EBVS EUROPEAN BOARD OF VETERINARY SPECIALISATION

KRAKOW, POLAND

OCTOBER 5-7, 2026



EBVS CONGRESS 2026

INVESTING IN EUROPE'S VETERINARY FUTURE

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

Following the strong engagement and momentum of our first Congress,
I am pleased to invite you to the second EBVS Congress, returning by popular demand in October 2026.

When we speak about investing in Europe's veterinary future, we are not speaking about one group, one career path, or one professional title. We are speaking about a shared system – one that connects specialists and general practitioners, specialists and clients, educators and supervisors, residents and students, practice, academia regulators, industry partners, and policymakers.
The strength of veterinary specialisation depends on how well this system works together.

As President of EBVS, and as a clinician deeply involved in training and supervision, I believe that this Congress must be a place where different perspectives meet openly: where we listen as much as we speak, and where we examine not only excellence, but also responsibility, sustainability, and impact. And building the feeling to belong to a Family !!

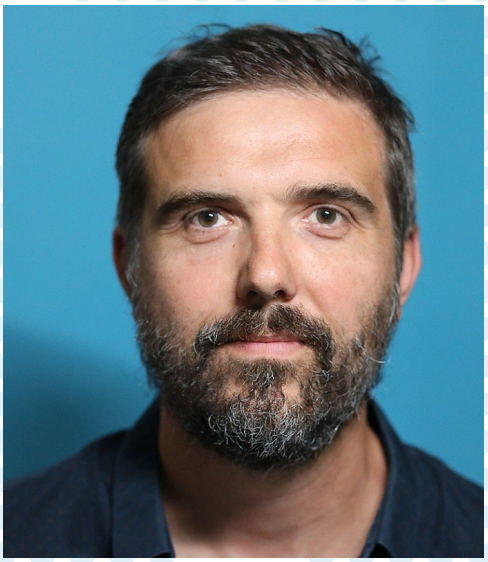
The 2026 Congress programme will again create space for dialogue across sectors – addressing how specialist training is evolving, how leadership and supervision shape outcomes, and how decisions made today affect the veterinary profession of tomorrow. And the success of the workshops of the 1st congress led us to think about new topics and renewing them.
In addition, ahead of the main Congress, we will host a dedicated pre-Congress workshop in cooperation with ECVAA: "Less pain, more gain: leadership skills for supervisors".

This interactive session is designed for those who supervise and support residents – recognising that high-quality training environments depend not only on clinical expertise, but on communication, trust, and leadership across disciplines and roles.

EBVS Congress 2026 is an invitation to step outside silos, to engage across boundaries, and to contribute to shaping a veterinary future that works – for professionals, for animals, and for society.

I look forward to welcoming you to Kraków in October 2026

Raphaël Guatteo
President European Board of Veterinary Specialization



Raphaël Guatteo
President European Board of Veterinary Specialization

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOP

MONDAY, 5th OCTOBER 2026

Less Pain, More Gain:

Leadership Skills for Supervisors

Qubus Hotel Kraków • Meeting Room D/E

08:45	**Registration**
09:15	**Welcome & Intros**
09:30	**Creating Cultures of Caring in Veterinary Medicine:** *From Surviving to Thriving | Joshua D. Hartzell*
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	**Feedback: Embracing the Discomfort to Optimize Performance** *Joshua D. Hartzell*
13:00	Lunch
14:00	**Building Relationships** *Lucy Kane* - Remembering why we do what we do - (Imperfect) Relationships - Optimising Relationships & Setting Clear Expectations
16:00	Coffee break
16:30	**Planning the Supervisory Relationship** *Lucy Kane*
17:15	**Reflections and Wrap-up**
17:30	Finish



Joshua D. Hartzell
Department of Health Professions Education at the Uniformed Services University



Lucy Kane
Senior HR Professional Engagement, Wellbeing & Employee Relations

18:00 **Optional social drinks – cash bar, all welcome**

Special thanks to the Organising Committee: Karla Borland, Luiz Santos, Stephen Greenhalgh

With the contribution of European College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia BOVA


EBVS
CONGRESS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Joshua D. Hartzell

Department of Health Professions Education at the Uniformed Services University

"Why Leadership Is the Critical Infrastructure of the Veterinary Future"

Keynote Session I: Why Invest in our Future?

