



RESEARCH ARTICLE

An example of accreditation applications of veterinary education in Turkey within the frame of current European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) parameters

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Avrupa Veteriner Hekimliği Eğitim Kurumları Birliği'nin (EAEVE) güncel parametreleri çerçevesinde Türkiye'de veteriner hekimliği eğitiminde akreditasyon uygulamalarına bir örnek

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Öz

Amaç: Yükseköğretim kurumlarında kalite parametreleri akreditasyon standartlarıyla belirlenmektedir. Ülkemizde uluslararası akreditasyon süreçleri EAEVE tarafından yürütülmektedir. Çalışmada Aralık 2020 itibarıyla Türkiye'deki veteriner fakültelerinin güncel akreditasyon durumları değerlendirilmiştir. Ek olarak, Türkiye'den örnek olması açısından Ankara Üniversitesi Veteriner Fakültesinin (AÜVF) güncel akreditasyon durumu Avrupa Veteriner Hekimliği Eğitimi Değerlendirme Sistemi (ESEVT) ve 2019 Standart Operasyon Prosedürleri (SOP) bağlamında incelenmiştir.

Gereç ve Yöntem: Araştırma kapsamında Türkiye'deki veteriner fakültelerinin akreditasyon durumları incelenmiştir. AÜVF'nin verileri EAEVE'nin güncel 2019 SOP kriterleri bağlamında değerlendirilmiş; fakülte 22 ana göstergenin yedisini açısından yetersiz bulunmuştur. AÜVF'nin son üç yılının verilerinin hesaplanmasında ESEVT tarafından sağlanan Excel dosyası kullanılmıştır.

Bulgular: Aralık 2020 itibarıyla EAEVE üyesi 101 veteriner fakültesinden 27'si tam akredite durumdadır. Türkiye'de EAEVE üyesi 13 veteriner fakültesinden üçü onaylanmış (approval) statüdedir. AÜVF'nin EAEVE'ye ilk üye olan ve approval fakülte olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Türkiye'den bir örnek olarak AÜVF'nin güncel akreditasyon verileri dünyadaki tam akredite veteriner fakülteleri ile karşılaştırıldığında güçlü ve zayıf yönleri olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

Öneri: Araştırma EAEVE'nin akreditasyon süreçlerinde güncel kalite taahhütleri bağlamında (2020) Türkiye'de yapılan ilk çalışma olma özelliğinden dolayı özgün niteliğe sahiptir. Sonuç olarak, Türkiye'deki tüm veteriner fakültelerinin veteriner hekimliği eğitim öğretiminde uluslararası standardizasyonun sağlanması için akreditasyon süreçlerini yakından takip etmelerinin ve değişen kriterlere göre yeni çalışmaların yapılmasının önemli olduğu düşünülmektedir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Akreditasyon, AÜVF, EAEVE, ESEVT, kalite, Türkiye, veteriner hekimliği eğitimi

Abstract

Aim: Quality parameters are determined with accreditation standards in higher education institutes. EAEVE carries out international accreditation practices in our country. In this study, the last statuses of Turkish veterinary faculties in accreditation processes are evaluated as of December 2020. Besides, evaluation of the current status of Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (AUFVM) in accordance with European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT) 2019 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) criterion is aimed as an example from Turkey.

Materials and Methods: In this study, the accreditation status of veterinary faculties in Turkey are evaluated. The data of AUFVM is evaluated following EAEVE's current 2019 SOP criterion and found out that the faculty is insufficient for 7 out of 22 main indicators. Excel file provided by European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT) is used to calculate of the last 3 years' data of the faculty.

Results: As of December 20, there are 27 fully accredited veterinary schools out of 101 members of EAEVE. Accordingly, there are 3 approved faculties out of 13 member faculties of EAEVE in Turkey as of December 2020. AUFVM is identified as the first member and approved faculty of EAEVE. As an example of Turkey, AUFVM's data is compared with foreign approved or fully accredited veterinary schools and strengths and weaknesses are determined.

