The Competence Centre for E-Learning, Didactics and Educational Research in Veterinary Medicine (KELDAT)

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The Competence Centre for E-Learning, Didactics and Educational Research in Veterinary Medicine (KELDAT) aims to improve the quality of veterinary education.

In 2012 the Competence Centre was established. KELDAT pursues the following objectives:

- Investigating and evaluating the status quo of the various forms and alternatives of studies and curriculum design in veterinary education.
- Accelerating the development of veterinary didactics through educational research.
- Offering didactic consultancy and trainings for lecturers at the participating universities based on the results of educational research.
- Establishing cooperation in the field of teaching and quality management, especially e-learning.

Particularly the pooling of resources and expertise of the participating institutions provides needed requirements to meet these objectives.

The established network offers the possibility to share and improve the veterinary education jointly and provides feedback and support for involved faculties.

The beneficial experiences of the collaboration in the Competence Centre and the continuation of this cooperation will promote future projects, which aim to improve the quality of teaching and learning in veterinary medicine.

Acknowledgement
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Introduction
The Competence Centre for E-Learning, Didactics and Educational Research in Veterinary Medicine (KELDAT), funded by the Foundations Volkswagen and Mercator as part of the funding initiative “Bologna - The Future of Teaching”, is a joint project of all the German-speaking veterinary educational institutions, who agreed to use possible synergies in order to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable quality improvement of teaching in veterinary education and training.

Methods
Since the foundation in October 2012 KELDAT pursues the following objectives:
- Investigating and evaluating the status quo of the various forms and alternatives of studies and curriculum design in veterinary education.
- Accelerating the development of veterinary didactics through educational research.
- Offering didactic consultancy and trainings for lecturers at the participating universities based on the results of educational research.
- Establishing cooperation in the field of teaching and quality management, especially e-learning. Particularly the pooling of resources and expertise of the participating institutions provides needed requirements to meet these objectives.

Results
Continuous exchange of information and experiences is held via monthly online meetings of experts involved from all veterinary universities. 13 scientific studies in veterinary educational research were promoted, 3 prices for educational research were procured and 3 didactic symposia were organized. A SWOT-analysis of curricular alternatives was conducted. A yearly progress test in veterinary medicine (PTT: Progress Test Tiermedizin) was implemented. The process of creation, assessment and analysis of the PTT was managed using the administration platform Q[kju:]online as common question-database in cooperation with the Institute for Quality Management in Teaching and Training IQuL GmbH. More than 100 trainings for faculty staff with approximately 1700 participants were performed. 19 online lectures in Adobe Connect about extraordinary veterinary topics were held, of which 17 lectures were
recorded and made available online. The quality management system was successfully certified complying with the requirements of standard ISO 29990:2010.

**Conclusion** Even though there are only 7 German-speaking veterinary faculties, the ways of working and teaching differ greatly. The established network offers the possibility to share and improve the veterinary education jointly and provides feedback and support for involved faculties. The Competence Centre for E-Learning, Didactics and Educational Research in veterinary medicine leads by example and cooperation remains even after the funding period. The participating universities have signed a concept for sustainability in order to ensure the continued existence of KELDAT. The beneficial experiences of the collaboration in the Competence Centre and the continuation of this cooperation will promote future projects, which aim to improve the quality of teaching and learning in veterinary medicine.

**References:**