

NEWSLETTER No 1 / 2012

Networking to enhance the use of economics in animal health education, research and policy making in Europe and beyond (NEAT)

The goal of NEAT is to strengthen and enhance the use of economics in animal health in higher education and professional environments by creating an academic network that focuses on strategic reflections, needs analyses, development and application of educational material and networking.

Welcome to NEAT



We are in the initial phases of what will be an exciting project and also a point of the year when most of us will be in the middle of heavy teaching burdens. Our tendency will be to think of improving our material on the use of economics in animal health, which is targeted at educating undergraduate and postgraduate students. This potentially means that economics, which is a cross cutting skill, is not as strongly intertwined in the clinical teaching delivered by other members of staff. I want to encourage that we ask within our institutions how other members of staff are using economics in their education programmes. If they are including aspects of economics, are there things we can learn from them, or do they need some help on the concepts and tools that they are presenting? If clinical colleagues are not using economics in their material can we begin discussion groups to examine where economics could be included, clearly showing the benefits to the teaching staff and ultimately having students who are better prepared for the workplace. It would be great to have your ideas and thoughts around the need for educational materials for our clinical teaching colleagues.

Jonathan Rushton, Project Coordinator

Content

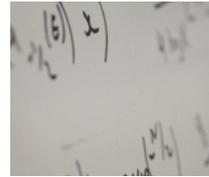
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1 Inception workshop for NEAT

The inception workshop was held at the Royal Veterinary College in London, United Kingdom, on 22nd and 23rd October 2012 with work package leaders and core partners. The 20 participants were animal health scientists, economists, executive directors and project coordinators and trainers from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Finland, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Belgium and Turkey. Due to heavy fog on the day, the workshop participants from the Netherlands and Norway were not able to travel to London.



The coordinator gave an overview of the aim of the project, the structure of the consortium and the planned activities. All work package leaders presented the key aims, activities, ideas, collaborations, and timelines. The inception workshop was designed to acquaint a broad spectrum of partners with the project, to get to know each other and to consult on planned activities and next steps. [Read more](#)



2 Material for literature survey requested

Following the start of NEAT, several activities scheduled for the first year of the project have been initiated. One of the first tasks in work package 2 is to carry out a literature review on the use of economics in animal health. The review will systematically screen electronic and printed publications in the domain, which are reviewed and collated into a report which will be available for the first annual meeting of the consortium. Besides peer-reviewed articles published in English, other types of publications and non-English publications will also be reviewed.

The consortium has a tremendous amount of expertise in the domain of economics of animal health. To complement citation database searches, work package 2 requests Your invaluable help. If you are aware of any publications which would be of interest to the review, please send the publication or the reference of it to us. All types of publications and reference data are very much appreciated. In particular, we would like to receive references and publications which are in other language than English. Please send the material by email to jarkko.niemi@mtt.fi

3 Contribute to the contact list

Another task carried out during the first year of the project is the online survey, a collaboration between work packages 2 and 3. The survey will assess status quo of teaching and training in the economics of animal health. It will also enquire about future needs in this domain. In the inception workshop, the following target groups for the survey have been defined: Representative veterinary bodies, public bodies, industry bodies and European bodies. Selected stakeholders may be invited to comment on the draft questionnaire. The questionnaire is scheduled to take place before summer 2013. At this stage we would like to ask all partners to contribute to the contact list which will be used to distribute the survey.

Please go to the NEAT Skydrive Folder:

[05_Workplan > 05b_WP2](#)

and provide contact information for representative institutions and persons in your country to the Excel file "NEAT_list_representative_bodies_for_survey.xlsx" (please provide at least the name of organisation, contact person and his/her e-mail address). Please consider providing information about as many organisations as possible.

4 NEAT website



The website for NEAT www.neat-network.eu is now online and fully functional: It includes a description of the project, its aims and objectives and structure. You will find

interactive maps of all the partner countries involved with links to their institutions and a list of NEAT and other relevant events. There is the possibility to sign up for the newsletter which will be circulated electronically. For NEAT partners, there is a members area that grants access to all project documentation. [Have a look!](#)

5 NEAT project factsheet

The NEAT project factsheet is a two-page concise overview of what NEAT is about, namely the institutions involved and contact details, background to the project, objectives, planned activities and impact. It can be distributed to anybody with an interest in NEAT and will help to promote awareness of the project and its activities. Download the NEAT project factsheet [here](#).

Contact

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