Conclusion: This study has authentic value in terms of being the first study in Turkey according to the EAEVE's last criteria (2020) as a quality commitment of accreditation processes. Consequently, following the latest accreditation criterion for all veterinary faculties in Turkey besides with novel researches is thought to be important in achieving international standardization of veterinary education.

Keywords: Accreditation, AUFVM, EAEVE, ESEVT, quality, Turkey, veterinary education





Introduction

The Bologna Declaration was adopted in 1999 (Veiga et al 2015, Gonz alez et al 2004) with 29 countries' participation to establish and expand the network of quality assurance systems in higher education (Veiga et al 2015). As one of the aims of the Bologna process, the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is based on the mission of creating a more transparent and comparable higher education area, which was formed by the member countries over time (Y OK 2010). Quality in higher education is provided by accreditation applications (Gaston 2014). In that regard, the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) was established in 1988 in Maisons-Alfort, Paris, as the official authority for the accreditation of veterinary schools in Europe (EAEVE 2019, Wanner 2006). EAEVE's objective is to evaluate, encourage, and improve the quality and standard of education of veterinary education programs (Wanner 2006, Jorna 2006). In addition, EAEVE aims to act as a forum for discussing relevant issues for the harmonization and development of veterinary medicine education among member countries (EAEVE 2019). EAEVE has put European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT) into effect with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) (EAEVE 2020). The primary purpose of ESEVT is to check whether the professional qualifications provided by veterinary educational institutions comply with the relevant European Union directives and the EHEA's Quality Assurance Standards and Guidelines (EAEVE 2019). FVE is an organization established for veterinarians representing veterinary medicine organizations in 40 European countries to help fulfil their professional responsibilities in animal health, public health and animal welfare and be recognized and evaluated by society (Jorna 2006, FVE 2020).

Some of the veterinary medicine organizations in Europe are also members of the FVE. These organizations representing the professional groups of veterinary medicine are as follows; European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO), European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI), Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), Union of European Veterinary Hygienists (UEVH) (Jorna 2006; FVE 2020). The main objective of ESEVT carried out by EAEVE, is to check the professional qualifications provided by veterinary educational institutions whether they are relevant with "Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications" (OJ 2005) of 2005/36 EEC (then 58 updated as European Union Directive 2013/55/EU (OJ 2020)) and European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) (Jorna 2006). Veterinary education institutions, which have initiated the accreditation process, must provide 22 indicators, including 10 basic standards (EAEVE 2019). These indicators and standards are constantly updated by ESEVT and accepted as SOP at the General Assembly held in Zagreb on 30 May 2019 (EAEVE 2019). In addition, according to the

"Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications" numbered 2005/36 EEC, institutions have to comply with mandatory issues and First Day Qualifications in veterinary medicine education (EAEVE 2019, ECCVT 2020). Europe is taken as the reference body in terms of internationalization in Turkish veterinary medicine. The accreditation process in veterinary medicine education is carried out internationally with EAEVE. In 1991, AUFVM became the first member veterinary faculty from Turkey and had the first "approval" status in 2007 among the other member faculties (Yerlikaya and Ba a a  Gul 2018).¹ The overall objective of this study is to reveal the latest status of the faculties that have started their membership processes to EAEVE in Turkey as of December 2020. Besides, AUFVM as the first member and gained "approval" status from EAEVE, will be evaluated according to the 2019 SOP criteria.