TUESDAY, 6th October 2026
08.30-10.00

BIOSKETCH

Joshua D. Hartzell, MD, MS-HPEd, FACP, FIDSA is a retired US Army Colonel who spent 25 years in military medicine. Dr. Hartzell has held numerous leadership positions throughout his career including being Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Assistant Dean for Faculty Development at the Uniformed Services University. Dr. Hartzell currently serves as Professor and Deputy Chair of the Department of Health Professions Education at the Uniformed Services University.

A practicing Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases Physician, he has devoted the last decade to developing leaders who can positively impact patient care and medical education. Dr. Hartzell has delivered over 100 talks on leadership development and has written numerous papers on the topic.

He combined his years of boots on the ground leading in medicine with his research to write the book, A Prescription for Caring in Healthcare Leadership: Building a Culture of Compassion and Excellence.

ABSTRACT

Are you thriving, or merely surviving? What would it take to work in an organization that truly supports both your professional and personal well-being? Leadership influences every aspect of our work–and extends into our lives beyond it–yet many veterinary professionals receive little formal training or education in leadership.

Committing to leadership development is essential to building the workplace cultures we want and deserve in veterinary care. When we care for ourselves and those we lead through effective leadership, we are better positioned to optimize patient care, veterinary education, and team well-being. This talk will explore the importance of leadership and the evidence supporting its impact. Participants will leave inspired to become lifelong students of leadership and equipped with practical strategies to lead in ways that positively influence the lives of others.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Vincenzo Lorusso

Policy Officer, EU-Africa Cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation EU Chair, AU-EU Innovation Agenda Working Group European Commission, DG Research & Innovation (DG RTD)

"Research & Innovation Cooperation at the Africa-Europe interface: perspectives on Planetary Health & Parasitology"

Keynote Session I: Why Invest in our Future?

TUESDAY, 6th October 2026
08.30-10.00

BIOSKETCH

Dr Vincenzo Lorusso works as a Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation (DG R&I), where he oversees Research and Innovation cooperation, multilaterally, with the African Union, and, bilaterally, with Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa. He acts as the EU Co-Chair of the "AU-EU Innovation Agenda Working Group of the High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation". He is also a sherpa of the Governing Board of the "Global Health European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership 3 (EDCTP3) Joint Undertaking" and a member of the Working Group of the AU-EU R&I Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). In 2024, he joined over a sabbatical period the African Development Bank to contribute to the establishment of the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation (APTF) in Kigali, Rwanda.

Prior to joining the European Commission, Vincenzo worked for nearly a decade in the pharmaceutical industry as Head of Research and Innovation for parasitic infections (Vetoquinol, Paris) while also co-supervising MSc and PhD projects focused on Public Health and Rural Development in Africa, through an Honorary Research Fellowship at the University of Salford, UK (which he has been holding since 2016).

Vincenzo's educational background combines both life and social sciences, including a Master in International Development and African Studies (Sciences Po, Paris), which followed a PhD in Public Health and Rural Development in Africa, and particularly in Nigeria (University of Edinburgh, UK), and a first degree as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (University of Bari, Italy). He also holds a High-Level Executive Diploma in Diplomacy & Health (The Graduate Institute, Geneva) and is a board diplomate of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC) and the American Colleges of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) – branch of Parasitology.

Vincenzo periodically teaches at several international universities, like the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), at Sciences Po, Paris; LUISS Guido Carli, Rome and Lund University, Sweden. Since September 2026, he is also an "Associate Expert" on Africa-Europe relations at the Center for International Studies (CERI) at Sciences Po, Paris.

Besides English, Vincenzo speaks fluently French, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian, with growing knowledge of Japanese, Kinyarwanda and Kiswahili.
In his spare time, he makes hip-hop / reggae / afrobeat music and slam poetry (with lyrics in several languages) and writes on his blog "Between Africa and Japan".

ABSTRACT

The present keynote provides an overview of the Research and Innovation (R&I) cooperation between Africa and Europe, reflecting on challenges and opportunities in Planetary Health. While doing so, the talk considers the core components of this domain, encompassing human, animal and environmental health and their intrinsic link to the practice of One Health.

