

13. QUALITY ASSURANCE AT THE FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

13.1 Introduction

1. The creation of integrated quality assurance systems in Higher Education Institutions results from international recommendations, namely:

- i. Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, contained in the 2015 report prepared by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) at the request of the Ministers who signed the Bologna Declaration.
- ii. Report prepared by ENQA, at the request of the Portuguese Government, on quality assurance in higher education in Portugal (2006), which evaluated practices carried out in this domain under the National Council for the Evaluation of Higher Education (CNAVES) and made recommendations to the Government on the organization, methods, and processes of a new accreditation system in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines.
- iii. Evaluation report of the Portuguese Higher Education system (2006), prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at the request of the Portuguese Government.
- iv. Principles and Process of Evaluation and Standard Operating Procedures of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), revised in May 2016 in Uppsala, which regulate the evaluation of European Veterinary Education Establishments through ECOVE.

2. 1. The first three documents formed the basis for the approval of the Legal Framework for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (Law no. 38/2007 of 16 August) and for the creation of the Agência de Avaliação e Acreditação do Ensino Superior (A3ES), established by Decree-Law no. 369/2007 of 5 November. The last document underpins the European veterinary education evaluation system aimed at its approval, based on compliance with Directive 2005/36, and its accreditation by ECOVE when adequate academic and training quality standards are met.

The higher education quality assurance and evaluation system is based on the existence, within higher education institutions and their organic units, of internal quality assurance systems. To this end, institutions must:

- i. Adopt, in line with their mission, a quality assurance policy for their study cycles, as well as appropriate procedures for its implementation.
- ii. Develop concrete measures to promote a culture of quality assurance in all areas of activity.
- iii. Implement a strategy for continuous quality improvement.

3. Within this context, under Article 7 of the Regulations of the Integrated Quality Management System of Universidade de Lisboa (SIGQ-ULisboa), published by Order no. 15622/2015 in the Official Gazette (2nd Series, no. 253 of 29 December 2015), the School Council of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FMV) approves the Regulations of the Integrated Quality Assurance System of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, upon proposal by the President of FMV and following favorable opinions from the Management Council, the Scientific Council, and the Pedagogical Council.



13.2 General Dispositions

Purpose and Scope

1. These Regulations establish the organizational foundations of the Integrated Quality Assurance System of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, hereinafter referred to as SIGQ-FMV, defining its organization and main instruments, in accordance with Article 7 of the SIGQ-ULisboa Regulations.
2. SIGQ-FMV shall ensure the continuous improvement of FMV's quality by assessing the degree of fulfillment of its mission through performance criteria and indicators related to its activities and outcomes.
3. SIGQ-FMV shall also integrate the procedures for evaluating research and teaching activities stipulated in Articles 3, 23, 27, and 43 of the FMV Statutes

Coordenation

Coordination and management of SIGQ-FMV are the responsibility of the FMV Quality Assurance Council.

Instruments

The fundamental instruments of SIGQ-FMV are:

- a) FMV Strategic Plan;
- b) FMV Quality Manual;
- c) FMV Quality Plan.

Functions

The Quality Assurance Council of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (CGQ-FMV) is responsible for promoting quality evaluation and coordinating and managing SIGQ-FMV.

Composition

1. CGQ-FMV includes:
 - a) The President of FMV or the member of the Management Council delegated for this purpose
 - b) The President of the Scientific Council or a delegated member
 - c) The President of the Pedagogical Council or a delegated academic staff member
 - d) The President of the Clinical Department Council or a delegated academic staff member
 - e) One to three FMV professors or researchers appointed by the President of FMV
 - f) The Executive Director of FMV
 - g) The President of the FMV Students' Association (AEFMV) or a delegated student representative

2. CGQ-FMV is chaired by the President of FMV or the delegated member of the Management Council.
3. External members may be invited to CGQ-FMV meetings whenever justified by the matters under discussion.
4. Members of CGQ-FMV are appointed by order of the President of FMV.

Responsibilities

1. Within the national accreditation and evaluation framework, and in accordance with the law and guidelines issued by FMV governing bodies, CGQ-FMV is responsible for proposing quality evaluation procedures to be implemented at FMV, namely:
 - a) Promoting the quality of teaching, research, outreach, and management activities
 - b) Promoting the development of an integrated institutional quality assurance culture
 - c) Coordinating quality management and evaluation processes at the service level
 - d) Monitoring the evaluation of research and teaching activities, in accordance with the FMV Statutes and internal/external evaluation processes
 - e) Providing information to FMV governing bodies, especially the School Council, regarding SIGQ-FMV activities
 - f) Analyzing the functioning of SIGQ-FMV, preparing assessment reports, and issuing opinions on corrective measures deemed appropriate
 - g) Preparing the FMV Quality Manual and Quality Plan and proposing their approval
 - h) Proposing the creation of institutional support structures for quality assurance implementation
 - i) Issuing recommendations related to quality assurance
 - j) Publishing SIGQ-FMV actions and documents
 - k) Proposing revisions to these Regulations
 - l) Approving its internal rules;
2. Within its scope of responsibility, CGQ-FMV may request opinions or collaboration from other institutional bodies.

Operation

1. CGQ-FMV meets upon convocation by its chair.
2. In the event of a tie vote, the chair has a casting vote.
3. CGQ-FMV is provided with the human and material resources allocated by the FMV Management Council.
4. CGQ-FMV may create specialized committees, defining their composition and responsibilities, and may include external members.



13.3 Final and Transitional Provisions

Interpretation, Doubts, and Omissions

CGQ-FMV is responsible for interpreting doubts and omissions arising from the application of these Regulations.

Revision and Amendment

The President of FMV may propose amendments to these Regulations to the School Council, after consulting CGQ-FMV and obtaining favorable opinions from the Scientific and Pedagogical Councils.

Entry into Force and Publication

1. The SIGQ-FMV Regulations enter into force the day after their approval by the FMV School Council.
2. SIGQ-FMV documents shall be made publicly available in an appropriate location, and the Quality Manual and Quality Plan must be published on the FMV institutional website.