



NEAT study: Educational resources for the economics of animal health are improving in breadth and scope but gaps still remain*

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess the scope of economics of animal health (EAH) training To identify the gaps that exist in current curricula in EAH To highlight potential ways forward in EAH
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative assessment drawing on survey results from other NEAT WPs
Geographical coverage	Worldwide with focus on the EU
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karl M. Rich, Norwegian University of Life Science Henk Hoogeveen, Utrecht University Jonathan Rushton, Royal Veterinary College Barbara Häsler, Royal Veterinary College Keith Howe, Exeter University Agnes Waret Szkuta, Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse Didier Raboisson, Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse Bouda Ahmadi, Scottish Agricultural College
Duration	2013-2014
Key findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous programs in animal health economics exist both in veterinary faculties and as external courses, including via distance learning The target audience for EAH includes undergraduate veterinary and animal science students; postgraduates in veterinary and livestock systems; and professionals such as clinical staff, veterinarians in practice, policy officers, and economists specializing in animal health Gaps in education remain – much of the focus of curriculum continues to equate economics with costs and money, emphasizing partial budgets and farm management issues rather than behavioral drivers More sensitization of what economics is, as applied to the veterinary practitioner, is required, and curricula should be tailored accordingly At postgraduate /scholarly levels, gaps need to be bridged between some of the important theoretical contributions of economics and their application in the animal health world
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At a research level, while more needs to be done to improve the quality and quantity of methods used in animal health economics, a more pressing need is to distill these in a manner that practitioners can both understand and use in their everyday activities At a teaching level, it is crucial to provide more exposure to economics. The main questions are (i) finding the appropriate time in veterinary curricula to do this and (ii) doing so in a manner that is more intuitive and specific the animal health issues. The role of NEAT in this is critical.

*The full report can be obtained from info@neat-network.eu.

Project:

NEAT

Duration:

36 months

Website:

www.neat-network.eu