



IMINQA - Peer Learning Activity 2

**Cross-Border Quality Assurance and Quality Assurance of
Transnational Education**

21 March 2023 - Bucharest, Romania



Cross-Border Quality Assurance from a registered QA agency

EAEVE's perspective

**Prof. Philip Duffus
ESEVT Coordinator**



Cross-Border Quality Assurance from a registered QA agency - **EAEVE's perspective**

- EAEVE ([European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education](#)) has evolved into the only transnational accrediting agency for tertiary veterinary education within Europe
- EAEVE currently accredits 81 Veterinary Educational Establishments (VEEs) from within the 24 EU member countries
- EAEVE aspires to be an agile and efficient agency, indispensable to the QA led accreditation of modern VEEs and to be the essential reference for all higher level institutes that have educational responsibilities for the training of veterinarians
- To deliver its QA based accreditation, EAEVE established ESEVT ([European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training](#)) to run the visitations
- However, EAEVE accreditation is increasingly undertaken “Cross-Border” within other “European” countries and also within non-European countries



Full members

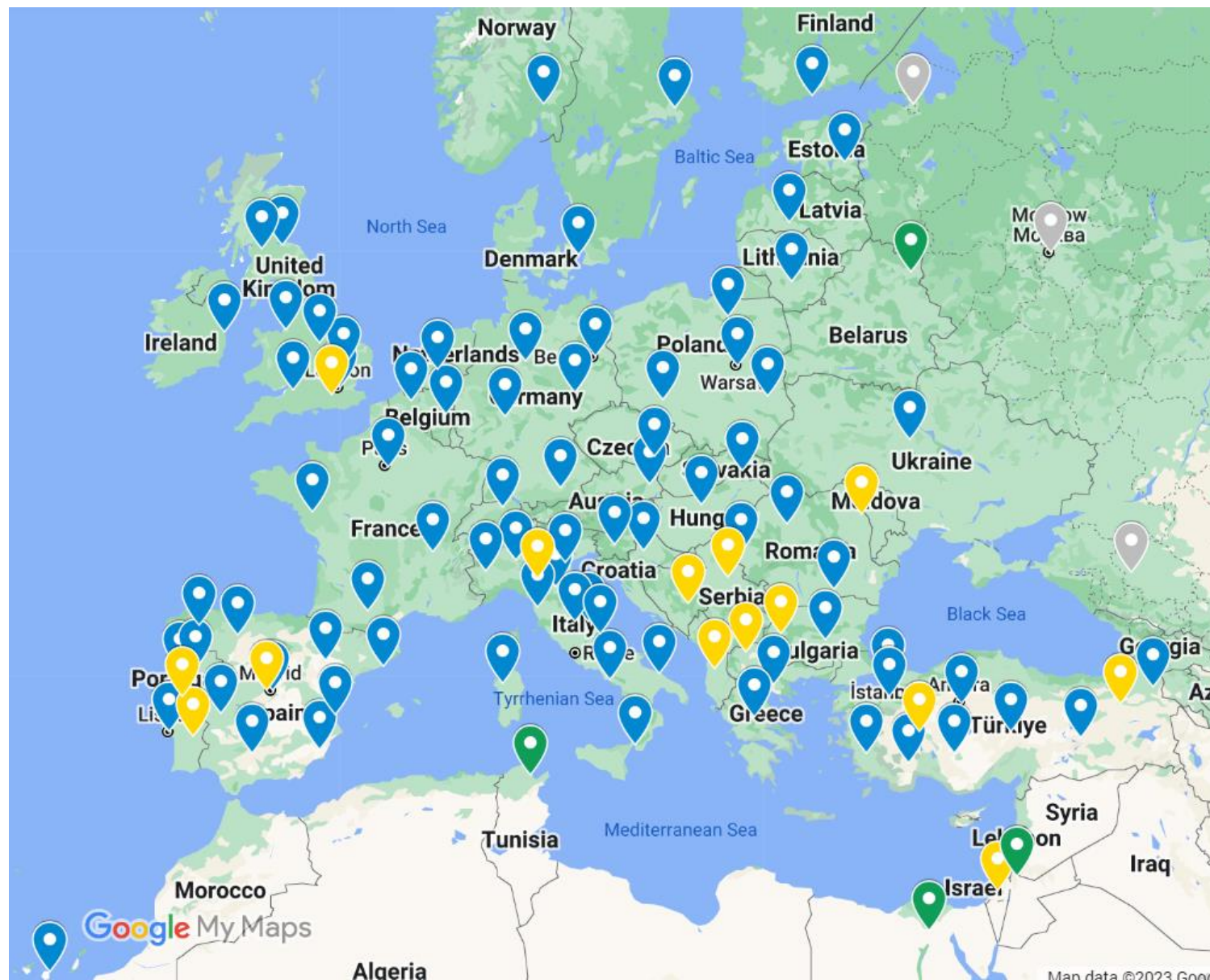
81 VEEs

Candidate members

14 VEEs

Associates

10 VEEs (+5 Russian)





Full members

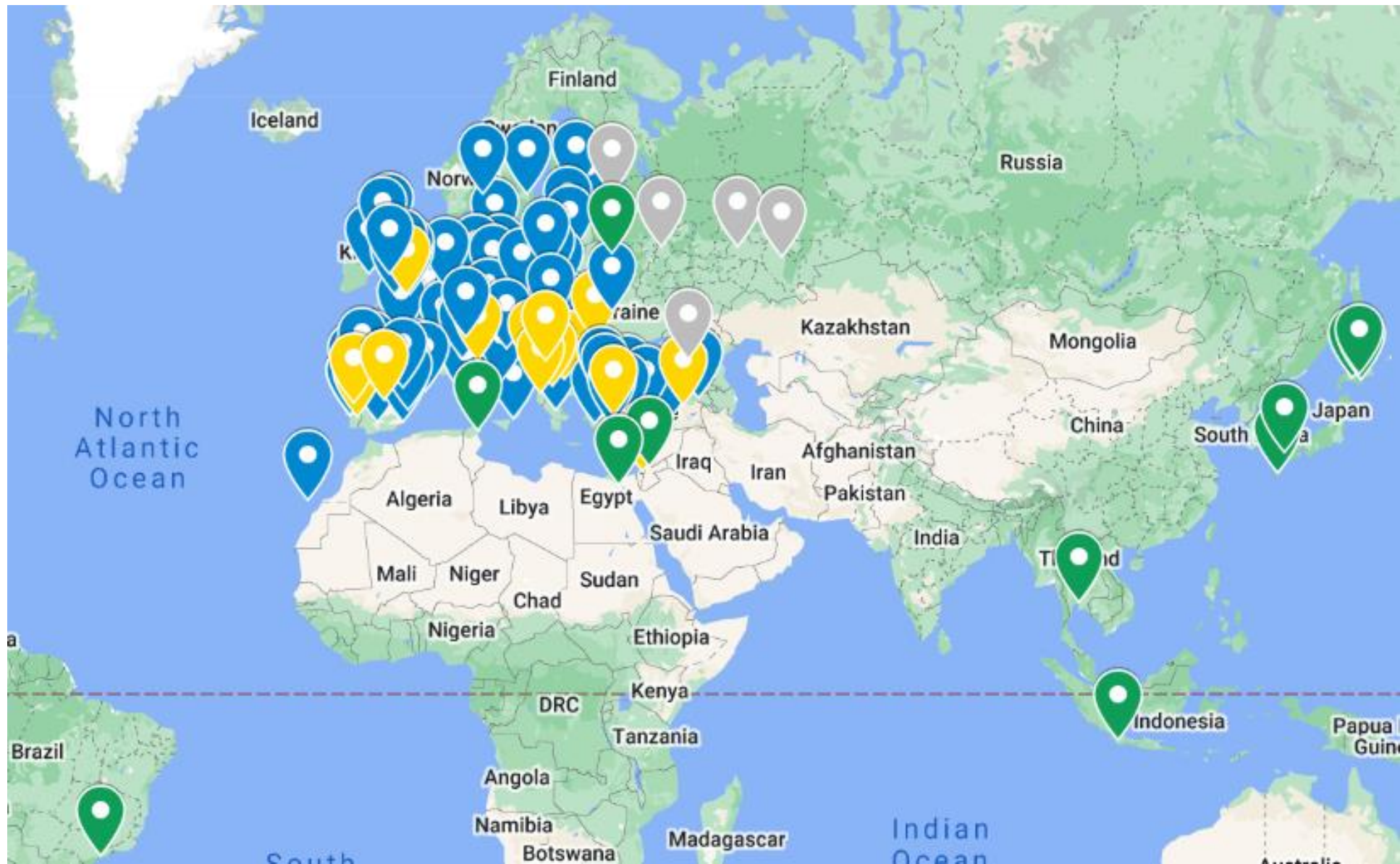
81 VEEs

Candidate members

14 VEEs

Associates

10 VEEs (+5 Russian)





EAEVE's perspective

As a result, EAEVE has developed three cross border approaches:

