farmers paid for the visits, whereas in 15% (n=3/19) the competent authority paid and in 30% both parties shared the costs. Based on combined data from 2017 and 2022, animal health data followed by animal treatments (e.g. antibiotics, withdrawal times), performance parameters (e.g. mortality data, production rates), and identification & registration were the most current subjects covered by animal health visits.

**Biosecurity, while specifically mentioned in Art 25 of the Animal Health Law, was only included in 18 of the 26 countries having implemented regular animal health visits.**

Our results indicate that the majority of European countries already had animal health visits before the entry into force of the Animal Health Law, but many were restricted either to specific production animals or under the umbrella of official controls by authorised and state veterinarians or only covering specific aspects (e.g. medicines control).

FVE reiterates that the intention of regular animal health visits should be to advise farmers on improving animal health, biosecurity and to carry out preventive work. To achieve this, only a veterinary practitioner regularly visiting the establishment will have solid and detailed knowledge about the operating conditions. Regular visits are also important to build up a relationship of trust between the owner of the establishment (e.g. the farmer) and the veterinarian. The plethora of national requirements concerning the covered species, type of holdings, executing veterinarian, and subjects indicate a crucial need for harmonisation on a community level. **FVE calls upon the European Commission to issue secondary legislation to avoid a continuous insufficient and inconsistent application of Article 25.**

## Educational issues

Veterinary education both undergraduate and postgraduate is an important topic for FVE. The activities for all matters related to education are coordinated by FVE in close collaboration with the European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE), the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) and the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA).

FVE Secretariat: Despoina Iatridou

### Mapping and assessment of developments for sectoral professions under Directive 2005/36/EC – the profession of the veterinary surgeon

In December 2020, the European Commission contracted the SPARK Legal Network to run a study mapping and assessing the developments in veterinary training. Since January 2021, FVE worked intensively to ensure a high-expertise input in a coordinated and timely manner throughout the overall process. The office organised several coordination meetings with the European Coordinating Committee (ECCVT) Members, ensured consensus and developed a clear communication strategy engaging a wide network that included the FVE Sections and the national veterinary organisations, statutory bodies and academia. Coordination meetings with the FVE members were organised ahead of the workshop and parallel discussions organised by the European Commission (DG GROW) on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to ensure that input from the profession was heard. A follow-up meeting was organised with the European Commission to underline our points. The results of this study were delivered in May 2022. ECCVT, FVE and Sections input is particularly highlighted, although it was considered out of the scope, in the recently released [report](#). While conclusions could not go beyond the strict framework commissioned by DG GROW, in the end they are not binding for policymakers. Though, FVE continues to follow the developments and hopes that European Commission considers the overall results and a more holistic review of the professional qualifications directive.

## European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training - ECCVT

The European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT) is composed of representatives of EAEVE, EBVS, FVE and IVSA. FVE is currently represented by Rens van Dobbenburgh (FVE President/Chair), Stanislaw Winiarczyk (Vice-President, Poland) and Volker Moser, who joined the Committee this year for his first 3-year term. ECCVT met virtually on 11 March 2022.



## European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Education (ESEVT)

FVE together with EAEVE runs the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT). FVE contributes to the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) of the system, provides experts for the visitation teams and appoints members in ECOVE. FVE has been contributing to the ongoing review of the ESEVT SOP and the review of the self-evaluation report of EAEVE prepared for the expected assessment by ENQA. The four FVE members in [ECOVE](#), are Liz Mossop (UK), Despoina Iatridou (FVE), Isa Hallman (Finland) and Gabriella Markus (Alternate Member from Hungary), who contribute to the review of the evaluation reports of the visited schools and the final decision on the status of the each faculty. ECOVE met on 14 December 2021 (regular meeting). An extraordinary meeting was additionally convened on 30 March 2022 to facilitate decision-making on the accreditation of the large number of VEEs which had postponed their visitation due to the pandemic. The status of the different veterinary teaching establishments is available on the [EAEVE website](#).

## Continuous Education of health professionals in Europe *3<sup>rd</sup> debate on professional training*

FVE together with the organisations representing the doctors (CPME), the dentists (CED), the pharmacists (PGEU) and our students kept on

promoting the need for **One Health interdisciplinary education**. Last June the partnership organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> debate on interprofessional education and training to promote One Health in professional practice. The event brought together policymakers, academia, professionals and students and was mainly focused on post-graduate training and was very successful. See [report](#).