Material and Methods

The main sources of the study are the Stage 1-2 Self-Evaluation Reports (SER), Re-visitation Reports, and data collected from AUFVM using information form. The current status of application of faculties are determined by evaluating the reports. According to the ESEVT's May 2019 SOP criteria, 22 parameters of the last 3 years were evaluated. Evaluation is made by various data such as number of academic and support staff, number of graduate and postgraduate students, curriculum information, number of necropsies, number of patients seen intramurally and extramurally for clinical education. All data of AUFVM for the last 3 academic years have been calculated using the excel file provided by ESEVT. Recommended minimal values for the last 3 complete academic years of establishments with Accreditation/Approval status in May 2019 were calculated using an Excel file. As of May 2019, in the excel file, establishment values mean the relevant institution's values; median values mean the values defined by data from institutions with Accreditation/Approval status and minimal values mean the values calculated as the 20th percentile of data from establishments with Accreditation/Approval status. Balance is the average value. A negative balance indicates that the Indicator is below the recommended minimal value. All values are also stated in the footnote with their explanations in Table 2. In addition, all documents obtained from the web pages of EAEVE and related institutions/organizations have been examined together with SER and Re Visitation Reports of the foreign veterinary faculties, which EAEVE has accredited. Findings were supported by a detailed literature search.

Results

The findings of the research are presented in the tables below. According to Table 1, 13 veterinary faculties have become members of EAEVE and started their accreditation process. Among these, AUFVM is the first veterinary faculty



Table 1. Dates of establishment and beginning of education, membership process of EAEVE and current ESEVT accreditation status of veterinary faculties in Turkey (as of December 2020)

Faculty	Town	Establishment Date	Beginning of Education	EAEVE Membership Date	Application date for Accreditation	Date of ECOVE Decision	End of granted status	Interim Report due	ESEVT Status
Ankara University FVM	Ankara	1842	1842	1991	2001	May 2018	Nov. 2025	May 2022	Approval
Firat University FVM	Elazığ	1967	1970	1994	2006	May 2018	-	-	Non Accreditation
Cerrahpaşa University FVM	İstanbul	1964	1972	1997	1998	Nov. 2016	Oct. 2025	April 2022	Approval
Uludağ University FVM	Bursa	1978	1978	1992	2004	June 2020	-	Aug.2023	Non- Accreditation
Selçuk University FVM	Konya	1982	1982	2000	2000	Dec. 2019	-	Oct. 2022	Non- Accreditation
Yüzüncü Yıl University FVM ¹	Van	1982	1983	-	2002	-	Candidate mem. ²	-	Not Visited
Kafkas University FVM	Kars	1982	1985	2003	2006	May 2016	-	-	Non Approval
Adnan Menderes University FVM	Aydın	1992	1993	2005	2003	May 2016	October 2021	-	Approval
Erciyes University FVM	Kayseri	1992	1995	2009	2012	Nov. 2018	-	-	Non- Accreditation
Harran University FVM	Urfa	1995	1995	2006	-	-	Candidate mem.	-	Not Visited
Mehmet Akif Ersoy University FVM	Burdur	1992	1996	2008	2013	Dec.2019	-	April 2023	Non -Accreditation
Afyon Kocatepe University FVM	Afyon	1995	1997	2009	2010	Nov. 2010	-	-	Non-Approval
Atatürk University FVM	Erzurum	1997	1999	2010	2010	Nov. 2010	Candidate mem.	-	Not Visited

¹ Stated membership for the EAEVE but did not inform about the application date.

² Candidate member

Table 3. ESEVT Indicators (Including AUFVM)