1. Visitations to **EU based VEEs** (with or without the national QA agency from the host nation) and where such a QA agency is most likely a member of ENQA
2. Visitations to **NON EU based VEEs** (but from within the Council of Europe), and where such a national QA agency is also most likely a member of ENQA
3. Visitations to **NON EU/Council of Europe based VEEs** where:
 - The national QA agency is often not a member of ENQA
 - Knowledge of an ESG driven assessment approach is often limited
 - Structure and quality of the curricula delivering the education can vary widely



EAEVE's perspective

Notwithstanding these three approaches, EAEVE is determined to have a single and unified accreditation programme, whatever the national and geographical position of a VEE

By delivering a QA approach, EAEVE strives to be the essential reference for all higher level institutes that have educational responsibilities for the training of veterinarians

The EAEVE vision is that veterinary education, based on high quality standards, research and innovation, is the key component of the veterinary profession in the service of One Health and its recognition by society



EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a EU based Establishment

Full members

Candidate members





EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a EU based Establishment

How does EAEVE practice Cross-Border Quality Assurance?

- Initially, EAEVE's mission was to promote and develop a culture of quality within the VEEs in the EU
- These latter academic institutions now depend on the ESEVT evaluation process to ensure that they possess, both nationally and internationally, quality criteria firmly based on the ESG and the Bologna Process



EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a EU based Establishment

How does EAEVE practice Cross-Border Quality Assurance?

- One of the key aspects of the EU is that individual members of certain regulated health professions in the EU, including veterinarians can move across borders and practice their occupation or provide services abroad
- There are EU Directives that such health professions have to follow, but Veterinary Medicine was the first, and remains until today the only one of these regulated health professions which is regularly quality assessed.



EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a EU based Establishment

How does EAEVE practice Cross-Border Quality Assurance?

- There is common ground for the QA of these VEEs within the EU, because firstly there is the need to follow these EU Directives and, secondly, by the ESG itself
- The aspiration of the EAEVE approach is to cover all the important regulations/standards within these two sources



EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a EU based Establishment

- National QA accrediting agencies responsible for the accreditation of VEEs, normally rely on ESG standards only. However, the automatic recognition of veterinary degrees delivered in the EU assumes that an equivalent level of training is provided throughout the EU
- Crucially, ESEVT evaluations clearly show that this assumption is not congruent with reality, and that in fact, using visitations in 2020/2021 as an example, several VEEs within 24 of the 27 EU Member States have been shown to deliver substandard training programmes.



EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a EU based Establishment

How do the EAEVE/ESEVT teams interact with national QA agencies?