### ***e-Hippocrates: One Health interdisciplinary training for digital transformation***

The next step following the recent joint activities healthcare and veterinary professions have taken in the last years to promote One Health education was to join forces to a more impactful initiative. With this new project, health professionals aim to design, develop and implement a training programme for all health professionals that will address skills mismatches – both between countries as well as between different healthcare professionals - and will improve resilience compromised by staff shortages both in peace times or crisis periods. More organisations are supporting this effort, among them EAEVE and EBVS from the veterinary sector. e-Hippocrates consortium consists of stakeholders representing healthcare professionals, such as doctors, dentists and nurses; companies consulting on digital transformation and technology solutions in healthcare and education and academic departments in digital medicine from several EU countries. The Medical School of Aristotle University in Thessaloniki (Greece) is the general coordinator putting together a 5 million € proposal for funding by the EU4Health programme. E-Hippocrates is a 3-year project to bring together the European health professionals under the “One Health” approach and offer them the real-life experience of interdisciplinary training and interaction - including digital skills - in a living lab concept. If the project is approved – which we will know in Oct/Nov- , it will provide opportunities at all levels, including a direct benefit for field veterinarians in the form of training on One Health and digital skills.

## VetCEE

FVE is one of the founding members of VetCEE and closely follows its activities. FVE appointment to the VetCEE Board is Christophe Buhot (France).

Until December 2021, FVE was also hosting the VetCEE Office and Despoina Iatridou acted as

General Secretary. On 31<sup>st</sup> December FVE handed over the VetCEE Secretariat in good standing and financial situation. VetCEE is now detached from FVE, moved to a new location and proceeds independently. FVE continues to support the organisation in its role as founding organisation.



## Collaborations

### One Health activities

Promoting One Health is a core priority of the FVE strategy 2021 - 2025. FVE has been creating liaisons with many stakeholders outside of the veterinary network highlighting the valuable contribution the veterinary profession can make and getting recognition of the veterinarians' role in human, animal and environmental health and society. FVE has been involved in several One Health activities and discussions in the last few months.

FVE Secretariat: Despoina Iatridou

### Collaboration with medical doctors

FVE and CPME boards met last November to discuss our joint One Health collaboration. Following a period of tension in the political arena, with disagreements on which antimicrobials should be reserved for human use only, both professions felt that different approaches on certain topics should not prevent us from this ultimate goal. CPME and FVE recognise the need to keep an open channel of communication and to continue to work on issues of joint interest towards a One Health approach. The FVE/CPME memorandum of understanding was reviewed and will officially be signed end of June by both Presidents on the occasion of the [One Health Congress](#) organised in Brussels.

### European Commission One Health Network

On 25 January, FVE joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder Meeting organized by the European Commission One Health AMR Network meeting. The [One Health AMR Network](#) was set up in 2017 and was so far only composed of

Member States representatives. For the first time, a selected number of stakeholders were invited to join. FVE was one of them and was given a very prominent role. Nancy De Briyne joined the opening panel discussion together with the new President of the European Doctors (CPME) and several Commission representatives, while Despoina Iatridou presented as part of the AMR Stakeholder network One Health activities. FVE will officially apply to join the One Health AMR Network of the European Commission once the call is opened.

## AMR Stakeholder Network & MEP Interest Group on AMR

FVE has been part of a large stakeholder network promoting best practices to fight AMR from a One Health approach. The [AMR Stakeholder Network](#) was established initially as part of the EU Health Policy Forum under the auspice of the European Commission in 2018. The network continues to expand and works on raising awareness about the items mutually agreed in the Joint Statement on AMR and the following [roadmap on antimicrobial resistance](#). The group works in close liaison with a network of MEPs and has established a formal relationship via the [MEP Interest Group on AMR](#). FVE continued to closely follow the works of these intersectoral networks on antimicrobial resistance and One Health contributing to activities or raising a voice when the One Health approach was hampered. FVE contributed to the selection process of the best practices responding to the network's call for good practices to tackle antimicrobial resistance. The [final report](#) was presented by Despoina Iatridou on behalf of the network at the first stakeholder meeting organised by the [European Commission's One Health Network](#).



FVE has been closely monitoring activities in this field, especially those related to false communication, and had to strongly lobby and protest in certain cases to preserve the interests of the profession and animal health. Last February, FVE together with Copacogeca sent a [letter](#) to the chief editor of the Economist, calling them to correct false presented information in their article "[Many European farmers still give their animals too many antibiotics](#)". Additionally, FVE strongly opposed a report released by EPHA – the European Public



Health Alliance containing some misleading information. FVE publicly opposed this report. Further to this, FVE in partnership with many of the EPRUMA members organised a meeting with the authors of the EPHA report. As a result, of all those actions, FVE has happy to see EPHA taking a well-balanced One Health approach in their latest communication entitled [“An Overview of AMR: The health burden, science, surveillance, policy developments and areas of future action”](#).

