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A CAREER MEANS EDUCATION PLUS COMPETENCIES

At international level of Veterinary Profession is becoming more and more important. It is a result of the globalization of the economy, of new communication technologies, persons, services and wealth that take place in the contemporary societies.

As a leading international organization the OIE plays a key role to ensure animal health and wellbeing of animals. The OIE advocates for the world wide importance of high quality veterinary education.

All veterinarians in every nation are responsible for the delivery of National Veterinary Services. National Veterinary Services should be able to meet standards adopted by each country, but should also be able to comply with appropriate international standards and recommendations. Although only some veterinarians will focus their careers on the public component of National Veterinary Services, all veterinarians, regardless of their professional area of practice after graduation, are responsible for promoting animal health, animal welfare, veterinary public health and food safety.

Veterinary education is a cornerstone to assure that the graduating veterinarian not only has received a level of education and training that ensures sound overall competencies, but also has the required knowledge, skills, attitudes and aptitudes to understand and be able to perform entry-level national veterinary service tasks. Basic education that provides the minimum competencies is a basis on which veterinarians can build expertise through on-the-job training and quality postgraduate continuing education.

As studies show graduates face the problems such as lack of practical knowledge and experience, lack of communicative skills, lack of drive and initiative, overly high expectations, failure to assume responsibility and lack of business knowledge. The OIE has developed recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians (“Day 1 graduates”). The minimum competencies include knowledge (cognitive abilities, meaning mental skills), skills (ability to perform specific tasks), attitude (affective abilities, meaning feelings and emotions) and aptitude (a student’s natural ability, talent, or capacity for learning).

As veterinarians we have all to be united in order to achieve high quality standards in education for the Veterinary Profession of today and that of the future.