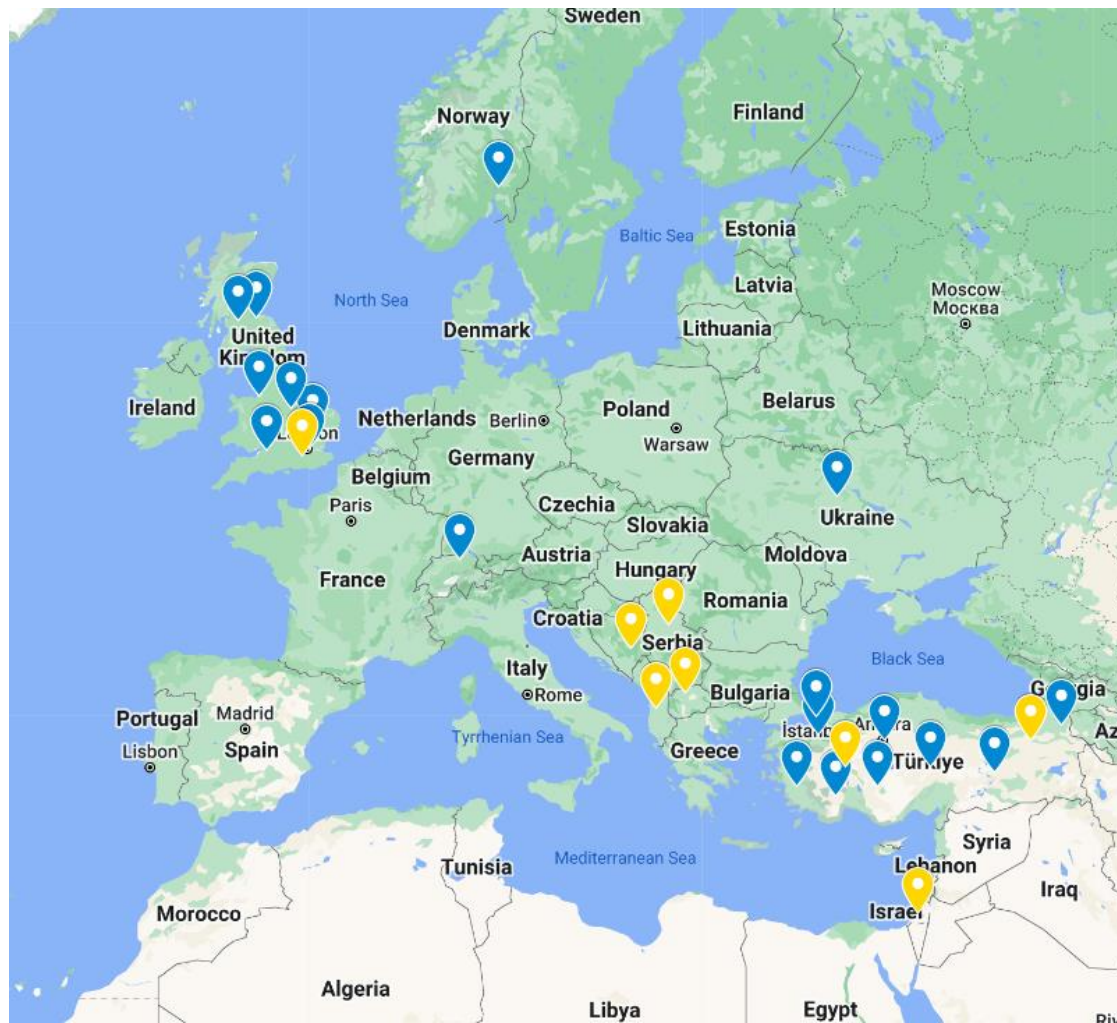
- VEEs are increasingly encouraged to arrange for a member of the appropriate national QA agency to join the visitation team, with the long-term aim of both sides (the generic national QA agency and the subject specific EAEVE agency), working towards the constant analysis and improvement of teaching within a VEE
- This is relatively achievable when there is a single national QA agency for higher education, but more complicated when multiple QA agencies are involved.



EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a NON-EU but Council of Europe based Establishment

Full members

Candidate members





EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a NON-EU but Council of Europe based Establishment