Calculated Indicators from raw data	Establishment values	Median values ¹	Minimal values ²	Balance ³
11 n° of FTE* academic staff involved in veterinary training / n° of undergraduate students	0,125	0,15	0,13	-0,001
12 n° of FTE veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0,950	0,84	0,63	0,320
13 n° of FTE support staff involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0,923	0,88	0,54	0,383
14 n° of hours of practical (non-clinical) training	1759,333	953,50	700,59	1058,743
15 n° of hours of clinical training	1837,333	941,58	704,80	1132,533
16 n° of hours of FSQ (Food Safety and Quality) & VPH (Veterinary Public Health) training	280,667	293,50	191,80	88,867
17 n° of hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ & VPH	32,000	75,00	31,80	0,200
18 n° of companion animal patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	125,292	62,31	43,58	81,712
19 n° of ruminant and pig patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	3,879	2,49	0,89	2,989
110 n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0,175	4,16	1,53	-1,355
111 n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	14,198	3,11	1,16	13,038
112 n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	0,000	5,06	0,43	-0,430
113 n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally / n° of students graduating annually	4,760	16,26	8,85	-4,090
114 n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	1,397	1,80	0,62	0,777
115 n° of visits to ruminant and pig herds / n° of students graduating annually	1,137	1,29	0,54	0,597
116 n° of visits of poultry and farmed rabbit units / n° of students graduating annually	0,218	0,11	0,04	0,173
117 n° of companion animal necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	2,909	2,11	1,40	1,509
118 n° of ruminant and pig necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,034	1,36	0,90	-0,497
119 n° of equine necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,034	0,18	0,10	-0,066
120 n° of rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies / n° of students graduating annually	0,448	2,65	0,88	-0,432
121* n° of FTE specialised veterinarians involved in veterinary training / n° of students graduating annually	0,954	0,27	0,06	0,894
122* n° of PhD graduating annually / n° of students graduating annually	0,097	0,15	0,07	0,027

1 Median values defined by data from Establishments with Accreditation/Approval status in May 2019

2 Recommended minimal values calculated as the 20th percentile of data from Establishments with Accreditation/Approval status in May 2019

3 A negative balance indicates that the Indicator is below the recommended minimal value

* Indicators used only for statistical purpose

** Total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) academic staff in veterinary training





that has started the accreditation process in 1991 (Table 1). A total of three veterinary faculties: AUFVM, İstanbul Cerrahpaşa University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (İUFVM) and Adnan Menderes University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (AMUFVM) are in approval status. Atatürk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (AUFVM), Yüzüncü Yıl University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (YYUFVM) and Harran University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (HUFVM) applied to EAEVE for evaluation, but have not yet visited. Fırat University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FUFVM), Erciyes University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (EUFVM), Selçuk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (SUFVM), Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (MAEUFVM) and Uludağ University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UUFVM) were determined to be non-accredited as a result of the evaluation. As of December 2020, Turkey does not have a fully-accredited veterinary school. Faculties that have started the EAEVE membership and stepped into the accreditation process must comply with the 22 indicators accepted by ESEVT (Table 2). When Table 2 is examined, all the data of the AUFVM or the last 3 academic years were first calculated by placing them in the excel table of EAEVE. With the data obtained, 22 main indicators were explained. Accordingly, these indicators were: 1, 2 and 3 for "staff and students"; 4, 5, 6, 7 for "types of training; 8, 9, 10, 11 for "patients available for intra-mural clinical training" 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 for "animals/herds/units are available for extra-mural clinical training"; 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 for "necropsies available for clinical training". When the data of last 3 academic years were analyzed, it was determined that the values of I1, I10, I12, I13, I18, I19, I20 are below the requirements of ESEVT, 7 of 22 parameters are negative, and 15 are within the range of average values.

Discussion

This study aimed to determine the membership and application status of veterinary faculties and evaluate the last status of AUFVM for the accreditation process as the first member of EAEVE in Turkey. A previous thesis study determined that Turkey follows Europe's current standards for accreditation applications (Yerlikaya 2015). Table 1 shows that some veterinary faculties in Turkey are members of the EAEVE and they have started their accreditation process. As of December 2020, considering that Turkey does not have a member faculty to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) which is the official accreditation institution in the United States of America, it can be inferred that instead of the American standards, Turkey still follows Europe's accreditation applications in terms of internationalization (Table 1). There are 28 veterinary faculties that are currently ongoing education in Turkey as of June 2020 (Yerlikaya 2020). The study revealed that 13 of these faculties started their membership and application processes to the EAEVE. In Table 1, it can be seen that 3 veterinary faculties (AUFVM, İUFVM and AMUFVM) are in approval status, 3 veterinary faculties

(AUFVM, YYUFVM and HUFVM) have not been visited yet because of their candidate status, and 5 veterinary faculties (FUFVM, EUFVM, SUFVM, MAEUFVM and UUFVM) have been visited but evaluated as non-accredited. The fact that only 3 of 28 veterinary faculties are in the approval status and that there is not yet a fully accredited veterinary faculty in Turkey can be considered as a deficiency in veterinary medicine education. Other veterinary faculties gaining approval status by providing the criteria as soon as possible will be an important factor to increase the quality of education in the short and long term.

