## **SWOT** analysis of FMVSZ

# Strength

- 1. Excellent location with good communication with stakeholder's
- 2. The oldest VEE established in 1923 (nearly 100-year history)
- 3. Experience as accredited by EAEVE with positive criteria within SOP standards
- 4. Active exchange programs within ERASMUS for students and teachers.
- 5. Governmental and private veterinary stakeholders are in permanent communication and good relationships with the faculty, especially for crisis decisions and shared expertise.
- 6. Leader in the national Students practices program
- 7. Students from all study years are nearly equal high active in the satisfaction survey.
- 8. Own student's transportation system for extramural practices and farms.
- 9. Continuous enrolment of young teachers in all the study subjects, and low aging rate in the faculty.
- 10. Flexibility in human resource management.
- 11. High carrier development rate.
- 12. High motivation within students and teachers for English B1 and B2 levels.
- 13. Own e-learning study platform for all the subjects in Bulgarian and English
- 14. Well-developed postgraduate study programs and 2 additional MS degree related to administration, management and Food control.
- 15. High score in annual national ranking system for faculty and university evaluation and 9,48 of 10 points in National accreditation system.

### Weakness

- 1. EPT provides high numbers of patients and experience with animals per students that intramural.
- 2. VTH is non-equal developed for small animals than for large and equine, with predominance equipment for pets.
- 3. Bureaucratic duties because lack of internal digitalization through the front offices, especially "student's affairs" and "scientific development"
- 4. Lack of office unit supporting in project application and management of intellectual property.
- 5. Low business financial support or R&D ideas realised by student involvement into research activities within extramural scientific network for veterinarians.
- 6. Less applications for PhD compared to that for medium and long term specialisations.
- 7. Teaching university farm is old and without pigs and poultry
- 8. Laboratory animal's facility is poor equipped and not sufficient for basic and preclinical research.
- 9. Logbooks with Syllabus, Curriculum and Day one competence are not in virtual relationship for all the competences.
- 10. EBVS or international lecturers are involved not in equal for Bulgarian and English speaking students.
- 11. Low numbers of practitioners are interested in development of evaluation system or teaching methods.
- 12. Insufficient budget to manage own ISO accredited laboratory with unique infrastructure.

#### 4. APPENDICES

- 13. Information strategy for proper research and voluntary activities is inadequate targeting mostly high study years.
- 14. Most of graduated veterinarians are more motivated for small animal's practices that stock life farms or equine.

# **Opportunities**

- 1. New national funded grant opportunities for digital and innovative teaching technology practical oriented with hands-on and soft skills.
- 2. Recent updated National strategy for higher education in Bulgaria 2021-2030.
- 3. Integrated approach targeting the Global goals for sustainable development related to animal-human-ecosystem bonds.
- 4. Increased involvement of government and private stakeholder's in EBVS specialist supervised revision of syllabus for basic Day one competence and postgraduate lifelong development, incl. One health.
- 5. Great partnership within regional and national agri-food sector which will increase learning outcomes during EPT.
- 6. Internationalization trough network activities and agreement for teaching and research partnership with universities with good practices.
- 7. Location close to mining region as more agricultural oriented University targeting the plan for recovery and resilience.

### **Threats**

- 1. Restrictive requirements with decreasing numbers of animals used in veterinary education.
- 2. High cost for veterinary education through increasing Biosecurity, Safety, Recycling and maintenances costs for teaching farm, vet. hospital, skills lab and laboratory equipment.
- 3. More than 80% of the budget is dependant from governmental finds based on Rectors agreement and National strategy for higher education in Bulgaria.
- 4. Non harmonized requirements for national, EAEVE (inc. QA) and European accreditation system for veterinary education.
- 5. Reduced mobility for staff and teachers based on habits change due to Covid and post covid perceptions.
- 6. Reduced number of farm animals in Bulgaria (especially poultry and pigs) influenced by AFC, Avian Influenca, vector borne diseases and demographic crisis.
- 7. Decreased interest and motivation in students and young vets for public health versus increased demand for veterinarians into government administration and stock life farms.
- 8. Extramural knowledge and lecturers related to Artificial intelligence, telemedicine, digital technologies, virtual reality, 3D visualizations, engineers (mechanical, electrical, electronically) etc.