FVE joined also the special closed hearing of the European Commission and selected stakeholders of the AMR Stakeholder Network that was organised by the [MEP Interest Group on AMR](#) on 12 May. The meeting aimed to exchange views on the draft implementing act establishing a list of (groups of) antimicrobials to be reserved for treating infections in humans only. Despoina Iatridou had the chance to make a short intervention on behalf of the profession and highlight the competence of the veterinarians to use antibiotics responsibly and the importance of ensuring animal health as a factor contributing to public health.

## Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM)



FVE is part of the [FEAM Advisory Forum](#), which is a multi-stakeholder platform of representatives from the biomedical sector. FVE is one of the very few organisations with an animal health background. FVE has a crucial contribution to all discussions, especially concerning the implementation of a **true One Health approach**. In that capacity, FVE is often invited to contribute with input in the forum meetings. On 29<sup>th</sup> March, FVE co-organised the webinar about [pharmaceuticals in the environment](#) and joined the panel discussion. On 11<sup>th</sup> May, FVE contributed to the [special session](#) on the European biomedical stakeholder's response to the war in Ukraine. FVE continues to closely follow the discussions in this forum and actively contribute to One Health.

## Other collaborative activities

FVE continues to keep close collaboration with key stakeholders from the animal health sector as well, in particular through EPRUMA and IVSA.



## European Platform for Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals – EPRUMA

[EPRUMA](#) is a multi-stakeholder platform working at the European level since 2005, to develop and promote best-practice frameworks for the responsible use of veterinary medicines to ensure better prevention and control of animal diseases.



EPRUMA met on 15 December 2021 and on 2 March, but many coordination meetings took place in between on an almost weekly basis. Together, we coordinated responses on topics of joint interest. EPRUMA partners have established an ongoing close collaboration and FVE continues to lead many of the activities.

## International Veterinary Students Association – IVSA

Veterinary students are the future of our profession. And therefore very valuable to FVE. We have excellent contact with IVSA, they are part of ECCVT, but also are involved in many of the routine activities of FVE. FVE seeks to motivate students to reflect on their future through the FVE-MSD scholarship programme.

## World Veterinary Association

FVE is providing Secretariat services to the World Veterinary Association (WVA) until the end of December 2022. Two staff members work in the FVE office on WVA matters, namely Zeev Noga, who is WVA General Secretary and one policy officer (Emma van Rooijen until the end of March 2022, Yvonne Nino Vazquez since April 2022).

FVE is also member of WVA. FVE congratulates the two newly elected councillors for Europe of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) Dr Heidi Kellokoski, Finland, and Dr Slaven Grbic, from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their mandate started at the end of the 37 World Veterinary Association Congress in Abu Dhabi 29-31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, at which time Rafael Laguens, Spain, also took over the WVA Presidency.

Board members R. van Dobbenburgh and S. Moder together with N. De Briyne joined the WVA congress in Abu Dhabi. They joined the WVA General Assembly meeting and moderated/took part in panel discussions are global accreditation of veterinary education, pain management in livestock, new

technologies and innovation and resilience of the veterinary profession. Read more in the [WVA Abu Dhabi Post Event Report](#).

## Projects

### [HealthyLivestock Project](#)

Tackling antimicrobial resistance through improved livestock Health & Welfare.

- **Background:** Antimicrobials use in livestock contribute to the emergence of antimicrobial resistance. large amounts of active ingredients are used in livestock, which can be in part attributed to the intensive production system with high stocking density that put animal health and animal welfare under pressure.
- **The HealthyLivestock Project aim** is to study the contributions of enhanced animal health and welfare on reducing the need to use antimicrobials in pigs and poultry.
- **Starting and ending date:** 2018 - 2022
- **Budget:** 7 M€ (EU Contribution 4M€)
- [FVE](#) is a partner in the [HealthyLivestock](#) projects consortium leading work package 6: communication, dissemination and exploitation of the project. FVE is also a member of the overall EU-China coordination group.



### [AVANT Project](#)

Alternatives to Veterinary ANtimicrobials

- **Background:** There is an urgent need to find new solutions for the treatment of post-weaning diarrhoea in pigs since antimicrobial treatment options for pigs are increasingly limited.
- **The AVANT Research program aim** is to develop and test innovative alternatives to antimicrobials for reducing antimicrobial use in livestock.
- **Starting and ending date:** 2020 - 2025



- **Budget:** 6.5 M€ (EU Contribution 5M€)
- **FVE** is a partner in the [AVANT](#) projects consortium and will contribute to the activities of work package 8 such as Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication.

