



## 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"> <li>To assess the scope of economics of animal health (EAH) training</li> <li>To identify the gaps that exist in current curricula in EAH</li> <li>To highlight potential ways forward in EAH</li> </ul>
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative assessment drawing on survey results from other NEAT WPs</li> </ul>
Geographical coverage	Worldwide with focus on the EU
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karl M. Rich, Norwegian University of Life Science</li> <li>Henk Hoeweveen, Utrecht University</li> <li>Jonathan Rushton, Royal Veterinary College</li> <li>Barbara Häsler, Royal Veterinary College</li> <li>Keith Howe, Exeter University</li> <li>Agnes Waret Szkuta, Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse</li> <li>Didier Raboisson, Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse</li> <li>Bouda Ahmadi, Scottish Agricultural College</li> </ul>
Duration	2013-2014
Key findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous programs in animal health economics exist both in veterinary faculties and as external courses, including via distance learning</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>More sensitization of what economics is, as applied to the veterinary practitioner, is required, and curricula should be tailored accordingly</li> <li>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</li> </ul>
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a <b>research level</b>, 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</li> <li>At a <b>teaching level</b>, 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.</li> </ul>

\*The full report can be obtained from [info@neat-network.eu](mailto:info@neat-network.eu).

**Project:**

NEAT

**Duration:**

36 months

**Website:**

[www.neat-network.eu](http://www.neat-network.eu)