Accreditation applications are quality assurance systems that promise high-quality education standards and require continuous evaluation and interim reports (Aktan and Gencil 2010, Ruohoniemi et al 2017). Accreditation is not a one-time process, and it requires long-term and continuous improvement and transformation based on periodic internal and external evaluations. Therefore, accreditation processes of veterinary faculties variably depend on evaluation periods. According to EAEVE/ESEVT, veterinary faculties wish to initiate the accreditation process and state that their curricula comply with the EU Directive 2005/36 (2013/55). Faculties that does not comply with the relevant directive are not accepted for the accreditation processes (Martinez 2006). It is evaluated that veterinary faculties in comply with EU Directive 2005/36 where at least 5 years of full time theoretical and practical education is given (Yerlikaya 2015). First Day Competencies are defined in EU Directive 2005/36 (2013/55) for veterinary medicine. In the Day 1 Competencies section of Directive 2013/55, competence is described as "adequate knowledge/skill/attitude/ability", and First Day Competencies are defined as "competence in basic sciences, animal health and breeding, animal husbandry, animal behavior, animal protection and welfare, animal diseases zoonoses, preventive medicine, food hygiene and safety, veterinary medicine legislation, legal regulations, administrative provisions and clinical/practical experience" (OJ 2020, Yerlikaya 2018). According to the relevant directive, veterinary faculties should meet the Day 1 Competencies where 36 basic achievements occur and ensure that all these achievements are given to the students before graduation (ESEVT 2019). Accreditation applications of veterinary faculties that are not compatible with the Directive are rejected by ESEVT (ESEVT 2019). In the light of these findings, it can be said that veterinary faculties in Turkey that are members of EAEVE meet the standards as of December 2020. Faculties starting the EAEVE accreditation process have an obligation to comply with EU Directive No. 2005/36. Veterinary faculties determined to not meet the main acquisitions of Directive 36 cannot apply for accreditation according to the ESEVT. Therefore, it has been determined that faculties in Turkey that have applied for the EAEVE are in compliance with the EU Directive 2005/36 (Table 1).





When Table 2 with the ESEVT indicators is examined, it was determined that 7 of the 22 main parameters of AUFVM do not meet the value in the international standard range, and 15 parameters are within the desired ranges. Placed in Indicator 1 of AUFVM, n° of FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training/n° of undergraduate students is below the desired range. When SER reports of foreign veterinary faculties with accreditation status from EAEVE by 2020 are examined, for instance, the value is determined as I1: -001 for The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin, The University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (I1:0,01), University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science (I1:0,032), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Complutense University of Madrid (I1:0,079), Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de Murcia, (I1:0,117) Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, SLU, Uppsala, (I1:0,079), The Veterinary Faculty of Valencia (I1:-0,016); Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Yamaguchi University & Kagoshima University (I1:0,143) VetNorth Japan: (I1:0,173); Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Helsinki (I1:0,082) Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Lisbon (I1:0,008).^{2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12} When the Indicator 1 value of the faculties is examined, it is determined that the value of AUFVM is the same as The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin. The biggest difference was determined with VetNorth Japan (The Cooperative Veterinary Education Program between Hokkaido University School of Veterinary Medicine and Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine). It can be argued that the reason for I1 value of the AUFVM is below the desired rates is the high number of undergraduate students. When the SER reports of above mentioned accredited veterinary faculties are examined, it is determined that the number of students is lower than AUFVM. For example, the number of undergraduate students for three years was determined as 1272 for AUFVM, while it was reported to be 699 for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Lisbon.^{13 12} Besides, although AUFVM's FTE academic staff involved in veterinary training value is higher than other faculties examined, the excess number of students causes this rate to drop to negative on calculation. Due to the Law on Higher Education in Turkey (YÖK), No: 2547 students are placed into veterinary faculties with a central exam. Faculties do not have a say in recruiting students to veterinary faculties. Student quotas are determined by YÖK.¹⁴ It can be argued that one of the reasons for excess quota and admitting more than necessary students to the faculties is political (Özen and Özen 2006, Küçükbaşlan and Yerlikaya 2013). That conjuncture makes it difficult for veterinary faculties to meet the desired ranges for international accreditation standards. Considering that most of the ESEVT's parameters are in relation to the number of students, it can be said that veterinary faculties in Turkey having difficulties in meeting required criteria due to country-based engagements. It may be thought that reducing the quotas of current faculties, not opening more faculties