Accordingly, the presentation will outline the rationale, objectives and actions foreseen by the joint 10 year- African Union (AU) – European (EU) Innovation Agenda (2023-2033), conceived with the ambition to foster a more effective translation of R&I into positive socio-economic impact. This presentation will focus particularly on priority areas of Public Health and Green Transition (including climate, energy, agriculture and food security), as well as those of Innovation and Technology, Capacities for Science and Cross-cutting issues.

In this vein, this keynote aims to raise awareness on ongoing initiatives, collaboration and capacity enhancement opportunities for veterinary stakeholders. Overall, this talk adopts and promotes a holistic, interdisciplinary, multisectoral (and multilateral) approach. To this end, it underscores the importance of cooperation among life sciences and social sciences, higher education and research institutions, the private sector (from start-ups to corporations) and civil society, students and lecturers, to underpin Planetary Health for a more sustainable future and to maximise the positive societal impact of Research & Innovation in animal health and veterinary sciences.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Robert Trujanović

Anesthesiologist and Interventional Pain Therapist

"From Vision to Reality: Creating a Practice You Love"

Keynote Session II: Investing in Our Profession

TUESDAY, 6th October 2026
13.30-15.00

BIOSKETCH

Dr. Robert Trujanović, DVM, GPCert(cardio), Dipl. ECVAA, is a board-certified veterinary anaesthesiologist and specialist in interventional pain management based in Vienna, Austria. He completed his ECVAA residency at the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, where he developed a particular interest in advanced regional anaesthesia and pain therapy.

Robert has been a pioneer in bringing interventional pain medicine into veterinary clinical practice, developing one of Europe's dedicated interventional pain services for small animals. His work combines techniques adapted from human interventional pain medicine with ultrasound-guided and image-guided approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic pain, particularly in dogs and cats. His clinical interests include advanced locoregional anaesthesia, interventional pain procedures, perioperative pain management and the management of chronic orthopaedic and neurological pain.
He is also active in veterinary education and research, lecturing internationally and contributing to the development of practical tools and training in regional anaesthesia and pain management. He is the author of the Regional Anaesthesia in Small Animals Manual and co-developer of the VetRA App, a digital resource for regional anaesthetic techniques. His research has included ultrasound-guided nerve blocks and novel approaches to regional anaesthesia in several veterinary species.

Robert is the founder and CEO of VIEVAA (Vienna Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia) Academy, dedicated to providing veterinary professionals with the knowledge and practical skills required for modern anaesthesia and pain management in dogs and cats. Alongside his educational work, he practices as a consultant anaesthetist and pain medicine clinician in Vienna, with a particular focus on interventional pain management.

ABSTRACT

Veterinary careers often develop through a series of opportunities, expectations and compromises rather than through deliberate design. Over time, it is easy to become highly competent at a job that no longer reflects the way we actually want to practise veterinary medicine.
Creating a practice you love begins with a different question: not simply What should my next career step be?, but What kind of professional life do I want to create?

This presentation explores the journey from defining a personal professional vision to turning that vision into a sustainable clinical reality. It will discuss how identifying your core interests, values and areas of expertise can help shape a distinctive professional profile and guide decisions regarding clinical work, education, collaboration and entrepreneurship.

An important part of this journey is mindset. Turning an idea into reality requires more than knowledge or opportunity. It requires the willingness to take responsibility for your own direction, tolerate uncertainty, accept setbacks, remain consistent when progress is slow and continue making decisions that support the long-term vision. These principles extend far beyond veterinary practice and represent the mindset required to transform almost any meaningful ambition from an idea into something tangible.

