

Testimonial

This was my second experience in training schools and the challenge was to keep my expectations controlled as the theme, *Introduction to socio-economics of helminth infections and anthelmintic resistance in ruminants*, really interests me. The organisation provided all the information needed to the travel in a friendly way. The location of the venue was perfect.

The training school began with a short presentation of ourselves and I understood that we were a heterogeneous group with people from different scientific and geographical areas, which I thought was predictive of a rich training school. The first day, we had Economics. Although I was not able to complete by myself in time any of the exercises we have done (shame on me!), I must confess that it was my preferred day. I am a veterinarian, my mindset is quite far from Economics, so my feeling was that I learned a lot. The trainers were great and they made me think on topics that are familiar to me in a completely different perspective, which I appreciate very much, since working and learning in a multidisciplinary way means real enrichment. The phrase was “choosing is losing”! And a reminder: not always the maximum production means the maximum profit.

The second day, we were introduced to veterinary socio-epidemiology. This topic was not so “new” to me as lately I have been training and working already on this issue. Anyway it was quite enlightening, I mean, we (humans) are so different and so similar too! I had the opportunity to verify this, not only through the presentations of the trainers but also through the discussions between the participants. Although we come from different countries and cultures, we face the same difficulties with human communication and behaviour. In veterinary socio-epidemiology we should think protractedly about “the proper questions to ask”. Finally, I came back to Portugal with a new concept: coaching on farm! What a great tool, I believe!

I should not end without saying that although the programme was quite intensive, we still had time to socialise in the beautiful city of Bruges, as networking is really important for our scientific purposes, but mainly, at least for me, for self-knowledge.

Thank you!

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