than needed, and consulting the authorities for opening new faculties can partially solve the problem in the long term.

Looking at the I10 indicator of the AUFVM (I10: 1.355)¹⁵, it was found to be below the desired value range (Table 2). Compared to the values of other accredited faculties, it is also found lower than other faculties: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Milan I10: 1.517; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Lisbon I10: 2,13; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Leipzig I10: 5.53; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Helsinki I10: 32.057.^{16 12 17 11} Not only for AUFVM, but the n° of equine patients seen intra-murally / n° of students graduating annually the value of veterinary faculties in Turkey which have the approval or conditional approval status, is also found to be below the average value. Conclusively, I10 value is below the required value for AUFVM and the other veterinary faculties in Turkey. MAEUFVM I10: -1,133; FUFVM I0: -0,762; SUFVM I10: -0,919; EUFVM I10: -0,68.^{18 19 20 21}

For example, the I10 value of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Helsinki, which has received full accreditation approval by EAEVE, was found to be higher than other faculties (I10: 32,057). When the SER reports of the faculty were examined, it was determined that this high rate was due to the existence of a separate horse hospital within the faculty.¹¹ Besides, the reason for the high I10 value (I10: 68,186) for the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science is that the faculty has formed clinical partnership with a horse-breeding center.⁴ It can be concluded that the faculties mentioned above have reached the required values for I10 by utilizing their advantages like separate horse hospital and breeding center. As for the AUFVM, EAEVE reported that the faculty has a low number of equines, and efforts should be put in that regard.^{22 3} Previously for AUFVM, EAEVE reported that the faculty has a low number of equines, and efforts should be put in that regard.¹⁵ To serve that purpose, protocols signed with the Turkish Jockey Club, Military Equestrian Training Center and Private Equestrian Clubs and the opportunity to see clinical cases and visits to these centres are provided.^{15 22} However, in terms of the current I10 value, AUFVM has not yet reached the desired number of clinical cases. Radical solutions to increase the number of horses, like in the example of accredited faculties Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Helsinki and University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, should be found in order to reach long-term objectives for Turkish veterinary faculties.

When I12: n° of companion animal patients seen extra-murally/n° of students graduating annually ratio (-0,430) and I13: n° of individual ruminants and pig patients seen extra-murally/n° of students graduating annually ratio (-4,090) of AUFVM was evaluated, it is found to be below the required value by ESEVT (Table 2). Even though intra-mural I8 and I9





values are within the desired rate, for instance, AUFVM could not reach the required values of ESEVT in terms of animals seen extra-murally by mobile clinics. When the SER reports of 27 fully accredited veterinary faculties are analyzed, it is seen that Vetsuisse Faculty Universities Bern and Zürich (I12: 51,181; I13: 22,461) has the highest values.²³ As stated in SER reports of faculties, when the highest I12 and I13 values of foreign faculties and AUFVM are compared, it is seen that the difference was caused by high number of clinical cases and routine weekly mobile clinical visits like in the example of Vetsuisse Faculty Universities Bern and Zürich, Department for Farm Animals and the Division of Pig Medicine in Zurich. Reasons for foreign faculties to have higher I12 and I13 values are stated in SER reports of faculties.²³ It can be said that AUFVM can achieve the desired value range by increasing the mobile clinical routines for I12 and I13 parameters as in other faculty examples. However, increasing the number of swine cases seems unlikely both for AUFVM and other veterinary faculties in Turkey, considering the population of pigs in the country (TÜİK 2020). In addition, the fact that the faculty campus is located in the city centre causes the number of cattle brought to the clinics to not be at the desired level, which constitutes the faculty's weakness. The problem of the low number of cattle coming to the faculty is being resolved via mobile clinics and visits to cattle units.