## [ENOVAT Project](#)

COST Action CA18217 – European Network for Optimization of Veterinary Antimicrobial Treatment

- **Background:** International strategies on antimicrobial resistance stewardship are only slowly being implemented into “real life”.
- **The ENOVAT Action aim** is to optimise veterinary antimicrobial use with special emphasis on the development of antimicrobial treatment guidelines and refinement of microbiological diagnostic procedures.
- **Starting and ending date:** 2019-2023
- **Budget:** COST Action CA18217
- **FVE** is a co-leader in [ENOVAT](#) Reach-out taskforce co-leader (promoting the project's guidelines). Jobke Van Hout as FVE representative in WP4, guideline development.



FVE is part of the Advisory board of other projects such as [ROADMAP Project](#), [ClearFarm Project](#), [ZAPI](#), [PPILOW Project](#), [DECIDE project](#), [Techcare project](#), [Best Practice Hens](#) and is actively involved in projects such as [RIBMINS](#), [EU-JAMRAI](#), [HERMES Project](#), [DISCONTTOOLS](#), [B-the Project](#) and the [Public-Private Partnership for Anticipating FAST-Disease Outbreaks](#).

## Publications

FVE released the following **press communications** since November:

- November 2021 - [Antimicrobial use in animals in the EU almost halved in the last 10 years due to the strong commitment of the animal health sector](#)
- November 2021 - [Veterinary profession calls for more new technologies to support veterinary practice;](#)
- January 2022 - [MSD Animal Health & FVE Scholarship Program 2021 rewarding 68 students;](#)
- March- April 2022 - [Vets commit to sustainable food systems social media campaign](#)
- April 2022 - [Free veterinary care for pets of Ukrainian refugees launched across Europe;](#)
- April 2022 - [World Animal Vaccination Day: realising the potential of vaccination for better animal welfare;](#)
- April 2022 - [Ban on veterinary use of colistin would impact animal welfare](#)

## Publications in scientific journals & newsletters

Title	Authors	Date & Journal
New EU rules will help farmers prevent costly disease outbreaks	Nancy De Briyne	<a href="#">Euronews Jan 2022</a>
Survival of the Fittest: When an Evolutionary Advantage Becomes Such a Threat to the Welfare of Other Non-Human Animal Species That it Threatens Our Own Species	Jan Vaarten Nancy De Briyne	<a href="#">Book chapter in Human/Animal Relationships in Transformation, Scientific, Moral and Legal</a>
Why Europe needs to talk about livestock vaccination	Rens van Dobbenburgh	<a href="#">European scientist April 2022</a>
Mental Well-being and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the	Florentine Timmenga, Wiebke Jansen,	Under review with Frontiers

Veterinary Profession: Pathways to a more resilient profession	Patricia V. Turner and Nancy De Briyne	
Real-world data on group treatment of livestock with antimicrobials in Europe	Julia Jerab, Wiebke Jansens, Nancy De Briyne, and other co-authors	Under preparation

## Communication

### Webinars

From October 2021 to date FVE organised and participated in numerous webinars. The most important ones co-organized by FVE were:

- December 2021 - FVE & Zoetis veterinary profession well-being webinar
- December 2021 - FVE & Zoetis well-being webinar on diversity, equity and inclusiveness in our profession
- March 2022 - FVE - European Biomedical Policy Forum (FEAM) and the MEP Sara Cerdas webinar "*Pharmaceuticals in the Environment*"
- May 2022 - [FVE Webinar – Sustainable food systems: innovation, technology and role of the veterinarian](#)




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*On 27 June @11.30 – 13.00 CET  
FVE and EMA will organise a  
webinar on the Union Product  
Database as the single source of  
information on all authorised  
veterinary medicines and their  
availability in the European  
Union (EU) and European  
Economic Area (EEA) the  
Member States.  
**Do not miss it!***

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## Consultations

FVE is asked to reply to many consultations, often from the European Commission, EMA or partner organisations. This is an important way for European decision makers to gain input on roadmaps, future strategies and proposals for Regulation/tertiary legislation.