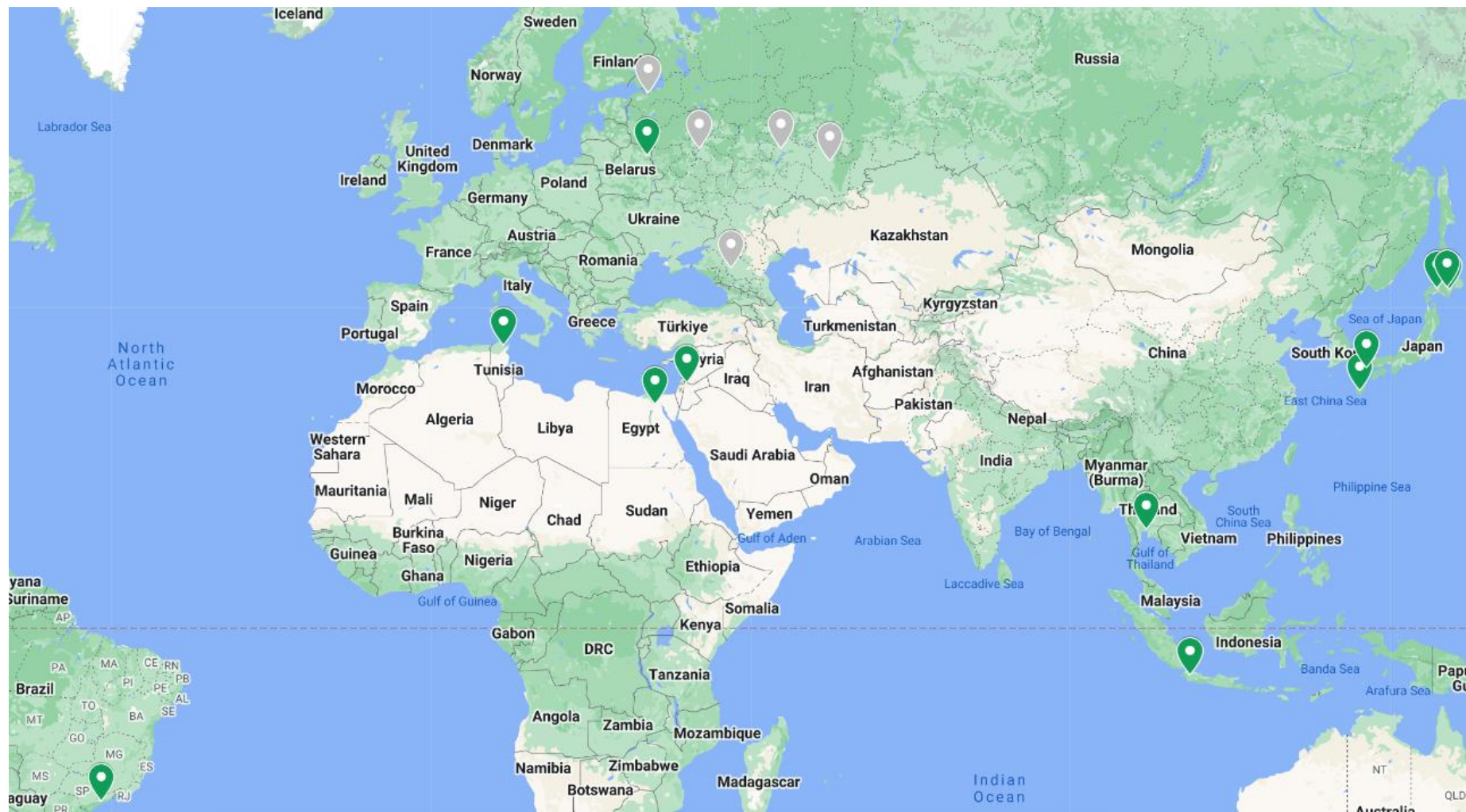
- QA visitations to Non-EU VEEs within Council of Europe: e.g. Turkey, UK, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine
- Visitations to UK VEEs are often undertaken with the licensing authority for UK veterinarians (RCVS, who is also an ENQA member)
- It was agreed at an early stage by EAEVE to welcome members from Turkish VEEs and to initiate a series of accreditation visitations within Turkey. Such visitations are now extensive and ongoing, and indeed, representatives from Turkey now play an important and active role within EAEVE
- QA visitations to all the above VEEs are conducted in exactly the same way as for a EU based Establishment



EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a NON-EU and NON-Council of Europe based Establishment

Associates

Suspended member





EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a NON-EU and NON-Council of Europe based Establishment

VEEs beyond Europe

- As EAEVE expands its accreditation programme beyond the “confines” of mainland Europe, it will be necessary to find additional methods for stakeholder involvement within such non-European countries
- These methods could include webinars aimed at national groups such as practicing veterinarians, employers of veterinarians, student groups and representatives from the national QA agencies involved in higher education
- These webinars would explain the EAEVE/ESEVT/ESG “Standards” approach and seek feedback from these national based stakeholder groups as EAEVE embarks on developing the accreditation process for VEEs within their countries



EAEVE's perspective for a QA visitation to a NON-EU and NON-Council of Europe based Establishment

VEEs beyond Europe

- As mentioned before, EAEVE is determined to work more closely with national QA agencies within Europe, and EAEVE believes that this approach is even more important when visiting VEEs well beyond Europe



Potential problems in Cross-Border QA Visitations

EAEVE's perspective

- How to involve the National QA Agency(ies)?
- Knowledge of the ESG Standards approach, in both the VEE and QA Agency?
- Knowledge of the EAEVE/ESEVT Standards approach, in both the VEE and the QA Agency?
- Ability to conduct QA visitations in English?
- QA run from within the VEE or run centrally from within the parent University?
- Willingness to accept a European based QA assessment, and **not** one tailored for a particular Nation or Region?
- Willingness to accept student involvement in **all** aspects of QA within the VEE?



Thank you for your attention!