Development of Quality Indicators for e-Learning in the Domain of Farm Animal Welfare

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The aim of the present study is to analyze virtual learning environments and to provide a framework for developing a set of quality indicators for e-Learning in the domain of farm animal welfare. The framework is constructed according to the experimental learning for a case study developed in the context of the **Leonardo da Vinci Community Vocational Training Action Pilot Project entitled "WELFOOD-Promoting quality assurance in animal welfare-environment-food quality interaction studies through upgraded e-Learning".**

e-Learning and Quality Indicators

These quality indicators one the one hand play the role of design requirements and on the other hand they can be used in order to apply quality assurance procedures for the e-Learning course. They can be categorised as follows:

Quality Indicator 1

Development of flexible study plans

Quality Indicator 2

Use of a standard course credit scheme

Quality Indicator 3

Target groups identification

Quality Indicator 4

Distributed Development of Courseware Material

Quality Indicator 5

Distributed Delivery of the Course

Developing the e-Learning course

The course is taught in three learning units. These units are the contents/tasks used to describe the project structure (Workpackages and Tasks).

Unit 1: Animal Welfare
Ethical views concerning how to treat animals
Definitions of animal welfare in domestic animals
Welfare assessment of production system
Improving welfare status of animals in different phase of the production chain
Effect of transport and pre slaughter handling on welfare

Unit 2: Environmental impacts on and of animals
Challenge of artificial environment to domestic animals: problems to be solved in relation to quality issues of local food products
Nutrient efficiency, direct and indirect emissions, manure handling and processing

Unit 3: Food quality and safety
On farm risk analysis
HACCP at farm level
Food and other products deriving from genetically modified organisations (GMOs)
Animal welfare implications of farm assurance schemes
Traceability and transparency 'from fork to farm', risks and quality assurance
Animal welfare-environment-food quality interactions production comsequences

CONCLUSIONS : This paper presented a framework for developing a set of quality indicators for e-Learning. The advandage of this framework is that it acts as basis of collaboration between partner institutions in order to develop a joint approach to the description, development and delivery of e-Learning courses. These quality indicators could play the role of design requirements not only for the e-Learning course in question but to other similar courses as well. Also, based on these quality indicators the course developed will be tested and evaluated during the project period in order to be updated accordingly.