

Annual Report SAPUVETNET III Project – 2011/2012

During this period the work of the project continued in compliance with the planned objectives, contributing towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, through strengthening the concept of **One Health** and essentially creating durable ties between the universities in South America and Europe, with regard to consolidating deepening the objectives and methodologies for better **Veterinary Public Health** teaching.

In general, the main activities developed during this year were:

- **Production of new products, such as a song and a video**, destined to support rabies campaigns in regions where rabies is a public health problem, such as Latin America. These are being translated into all official languages of the project.
- Beginning production of other unconventional teaching materials, aimed at young audiences, to support rabies campaigns.
- **Edition of our journal of public health** with two issues published in 2011; JOURNAL III (Jan - Jun 2011- http://www.sapuvetnet.org/EN_frameset.html) and JOURNAL IV (Jul - Dec 2011 - http://www.sapuvetnet.org/EN_frameset.html).
- Establishment of **student working groups and a student mailing list** in Veterinary Public Health, with new groups created, in Portugal, Argentina and Chile. These groups makes it possible for the students to have contact with the public health problems experienced by communities, learn methods of inquiry and intervention, apply concepts of risk analysis, and increase awareness with regard to public health.
- Two **face-to-face meetings**, held in Valdivia – Chile and Rome – Italy, which contributed towards analysing the VPH Manual and planning the development of new didactic materials.
- Progress with regard to the proposal for establishing **the required competencies in the curriculum for Veterinary Public Health (VPH)** education.
- Organization and participation in **several conferences** as a complement to the activities mentioned above, and with the aim of giving visibility to the project. Some partners such as Turin, Évora, Mexico, Uruguay and Spain participated in conferences/congresses/meetings (in addition to the project coordination meetings) and promoted/disseminated the SAPUVETNET activities and products.
- Further development and improvement of the **web page**.
- Analysis and development of a new area, “Animal Assisted Therapies”, in which Évora University (Portugal), through SAPUVETNET III Project, continues working towards developing skills in training animals to work with people.

The main results achieved through the mentioned activities were:

- Better cooperation and improved relations among networks and institutions within and between the two regions (LA, Europe).
- Bilateral agreements and exchanges: as a result of contact with UNAM (Mexico Autonomous University) a professor at UNAM has come to visit and stay in Portugal, participating actively in the implementation of the project’s objectives at the University of Évora, especially with regard to adapting the curriculum agreed upon in Mexicalli; which has been very successful.
- Enhancement of south-south collaboration which was strengthened through participation of the partners from Peru, Chile and Uruguay in a training activity about preparedness in Natural Disasters, organized in Cuba, our partner with the greatest experience in this area.
- Increased north-south collaboration through the work of the partner from Great Britain who spent a period of time in Uruguay for exchange of ideas and knowledge and establishment of research projects and programs for control of zoonotic diseases.
- Submission of papers for publication in the SAPUVETNET journal, written by several members of the project.

Throughout this year team work has been strengthened, bilateral exchanges and joint researches have been initiated, the VPH manual has been almost finished, educational materials for common use as well

as innovative didactic materials for young people have been produced and the members participated in several conferences helping disseminate the Sapuvetnet III project. Altogether there has been a growing desire to continue working to accomplish the project's objectives. The most important and significant result is that the group is motivated to continue working together after the project ends and is studying different possibilities with regard to the project's sustainability, one of them being the establishment of a non-profit international association.