When I18, I19, I20 indicators are examined, it is determined that the number of total ruminant and pig necropsies, total equine necropsies, total rabbit, rodent, bird and exotic pet necropsies is below the desired value range of ESEVT (Table 2). I18 values being negative might be attributed to having a much lower number of pigs in Turkey. Regarding other faculties, besides having high values like Veterinary Faculty of the Autonomous University of Barcelona 1,176; the Royal Veterinary College, London 0,156; the University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover 6,86; there are relatively low values like the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, SLU, Uppsala -0,037; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin -0,34.^{24 25 3 26 2} When I19 for the total equine necropsies for each student is evaluated, both AUFVM and other veterinary faculties in Turkey are below the desired level. (e.g.: FUFVM: -0.073, MAEUFVM: -0.084).^{19 18} As stated previously for I10 indicator, the number of equine animals is found negative both for AUFVM and some veterinary faculties in Turkey.^{19 18 27 22} AUFVM's efforts to increase the number of equidae species has been stated in the previous paragraphs. The institution tries to increase the number of equidae species with bilateral agreements.

When we look at the I20 value of AUFVM (-0,432), the total number of rabbit, rodent, bird, and exotic pet necropsies (Table 2) is quite low compared to the values of the accredited faculties such as the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin (4.73) and the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (2.08) which have reached to

the needed I20 value.^{2 3} The presence of rabbit, rodent, bird, and exotic pet animals of AUFVM is low compared to faculties abroad. Despite Turkey's variety of climatic conditions and geographical regions in terms of the numerical presence of animal species, it is difficult for some species to reach the desired numbers. In order to overcome this deficiency, faculties can try to increase the presence of animals through institutional efforts.

AUFVM is determined to be at the desired value for the other 15 parameters I2, I3, I4, I5, I6, I7, I8, I9, I11, I14, I15, I16, I17, I21, I22 of ESEVT (Table 2). Providing the required conditions in all other parameters and maintaining the approval status shows the strengths of the faculty. It was noted earlier in the text that AUFVM and other Turkish veterinary faculties compared to foreign ones, have an excess number of graduate students (therefore veterinarians) than the need for veterinarians of country.²⁸ Despite this high rate, I2: 032 and I3: 0.38 values obtained from the division of the number of veterinarians and administrative staff working full time to the number of students graduating annually are determined to be within the required value range of ESEVT. These values (I2, I3) are determined I2:0.02 and I3:0.84 for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin and I2:0.035 and I3:0.083 for the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science fully-accredited faculties.²⁴ Compared to the rate of fully accredited faculties, it can be said that if the student quota decreases in the following years, AUFVM which has the approval status, might have a better 3 reference range. Theoretical and practical hours in AUFVM's curriculum (I4: 1058,743; I5: 311 1132,533) is determined to be much higher when compared to other fully accredited veterinary faculties (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin I4: 345.00 and I5: 66,40; University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science I4: 144,333 and I5: 493,667; Veterinary Medicine, University of Milan I4: 189.00 and I5: -46.000; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, SLU, Uppsala I4: 560.00 and I5:151.00).^{2 4 16 7} In accordance with the ESEVT criteria, it is important that the rates of the lecture hours of the faculties are at the values determined for the theoretical and practical hours, rather than being high or low (Table 2).

In addition, it is important for practice-based veterinary education that the practical training hours are at least as much as or more than the theoretical hours. In this context, when the training hours of other veterinary faculties are examined, it is seen that there is no certain standard. It is known that faculties that meet Median values and Minimal Values also meet the criteria for these values.

