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e-Learning Course:  
'Recognition of pain, suffering and distress  
and its application in the evaluation of severity of the procedures'  
(species specific: mice and rats)

Call for Applications



Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences



HELLENIC AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION - DEMETER  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

UNIVERSIDAD DE  
MURCIA



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## 1. Introduction

The project “Harmonisation & Recognition of LAS education and training in Member States (HERMES)” is co-financed in the framework of the **Erasmus + Programme - Key Action 2** Innovation and good practices - Strategic Partnerships action.

The project main priority is the transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications in the European labour market of all professionals involved in the use and care of animals for scientific purposes, in line with Article 23 of the Directive 2010/63/EU.

HERMES is the first tentative cooperation at the EU level among stakeholders involved in the education and training system in Laboratory Animal Science (LAS), with the aim of developing and testing methodologies and tools towards the harmonisation and mutual recognition of Education & Training (E&T) programmes in Member States.

Among the various expected outputs, the e-Learning tool addresses one of the main critical aspects related to LAS: the recognition of pain, suffering and distress and its application in the evaluation of severity of the procedures, focused as ‘Species Specific training’ on rats and mice.

In line with the European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) system and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (‘ECTS’) used in the higher education sector, it is structured in learning outcomes (Units) to facilitates the assessment, validation and recognition of the acquired skills. It is delivered in English.

**The present call for applicants is aimed at selecting and recruiting the participants in the pilot delivery of the e-Learning Course foreseen within the project.**

## 2. Value for the beneficiaries

Candidates fitting with the criteria below will be admitted to the pilot edition of this E-learning Training Course.

The participation is free of charge. Beneficiaries would receive an attendance certificate upon successful completion of the final test foreseen by the training programme. It will be in line with the HERMES project purposes and outcomes to facilitate the free movements of LAS professionals and students in Europe.

### 3. Course learning objectives

At the end of this E-Learning Course, trainees should be able to:

- Recognise normal or desirable behaviour and appearance of the individuals in the context of species, environment and physiological status.
- Recognise abnormal behaviour and signs of discomfort, pain, suffering, or distress, as well as signs of positive well-being and principles of how pain, suffering and distress can be managed.
- Identify factors to be considered and methods available for assessing and recording the welfare of animals e.g. score sheets.
- Describe what a humane endpoint is. Identify criteria to be used to set humane endpoints. Define action to be taken when a humane endpoint is reached and consider possible options for refining methods to finish at an earlier endpoint.
- Describe the severity classifications included in the Directive and give examples of each category; explain cumulative severity and the effect this may have on the severity classification.
- Describe the circumstances when anaesthesia or analgesia may be necessary to minimise pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.
- Detect housing and environmental factors that need to be improved to minimise pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.

### 4. Course structure and organisation

The course is delivered through the IZSAM E-Learning Platform. It consists of the following units:

0. Welcome and Introduction
1. Normal behaviour and wellbeing of mice and rats
2. Recognition and assessment of pain
3. Non pharmacological and physical alleviation of pain, distress, suffering and lasting harm
4. Pharmacological alleviation of pain, distress, suffering and lasting harm
5. Humane endpoints and severity classification

Each unit is organised in topics and themes, including texts, audios, pictures, videos and interactions.

Beneficiaries have the opportunity to study autonomously and with flexibility, adapting the learning path to their personal and professional needs along the training period defined and detailed below.

## 5. Duration

The estimated time for the course completion (including pre-test, final test and participants' satisfaction on-line survey) is about **ten hours**.

The course will be delivered from the 12<sup>th</sup> of October to the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2020.

## 6. Potential beneficiaries and requirements

The course is addressed to:

- Postgraduate students of a 3-year study cycle in the areas of medicine and health sciences interested to work on LAS.
- Veterinary students at their 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of studies (at year 4-6 of Master cycle), postgraduate students and professionals (researchers employed in academia, industry or public research institutions) involved in use and care of animals for scientific purposes currently working or interested to work on LAS.

The enrolment is open up to **1,000** beneficiaries at European level.

## 7. Enrolment procedure

Please submit your application at the following link:

<https://it.surveymonkey.com/r/E-LearningHermes>

An automatic communication will inform you about the correct submission of your enrolment request.

After the closure of the enrolment phase, applicants will receive a further communication about the admission results.

## 8. Deadlines

The enrolment procedure will close on the **7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2020**.

## 9. Pre-requisites assessment

An internal procedure will be carried out to compare the profiles of the applicants with what in section 6 of this call.

## 10. Final assessment

A knowledge assessment questionnaire will evaluate the participant's understanding of the topics after having attended the online training. A minimum of 75% of correct answers is required to obtain the certificate.

## 11. Satisfaction questionnaire

At the end of the course, participants will be asked to complete a satisfaction questionnaire aimed at collecting feedback and improving suggestions about the learning path concluded.

## 12. Certificate

After completing all the training activities and upon successful final test, participants will obtain a digital certificate aimed at facilitating the transparency of the acquired skills and the personnel free movement in the EU Member States.

## 13. Contacts details

HERMES Lead Partner and eLearning Training Provider:  
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise  
Campo Boario  
64100 TERAMO (ITALY)

Please contact [hermes@izs.it](mailto:hermes@izs.it) for information regarding the eLearning course, including enrolment inquiries. The HERMES Project Team will be glad to assist you.

Please visit [www.hermes4las.eu](http://www.hermes4las.eu) to know more about the HERMES project and the e-Learning Course 'Recognition of pain, suffering and distress and its application in the evaluation of severity of the procedures - Species specific: mice and rats'.