The session will also address the practical challenges that arise when moving away from conventional career structures, including uncertainty, financial considerations, building professional credibility, developing a network and learning to say no to opportunities that do not support the long-term vision.
Rather than presenting entrepreneurship as an end in itself, the focus is on intentional career design: creating a working environment in which clinical excellence, professional development, personal motivation and quality of life can coexist.
Through practical examples and lessons learned along the way, this presentation aims to encourage veterinarians to critically evaluate their own professional path and consider how vision, mindset and small, deliberate decisions can gradually transform an idea into a career and a practice that genuinely reflect who they are and how they want to work.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Nancy De Briyne

EBVS® European Veterinary Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, Executive Director FVE

"European Veterinary Workforce: Training, Supporting and Sustaining the Profession"

Keynote Session II: Keynote Session II: Investing in Our Profession

TUESDAY, 6th October 2026
13.30-15.00

BIOSKETCH

Nancy De Briyne studied veterinary medicine in Ghent (Belgium), graduating in 1996. After working as a veterinary practitioner in Belgium and the UK, she works since 2000 for the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) being currently Executive Director of the FVE. Her overall role within FVE is to follow the strategy, oversee operations, and ensure the organization's goals and objectives are achieved. More specifically, she follows closely all dossiers in relation to veterinary medicines, animal health, AMR, animal welfare, and the status and role of the veterinary profession.
She has been a member of the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency representing the veterinary profession for 6 years [2016-2022].
She is a diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural medicine, subspecialty Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, and is a member of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare and many other European committees on animal health, welfare and public health.

Her published can be found on her research profile: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nancy_De_Briyne

ABSTRACT

The veterinary profession in Europe is facing a period of profound change. Workforce distribution shortages are increasingly reported across countries and sectors, while at the same time veterinarians are seeking more sustainable, fulfilling and diverse career pathways. Addressing these challenges requires more than increasing the number of graduates: it requires a coordinated approach to how veterinarians are trained, supported and enabled to develop throughout their professional lives.

This presentation will explore the evolving European veterinary workforce through three interconnected perspectives: training, supporting and sustaining the profession.

First, the presentation will consider how veterinary education must evolve to prepare graduates for a changing professional landscape. The ongoing work to revise the WOAH and ESEVT Day 1 Competencies provides an important opportunity to consider what knowledge, skills and professional capabilities are needed by tomorrow's veterinarians, while recognising that the competencies required at graduation are only the beginning of lifelong professional development.
Second, evidence from the FVE VetSurvey will be used to explore what veterinarians themselves tell us about their working lives, career aspirations and professional wellbeing. Particular attention will be given to the demand for fulfilling career options, the changing nature of veterinary practice, the challenges faced by both veterinary professionals and practice teams, and the role of postgraduate training and specialisation in shaping attractive and sustainable career pathways.

Finally, the presentation will examine the wider workforce picture. FVE's workforce analyses demonstrate that shortages are increasingly affecting multiple European countries and sectors, with particularly important challenges in areas such as rural and remote practice, livestock practice and official veterinary services. The response therefore needs to move beyond recruitment alone towards retention, better workforce distribution, career development, supportive workplaces and improved mental wellbeing.

The future of the veterinary profession will depend not simply on how many veterinarians Europe trains, but on whether the profession can create working environments in which veterinarians can develop, contribute, thrive and remain throughout their careers. Securing that future requires collaboration across education, professional organisations, employers, regulators and the veterinary profession itself.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Petra Winter

President of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)

"Global Evolution of the Day One Competences: Update from the WOAH Ad Hoc Working Group"

Keynote Session II: Keynote Session II: Investing in Our Profession

TUESDAY, 6th October 2026
13.30-15.00

BIOSKETCH

Petra Winter is the President of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), a non-profit organisation which represents more than 100 accredited Veterinary Education Establishments in Europe and beyond. She served as Vice-Rector for Study Affairs and Rector of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, where she spearheaded the introduction of a competence-based curriculum and strengthened quality assurance systems.

Under her leadership, student satisfaction and graduation rates improved significantly. Petra continues to teach and is deeply committed to innovation in veterinary education, including competence-based training and digital tools for teaching and assessment. She works closely with European and national stakeholders to ensure that accreditation standards drive institutional improvement and foster excellence in veterinary education. Currently, as an expert member, she represents Europe on the WOAH Ad Hoc Expert Group on Day One Competences.

In addition, she is a member of ACPHE (Advisory Committee on Public Health Emergencies), to the European Commission (DG SANTE).

ABSTRACT

Day One Competences define the threshold outcomes veterinary graduates are expected to possess at entry to the profession. These competences set a global baseline for safe, ethical, and effective practice across diverse roles in the veterinary sector. Graduates who have achieved Day One Competences should be capable of independently performing appropriate entry-level tasks and duties, and be confident to practise veterinary medicine at a primary level on their own, while knowing when it is appropriate to seek direction from more experienced colleagues. The focus lies on readiness for responsible practice from day one and on ongoing professional development after graduation.