Table 3. FVE answered consultation per issuing organisation between November 2021 and June 2022

Issuing organisation	Title of the consultation
EMA	Reflection paper on Art 18 of Reg 2019/6 - environmental risk generics
EMA	Guideline on injection site residue
EC	Drug resistance – format for collecting data on antimicrobial medicines used on animals
EMA	Concept paper on an update to the CVMP's reflection paper on the use of macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins (MLS) in food-producing animals in the EU
EMA	Reflection paper on prophylactic use of antimicrobials in animals in the context of Article 107(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 (PDF/754.06 KB)
WVA	WVA Position Statement on Pain Management in Farm Animals
WVA	Position Statement on Humane Care of Animal Used in Biomedical Research
WVA	Position Statement on One Health Education
EC	Imports of agricultural and food products – applying EU health and environmental standards (report)
EC	Call for Evidence AMR recommendations for greater action
EMA	Concept paper on quality, safety and efficacy of bacteriophages as veterinary medicines (PDF/204.27 KB)
EMA	Reflection paper on prophylactic use of antimicrobials in animals in the context of Article 107(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 (PDF/754.06 KB)
EMA	concept paper on the elaboration of guidance for the application of Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 2019/6
EC	Food safety – official checks of live shellfish, poultry and fish products (updated rules)
EMA	Reflection paper on criteria for determining that an active substance is essential when considered in the context of Article 37(2)(j) of Regulation 2019/6
EC	Food safety - new requirements for transport and storage of fishery products
EC	Food safety – cutting of swine carcasses pending outcome of Trichinella testing (updated rules)

## MSD scholarship

Already for 6 years, FVE with the support of MSD Animal Health runs a scholarship program for veterinary students. The [2021-year scholarship program winners](#) were announced this year on 25 January 2022. The Committee selected 68 students out of 155 eligible applications. Veterinary students awarded were enrolled in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of studies and received a scholarship of \$5,000 US Dollars.

The students are currently enrolled in veterinary faculties across Europe, namely in: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and UK.



## FVE media channels

Social Media (as of 3/6/2021)	Likes - followers	Most successful posts
	15149 followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 30 April 2022 - World Veterinary Day 14 951 people reached</li><li>➤ 4 April 2022 - Vets for UKR pets – 24 703 people reached</li><li>➤ 25 Jan – FVE/MSD scholarship winners release – 19 658 people reached</li></ul>
	<a href="#">2,745 followers</a> (107 new followers in the last 29 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 23 May 2022 - Vets talk sustainable - 580 impressions, 419 unique impressions, 3.4% engagement rate</li><li>➤ HealthyLivestock @Disarm project - 560 impressions, 405 unique impressions, 5.7% engagement rate</li></ul>
	4.602 followers (480 new followers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ March 2022 - Launch VetsForUkraine website: 6,205 impressions</li><li>➤ Jan 2022 – New rules of vet med come into force: 3622 impressions</li></ul>




Reach: Organic/Paid
Post clicks
Reactions, comments & shares

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
01/06/2022 16:56	 10/6/2022 -Beekeeping biosecurity measures - international webinar			4K 	120 90 	<a href="#">Boost post</a>
01/06/2022 10:40	 #HealthyLivestock project is happy to share its 6th newsletter! You are			607 	7 2 	<a href="#">Boost post</a>
31/05/2022 15:44	 Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) updated their address.			453 	8 7 	<a href="#">Boost post</a>
29/05/2022 15:20	 🗳️🗳️ Next FVE General Assembly is approaching. Take your seat!			1.7K 	14 9 	<a href="#">Boost post</a>
29/05/2022 13:58	 Fourth EMA/FVE joint webinar! The new webinar of the European			1.7K 	16 10 	<a href="#">Boost post</a>



**Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)**  
 Published by Francesco Proscia 171 · 4 April · 

Free veterinary care for pets of Ukrainian refugees launched across Europe. Deliver your service and get your reimbursement for Ukrainian pets & equines treatments. Program on air until 21 May 2022 - <https://apply.vetsforukraine.com/>



## Vets For Ukraine Pets



Ukrainian refugees who have fled the war with their beloved pets will be able to access free veterinary treatment in 38 European countries, thanks to a program funded by Humane Society International and in collaboration with FECAVA and FVE. Veterinarians can claim


**Animal Veterinary Associations**



### Performance for your post

**24,703** People Reached

**548** Reactions, comments & shares


<b>334</b>  Like	<b>45</b> On post	<b>289</b> On shares
<b>28</b>  Love	<b>6</b> On post	<b>22</b> On shares
<b>41</b> Comments	<b>8</b> On Post	<b>33</b> On Shares
<b>146</b> Shares	<b>146</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

**815** Post Clicks

<b>62</b> Photo views	<b>160</b> Link clicks 	<b>593</b> Other Clicks 
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**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

<b>1</b> Hide post	<b>0</b> Hide all posts
<b>0</b> Report as spam	<b>0</b> Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts 



Congratulations, you managed to get to the last page of our activity report



We hope you enjoyed it.

To end, a couple of pictures of the dogs supporting us at the office.



If you have questions about any of these activities, do not hesitate to contact us.

We love hearing from you!

