

#### Developing structured education of economics applied to animal health: Results of a worldwide survey

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## Developing structured education of economics applied to animal health: Results of a worldwide



### survey

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## Introduction and aim

- Animal health professionals need to have an understanding of the application of economics to animal health (EAH) to be able to advice clients in a more comprehensive way taking into account not only medical knowledge but also economic considerations
- The current economic crisis and the increase of animal disease emergence and re-emergence have made the need for these skills all the more urgent
- The NEAT project "Networking to enhance the use of economics in animal health education, research and policy making in Europe and beyond" aims to enable a wide cadre of people to teach economics and create educational materials
- NEAT is a network of 60 partners from Europe, Australasia, Latin America and Africa
- NEAT conducted a survey to assess current and future needs and expectations of people using economics applied to animal health



# Methodology

 Three online questionnaires were distributed in 35 countries (mostly European) for :

Educational Institutions	<ul> <li>Veterinary or agricultural schools and universities, curriculum setting bodies</li> </ul>
Private organisations	<ul> <li>Veterinary organisations other than educational, industry bodies, producers, service providers, consulting agencies and supply chain associations</li> </ul>
Public bodies	<ul> <li>Government and other public agencies, research institutes, international organisations and non-</li> </ul>

## Results

- Usable sample of 264 surveys (among which 46 answered through the public website) → 39% response rate
- Response rates for the different groups: 39% for educational institutions, 30% for private organisations and 57% for public bodies
- Data were retrieved anonymously and descriptive analyse were performed
- 50% of respondents considered economics a relevant topic and dedicated up to ¼ of their professional time to topics in this area
- Teaching or training in EAH offered by 1/3 of respondents' organisations mainly by educational institutions and the programme is generally based on general economic concepts
   Results summary

#### governmental organisations

- Contact lists were provided by NEAT partners and all partners contributed to the distribution of the survey
- 677 questionnaires sent: 256 to educational institutions, 285 to private organizations and 136 to public bodies
- The link to the survey was also made available on the NEAT webpage
- The questionnaires comprised three sections: 1) Respondent identification, 2) Current teaching and training and 3) Need of training today and in the future and related drivers of change

### Education in EAH is inconsistently offered and information on training opportunities are scarce

- Education needs of educational and public organisations are related to decisions on interventions and disease impact assessment
- Needs of private organisations are more focused on the use of economics for general management
- The majority of respondents believed the needs were going to increase in the future

## **NEAT planned actions**

- Produce a book for undergraduates with basic concepts and cases that would combine theory and application
- Adopt a practical approach of EAH teaching/training developments at undergraduate and postgraduate levels through the use of case studies
- Promote the institutionalisation of EAH in the veterinary curricula by lobbying curriculum setting bodies

## How you can get involved?

- Visit the project Website <u>www.neat-network.eu</u>
- Newsletter subscribe on website
- Blog: subscribe and join the discussion
- Join us a s a NEAT friend send an email to <u>hbennani@rvc.ac.uk</u>
- Follow the annual meetings with open session

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Contact: info@neat-network.eu
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