To support comparability of qualifications and workforce alignment, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has convened an ad hoc expert group, with experts from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas, and the Middle East to review and update Day One Competences and curriculum guidelines. The goal is a shared, outcome-based global minimum framework that is relevant across varied educational and service contexts while allowing national and regional flexibility.

The work follows a phased methodology: literature review; mapping and analysis of existing frameworks; identification of gaps and future-focused competences; and competency drafting.

A complete framework document is targeted for late 2026, followed by structured internal and external consultation, validation, and field testing to ensure clarity, feasibility, and broad acceptance.
Particular emphasis is placed on aligning Day One Competences with continuing education frameworks, ensuring that initial competences provide the foundation for progression and professional development throughout a veterinarian's career.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Marc Vandevelde

Cofounder of the European School of Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS)



Elisabeth Müller

European School of Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS) Board Member

"Veterinary continuing education (CE): return of the investment?"

Keynote Session III: Investing in Our Capacity

WEDNESDAY, 7th October 2026
08.30-10.00

BIOSKETCH

Marc Vandevelde took his veterinary degree in Gent, Belgium and did post graduate training in Switzerland and the US. He is professor emeritus of the university of Bern Switzerland, and diplomate of the European college of veterinary neurology. He is cofounder of the European School of Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS) where he serves as member of the board focusing on educational issues and looking back on more than 35 years of experience with continuing education for veterinarians.

Dr. Elisabeth Müller graduated from the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover) in 1982 and completed her doctorate in microbiology in 1984. She obtained her specialization in veterinary microbiology in 1988 and became a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Microbiology in 2021.

In 1989, she founded LABOKLIN, where she is Owner and CEO. Under her leadership, LABOKLIN has grown into a major international veterinary diagnostic laboratory serving veterinary professionals across more than 20 European countries. LABOKLIN is also a recognized training institution where veterinarians can undertake postgraduate specialist/residency training in veterinary microbiology.

Dr. Müller has been a member of the ESAVS Board since 2016 and is responsible for the overall operational and business management of ESAVS, overseeing its administration, organization and continuing education activities.

Her work has been recognized with numerous distinctions, including the Bayerische Staatsmedaille, DVG Sustainability Award, Richard-Völker-Medaille and Bayerischer Verdienstorden.

ABSTRACT

The veterinary CE market has greatly expanded with many private providers covering a wide range of training in clinical disciplines in various species. To investigate effectiveness of such CE, at the European School of Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS) we applied the Kirkpatrick model consisting of 4 stages of assessment.

Within the first 3 stages: satisfaction based on self evaluation of the learners, meeting the learning outcomes and transfer of the learned competences to the work place were all found to be present to varying degrees among ESAVS participants during enrolment in the programs. The ultimate question of the used model on the impact of CE on professional career and income was approached by a still ongoing survey based on a questionnaire for former participants.

Preliminary findings show that a significant portion of former participants, especially those that enrolled in formal qualification programs, judged their knowledge to be markedly increased in the chosen specialty, practiced the learned discipline in more depth compared to others and could increase their income accordingly, thus getting a return on their CE investment. The distribution of CE participants among age groups suggests strong representation of ongoing and established small animal practitioners.

Our findings support the notion that veterinary CE can be effective in training systems focusing in depth on specific subjects combined with a monitoring and surveillance approach. Which didactic methods would be the most effective ones remains to be investigated.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Angharad Belcher

Director of Advancement of the Professions, and Mind Matters,
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

"Taking a systems-based approach to veterinary suicide prevention"
Keynote Session III: Investing in Our Capacity

WEDNESDAY, 7th October 2026
08.30-10.00

BIOSKETCH

Angharad is the RCVS Director for both Advancement of the Professions, and the Mind Matters Initiative. She recognises the inter-connectedness of all areas of animal health and the different impacts that this has on veterinary professionals' wellbeing.

Since joining MMI she has tried to bring the community together to increase opportunities for discussion on a wide range of issues, from menopause and climate change anxiety to grief and chronic health, to name a few. Angharad and her team aim to ensure that important topics are always viewed from an intersectional perspective, making space for lesser heard voices, and with an evidence base where possible.