The reason for AUFVM to have higher I14 and I15 values than many accredited faculties is because of the intensity of curriculum hours and ECTSs (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). For AUFVM, the total course hours





for the 5-years license program are 1946 hours, and the total number of practical lessons are 2188 hours. Considering the proportional balance, the theoretical/practical ratio was calculated as $1946/2188 = 0.89$.¹³ The education programs of both AUVFM and other Turkish veterinary faculties that have started their accreditation processes are determined to comply with relevant (2005/36 EEC) EU directives. This contributes to the faculties to meet the ESEVT's curriculum related indicators. It has been determined that the I6 and I7 indicators are within the required value range of ESEVT. Relevantly, as one of the highest, I7 value for VetNorth Japan is 55.20 according to the SER report.¹⁰

In order to close the gap for I6 and I7 indicators AUFVM has to carry out actions to increase the hours of extra-mural practical training in FSQ (Extra-mural Food Safety and Quality) and VPH (Veterinary Public Health practical hours). Indicators I8, I9, and I11, which are placed in the Patients Available for Intra-Mural Clinical Training section, are found to be within the required value range for AUFVM. When SER reports of AUFVM that have started their accreditation processes are evaluated, except for the number of equine patients coming to the faculty clinics, no problems were determined in terms of the number of animals for other species. AUFVM's mobile clinics and officially signed protocols with husbandry units can be regarded as the reasons for I14, I15 I16 values, which are placed in Animals/Herds/Units. Available for Extra-Mural Clinical Training, to be within the required range.^{26 21}

Only I7 is found to be within the required range out of the indicators of Necropsies Available for Clinical Training section. The reason for that to be within the required range, as stated previously for I8 value, is because of the total number of companion animals in Turkey. I21 and I22 values are determined as 0,894 and 0.027 for AUFVM. These indicators are I21: 0,377, and I22: 0,224 for the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna (Vetmeduni Vienna), I21: -0,008 and I22: 0.033 for Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Lisbon fully accredited faculties.^{30 12} Compared to accredited veterinary faculties, AUVFM considering its approval status, can be said to be at a good point in terms of these values. AUVFM has the highest number of academic staff amongst all veterinary faculties in Turkey (ÖSYM 2020). Experience in national and international accreditation processes, having approval status and pursue of accreditation goals for the future, full provision of "Day One Competences" of EAEVE for the new veterinarians, effective intern groups during 11 months period with maximum of seven students, can be count as the strengths of the faculty. Accordingly, the ability to compete in the international area and the insurance of training of veterinarians in the level of global standards are the main objectives of veterinary faculties in Turkey.

Quality commitment and management in veterinary medicine education is provided through accreditation systems.

Accreditation is a means that provides quality assurance for an institution to meet specific standards and constantly maintain them. It is a process that aims continuous increase quality for higher education institutions. Veterinary faculties are critical in providing international standardization and high-quality veterinary education. The accreditation criteria of EAEVE as a member of the European Association for the Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), which is the highest authority in the quality assessment of higher education institutions in Europe, also include criteria for the quality assurance systems. Each EAEVE/ESEVT accredited institution guarantees that the quality of education it provides is within certain standards (ESEVT 2019). The basic level of veterinary medicine training must include the first day results, and new graduates must have the First Day Competencies when they graduate.^{31 32} Veterinary faculties in Turkey promise that they train veterinarians who possess the First Day Competencies when they apply for EAEVE. Despite the fact that no deficiency for the First Day Competencies is determined, discussions continue how the first day qualifications should be applied and whether the students graduated by realizing these acquisitions (Yerlikaya 2019).

As of December 2020, not having a fully accredited veterinary faculty can be regarded as a deficiency for veterinary medicine education in Turkey.

Conclusion

Consequently, following the latest international accreditation processes of veterinary faculties in Turkey can be suggested. New researches are also essential to determine the latest accreditation status in compliance with changing criteria.

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