

## **6. Summary**

### **Title: Development and Comparison of the Courses of Further Studies for the Degree of Specialist Veterinarian in the Field of Food Hygiene in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) under Special Consideration of the Assimilation of the Legal Systems of Both German States after German Reunification**

The thesis presented above dealt with the course of further studies for a degree of a specialist veterinarian in the field of food hygiene. In accordance with the intentions of the institutions of further studies in both German States, an analysis of the changes and assimilation of the systems of further studies was carried out. For the Federal Republic, the development up to an almost assimilated system of further studies was shown. For the German Democratic Republic, the development of further studies from the foundation of the Scientific Society of Veterinary Medicine as an institution of further studies via the introduction of postgradual studies in 1977 until German Reunification could be laid out. There special emphasis was put on the origins and carrying out of postgradual studies.

A survey of the standards of further study courses in Germany and the EU at that time is then given. Within Europe there were three systems of specialization, i.e. specialization during regular studies, the specialist veterinarian in Germany and further qualification for a PhD in postgradual studies.

Questionnaires were sent to the concerning specialist veterinarians in the field of food hygiene. These questionnaires with a return of 34,9 % allowed a comparison of the systems of further studies in the GDR and FRG. Thus it could be found out that the title of a specialist vet in the GDR or the New German States was demanded for when vacancies in administrative services had to be filled after German Reunification. The questionnaires made clear that the average age of graduates in the New States was lower at 25,3 years compared to 26,4 years in the Old States. The age when finishing further qualification as a specialist vet was almost the same with 39,3 years in the Old States compared to 39,7 years in the New States. In the New States, however, only 2,3 years were needed for further studies, compared to 7,2 years in the Old States. This

represented the carrying out of further qualification in form of postgradual studies with a fixed time of two years in East Germany. 67% of vets in the Old States obtained the approbation for vets in administrative services. The figure in the New States was 52,3%. The degree of a specialist vet was a precondition for professional promotion with 37,2% of vets in the New States, compared to only 4,9% in the Old States.

In the New states, further studies were mostly completed with an examination (68% of the sample), and a examination paper had to be written (75,6%). In the Old States 43,5% of the vets questioned had to pass a scientific discussion as final step of further qualification. The degree of a specialist vet was awarded due to long – term occupation and transitional regulations in 45,2% of the cases in the Old States compared to 15,1% of the specialists in the New States.

Finally, new and old ways of further studies are discussed. Thus the urgent need for changes in the existing system of further studies became evident in order to valorize the degree of a specialist veterinarian and make it attractive in europe and also internationally. For this purpose it would be important to standarize the regulations of further studies in Germany and focus an aims that will produce significant results in effectively short periods of time. A good way of achieving this aim would be an orientation on the postgraduate studies in East Germany. A course system would make further studies more effektive, shorten and standarize them and would this meet the growing needs of the European market in a more sufficient way. Analysis of the questionnaires in this thesis proved that the system of further qualification of specialist vets in East Germany over 23 years had led to a very effektive system. In a short period of two years a lively exchange af knowledge between prospective specialist vets, university teachers and consultants was held in a combination of practical work and concentrated theoretical studies at Berlin Humboldt University. As a result, a well trained specialist veterinarian could be returned to practical work in food hygiene.