ABSTRACT

Suicide is a complex and multi-faceted public health problem. It is estimated that 720,000 people die by suicide globally each year (WHO, 2025), and research suggests that for every death by suicide, up to 135 people are affected (Cerel et al., 2019), therefore demonstrating the wider impact it can have on individuals, families and communities.

Suicide prevention from a public health approach is seen as important (see Pirkis et al., 2024), particularly given there are various biological, psychological, social and environmental risk factors associated (WHO, 2025).

Aligning with the new British Standard for Suicide and the Workplace (BSI, 2025), the RCVS has taken practical and evidence-based steps to support veterinary suicide prevention. Since 1 April 2026, as part of its Core Practice Standards Scheme (PSS) requirements, the RCVS has required every practice in the UK to implement a practice-specific suicide prevention plan, which should include assessing potential risks within the practice, and establishing proportional measures to address and mitigate each identified risk (RCVS, 2026).

Explore how risk factors interact and identify practical system-based approaches that can be taken to support everyone in the veterinary community. From awareness to action, veterinary suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Violet Adeline Wierbos

President International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA)

"European Veterinary Students' Perspective: Expectations vs Reality in Veterinary Education"

Keynote Session III: Investing in Our Capacity

WEDNESDAY, 7th October 2026
08.30-10.00

BIOSKETCH

Violet Adeline Wierbos is President of the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) and a final year veterinary medicine student at the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU). She has been actively involved in the IVSA for more than five years, taking on a range of local and international leadership, representative and policy-focused roles before becoming IVSA President in September 2026. She also serves as a Trustee of IVSA Latvia and remains involved in a wide range of IVSA initiatives.

Her work within IVSA has included leadership in student networks and initiatives, as well as the development of numerous policy papers and statements on One Health, disease prevention and control, emerging zoonotic risks, animal welfare and antimicrobial resistance. She is currently working on a publication focusing on biological threat reduction and biosecurity.

Her recent internship in Kenya was a formative experience that strengthened her commitment to veterinary education, advocacy and creating opportunities for students. It motivated her to become more actively involved in advocating for high educational standards and greater opportunities for veterinary students in developing countries and beyond.

Through her work in international veterinary student representation, Violet is particularly interested in ensuring that students' perspectives are heard in discussions shaping veterinary education and the future of the profession.

ABSTRACT

This presentation will explore these questions through the results of a survey conducted among veterinary students across Europe. Developed to capture students' perspectives directly, the survey examines their expectations, experiences and priorities in veterinary education, providing an evidence-based picture of how students perceive their training and how well it prepares them for the realities of the veterinary profession.

The survey was distributed through IVSA Europe, IVSA Global and EBVS channels, with veterinary educational establishments also invited to share it with their students. By gathering responses from students across different educational and national contexts, the survey provides a broader perspective than could be gained from individual experiences or professional networks alone.

The presentation will present the key findings from the survey and consider what they reveal about the alignment, and potential gaps, between students' expectations and their experience of veterinary education. It will also explore what students themselves identify as important for their education and preparation for professional life.

By bringing students' voices and experiences directly into the Congress, the session aims to open a constructive discussion between veterinary students, specialists, educators and professional organisations about what the next generation expects from veterinary education and what may need to evolve to meet those expectations

TUESDAY, 6th OCTOBER 2026

07.30 Registrations

08.30-09.00 **Welcome & Opening**
Greetings from EBVS, **Raphaël Guatteo**
Greetings from the Council of the Małopolska Veterinary Chamber, **Dariusz Kwaśniewicz**
The Unseen Path to European Colleges: Early Awareness from a Polish Academic's Perspective, **Aleksandra Rozwadowska**

PLENARY ROOM

09.00-10.00 Keynote Session I: Why Invest in our Future?
Chaired by Julie Rosser

09.00-09.30 Why Leadership Is the Critical Infrastructure of the Veterinary Future, **Joshua D. Hartzell**
09.30-10.00 Research & Innovation Cooperation at the Africa-Europe interface: perspectives on Planetary Health & Parasitology, **Vincenzo Lorusso**

