Background

The environment wherein the veterinary profession is providing its services to individual clients and to society at large is rapidly changing. Innovative science and techniques, new business models, changing farming practices, shifting societal and client expectations, are just a few of the challenges the profession faces. At the same time these changes also create new opportunities for the profession.

In order for the profession to be prepared for the future, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the British Veterinary Association (BVA) in the UK have started the Veterinary Futures project. Key objectives include:

- to draw together the strategic trends that the profession is already aware of and to validate and challenge assumptions around these trends
- to scan the horizon for challenges and opportunities for the profession to shape the future state (what will hinder/help)
- To consider how these issues might be addressed and how the profession can prepare (including support it might need)
- To agree a plan for action with stakeholders, to enable the profession to prepare for challenges and exploit future opportunities.

An FVE ad hoc brainstorm group is set up to explore the idea to start a similar initiative as taken in the UK, Europe wide.

Aim of the ad hoc brain storm group

- The goal of the ad hoc brain-storm group will be to explore possibilities and hurdles to set up a project to identify and address opportunities and challenges for the European veterinary profession in the coming decades.
- In case such a project is considered to be feasible, to draw a first sketch of work plan for the realisation of the project.

Approach

A 3-step approach is suggested:
Deliverable

The ad hoc brainstorm group shall produce a report to the FVE Board of Directors, which will contain its main findings, conclusions, and if appropriate a specific proposal to set up the project. The proposal shall include specific actions, timeline, budget, and the way how the engagement and possibilities for input from FVE members and stakeholders is foreseen.

In the autumn of 2016, an interim report about the progress of the work shall be submitted to the FVE Board. The Board may invite an ad hoc group representative to presents the work to the General Assembly.

Practical details

The ad hoc brainstorm group will consist of maximum 8 experts. They will be invited by the FVE board on the base of their personal knowledge, expertise and interests.

FVE office will provide secretarial support (organising meetings and teleconferences, writing minutes, circulating documents, etc).

A maximum of two physical meetings will be held, or in the FVE office in Brussels or at another mutually agreed location. As much as possible work will be done via electronic means. Travel and accommodation costs of the experts will be covered by their respective organisations.

Timeline

The ad hoc brain-storm group will be set up for a 1-year period.

Costs

It is foreseen that the brainstorm group will have 1 or maximum 2 physical meetings. Each organisation is requested to cover the travel and accommodation costs for his expert.

RCVS has indicated that in case the group wishes to make use of an external facilitator, RCVS will cover the costs for the facilitator\(^i\)

FVE will provide the Secretariat costs (estimated max 50 hrs).

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\(^i\) [www.vetfutures.org.uk](http://www.vetfutures.org.uk)

\(^ii\) ref: meeting RCVS and FVE on February 29th 2016