10.00–10.30 *Coffee Break*

10.30–12.00 **Parallel Sessions**

PLENARY ROOM	ROOM D	ROOM E
Session I: Investing in Global Resilience *Chaired by Raphaël Guatteo* 10.30-10.50 Defining the 'European Veterinary Specialist', **Heiko Nathues** 10.50-11.10 Investing in specialisation in China, **Liu Xiuli** 11.10-11.30 Numbers Across the EBVS Map: what can they tell us?, **Julie Rosser** 11.30-12.00 The European Perspective (panel)	**Workshop I** **College Exams: What's Working, What's Not** *Chaired by Mark Bowen*	**Workshop II** **Investing in our Future: where can Colleges help each other?** *Chaired by Davina Anderson and* Areti Kesisoglou

12.00-13.30 *Lunch*

PLENARY ROOM

13.30-15.00 Keynote Session II: Investing in Our Profession
Chaired by Davina Anderson

13.30-14.00 From Vision to Reality: Creating a Practice You Love, **Robert Trujanović**
14.00-14.30 European Veterinary Students' Perspective: Expectations vs Reality in Veterinary Education, **Violet Adeline Wierbos**
14.30–15.00 Global Evolution of the Day One Competences: Update from the WOAH Ad Hoc Working Group, **Petra Winter**

15.00–15.30 *Coffee Break*

15.30–18.00 **Parallel Sessions**

PLENARY ROOM	ROOM D	ROOM E
Session II: Investing in Veterinary Education *Chaired by Smaragda Sotiraki* 15.30-15.50 Residency Quality Assurance, **Natasha Hetzel** 15.50-16.10 Residency training in distrbuted teaching models, **Jessica Reynolds** 16.10-16.30 Virtual Interns, **Yaiza Forcada** 16.30-16.50 Bio Break 16.50-17.10 Investing in our educators, **Mark Bowen** 17.10-17.30 Successful Summer Schools, **Emilie Bouhsira** 17.30-18.00 Panel Discussion	**Workshop III** **Wellbeing** *Chaired by Anouck Haverbeke and Petra Agthe*	**Workshop IV** **Investing in Our Voice: How to Talk to the Press** *Chaired by Ford Leland and Julie Rosser*

19.30 *Gala Dinner (Ticket needed)*

WEDNESDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2026

PLENARY ROOM

08.30-10.00 **Keynote Session III: Investing In Our Capacity**
Chaired by Raphaël Guatteo and Anouck Haverbeke

08.30-09.00 Veterinary continuing education (CE): return of the investment?, **Marc Vandevelde and Elisabeth Müller**
09.00-09.30 Taking a systems-based approach to veterinary suicide prevention, **Angharad Belcher**
09.30-10.00 European Veterinary Workforce: Training, Supporting and Sustaining the Profession, **Nancy De Briyne**

10.00–10.20 *Coffee Break - Workshop V will start at 10.00*

10.20–12.00 **Parallel Sessions (Workshop V will start at 10.00)**

PLENARY ROOM	ROOM D	ROOM E
Session III: Investing in Technology *Chaired by Smaragda Sotiraki* 10.20-10.40 Digital Onboarding: team, students & clients, **Agnieszka Florczyk** 10.40-11.00 AI as an educational partner, **Heiko Nathues** 11.00-11.20 AI&Tech in Veterinary Medicine: A boon for the Profession or the Animals?, **Raphaël Guatteo** 11.20-11.40 Modernizing for your clients with IT & AI, **Attila Cservenák** 11.40-12.00 Panel Discussion	**Workshop V** **Investing in Communication** *Sponsored by Unisvet with Simone Scoccianti and Helen Øvregaard*	**Workshop VI** **Defining the specialist: Quality Assurance in training** *Chaired by Mark Bowen*

12.00-13.15 *Lunch*

13.15–15.45 **Parallel Sessions**

PLENARY ROOM	ROOM D	ROOM E
Session IV: Investing in Each Other *Chaired by Raphaël Guatteo and Krista Arnold* 13.15-13.35 Specialisation in Primary Care: Paradox or Necessity?, **Denis Novak** 13.35-13.55 Special List? Or Value List?, **Mark Bowen** 13.55-14.15 Peer Learning in Veterinary Nurse Education, **Krista Arnold** 14.15-14.35 Bio Break 14.35-14.55 Workplace Based Assessment, **Linda Prescott Clements** 14.55-15.15 Client Perceptions of Referrals, **Holger Volk** 15.15-15.45 Panel Discussion	**Workshop VII** **Contextualized Care RCVS Knowledge** *Chaired by Anouck Haverbeke*	**Workshop VIII** **Day One Competences** *Chaired by Heiko Nathues*

15.45-16.00 *Coffee Break*

16.00-16.15 Concluding remarks, *Jarosław Kaba*
16.15-17.00 Takeaways & Closing *Raphaël Guatteo, Mark Bowen, Julie Rosser*

Accredited Learning. Continuing Beyond the Congress.



VETCEE Accreditation

The 2nd EBVS Congress, taking place in Kraków, Poland, on 6–7 October 2026, with a Pre-Congress Workshop on 5 October, has been accredited by VetCEE – Veterinary Continuing Education in Europe.

VetCEE accredits high-quality postgraduate veterinary education across Europe. Its accreditation confirms that a programme has been independently assessed against an established quality framework and meets recognised standards for structured postgraduate veterinary education.

For EBVS, this accreditation confirms that the Congress programme delivers more than an outstanding veterinary network: it provides a high-quality educational experience designed to support the continued professional development of veterinary specialists.

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EBVS Advance is the new EBVS e-learning platform, created by European Specialists for veterinary professionals who never stop advancing.

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Veterinary Excellence Across Europe

Don't miss the

EBVS GALA DINNER
ON MARKET SQUARE

6TH OCTOBER

RESTAURANT WESELE
RYNEK GŁÓWNY 10, 31-042 - KRAKÓW

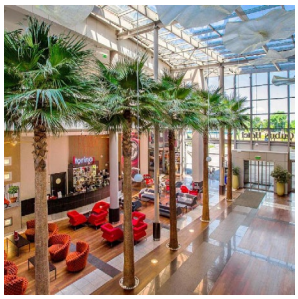
Dinner registration needed

SOCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **For the Adventurers:**
  Wieliczka Salt Mine (strongly recommend advance booking) readily accessible by train
  Schindler's Factory (closed on Tuesday October 6) pre-booking recommended
- **For the Sunday arrivals:**
  Drinks and bites at Hevre in Kazimierz (closed Mon-Thurs)
- **For the Hungry:**
  Milk Bars (local cuisine): Milkbar Tomasza or Flisak
- **For the Literati:**
  Beloved national poet memorial on Market Square
- **For the Historians**:
  St Florian's Gate and the Barbican (Barbican closed Mondays)
- **For the Glitterati (& Dragon lovers):**
  Wawel Castle & the Dragon's Den (no ticket needed for fire breathing)
- **For the Devout:**
  St. Mary's Basilica on Market Square
- **For the Shoppers:**
  Market Square
- **For the Vodka Curious:**
  Wodka Cafe Bar or Starka Restaurant



GENERAL INFORMATION



Congress Venue

Qubus Hotel Krakow
Nadwiślańska 6, 30-527
Kraków, Poland

Language

The official language of the Congress is English.

Registration desk opening hours

LOCATION

Monday, October 5	08.45 - 17.30
Tuesday, October 6	07.30 – 18.00
Wednesday, October 7	08.00 – 17.00

Please go to the registration desk upon arrival to collect your badge.
A name badge will be required to access the Congress areas.
Participants will receive it when they check in at the registration desk.
It must be worn at all times.



Exhibitors area

LOCATION
Sponsor companies will be exhibiting in this area throughout the entire duration of the congress.

Wifi

The WiFi access is free for all attendees and accessible in all the venue area
Network: QubusKrakow
At the bottom of the page that opens, please enter the password.
Password: qubus2026

Certificate of attendance

Certificates of attendance will be sent to the attendees via e-mail, after the Congress.

Post on our social networks, tag EBVS channels and use the following hashtags

#EBVSCONGRESS2026 #EUVETSPECIALISTS

Organized by

EBVS EUROPEAN BOARD OF VETERINARY SPECIALISATION

KRAKOW, POLAND

OCTOBER 5-7, 2026



VET INTERNATIONAL

Organising Secretariat
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