

## VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

**Study Programme: MIMV Curricular Year: 5<sup>th</sup> Semester: 2<sup>nd</sup> Compulsory Credits: 4.5 ECTS**

**Lecturer(s): Yolanda Vaz (CCP e R)**

### 1. Contact hours:

**Lectures - 20 hours Theoretical /Practical - 24hours Practicals - 8 hours Total – 52 hours**

### 2. Objectives:

Veterinary Public Health (VPH) is the sum of all contributions to the physical, mental and social well-being of humans through an understanding and application of veterinary science (WHO, 1999). This discipline has the following objectives:

- Stimulate, in the future veterinarian an objective sensitivity to the need of protection and promotion of human health and environmental protection;
- Develop in the students a global vision on the evaluation of animal health and welfare, food-chain risks and environmental pollution, which can benefit from the intervention of the veterinarian for its correction / improvement;
- Promote ethical and law-based professional attitudes and a good capacity for communication with economical agents and stakeholders;
- Promote preventive behaviours with respect to professional risks;
- Develop observational and critical abilities with respect to public health problems;
- Stress the importance of the multidisciplinary approach to VPH and promote group work capacities.

### 3. Programme:

1. Introduction to VPH and 'One Health' official entities involved
2. Human-animal relationship - risks, obligations and legislation
3. Zoonosis of importance in Portugal: epidemiology, surveillance and control
4. Food safety: policies and strategies in the EU and in Portugal
5. The role of veterinarians in environmental protection
6. The contribution of veterinarians in public emergencies
7. The role of veterinarians in biomedicine
8. VPH aspects of importance in Portugal.

### 4. Bibliography:

- Anon (1975). *The Veterinary Contribution to Public Health Practice*. Technical Report Series n°573, Geneva.
- Hugh-Jones, M.E., Hubbert W.T. & Hagstad, H.V. (1995). *Zoonoses – recognition, control and prevention*. Iowa State University Press, Ames.
- Schwabe, C.W. (1984). *Veterinary Medicine and Human Health*. Williams & Wilkins, Londres.
- Swabe, J. (1999). *Animals, Disease and Human Society*. Routledge. New York.
- OIE (1992). *Veterinary Public Health*. Rev. Sc. Techn., vol. 10 e 11, Paris.
- Documents of the Commission of Codex Alimentarius  
National and Community legislation (divers)

### 5. Assessment:

- Written final exam - 50% of the final mark.
  - Practical activities evaluation - 50% of the final mark.
- The practical activities evaluation consists in:
- Development of a thematic essay on a VPH theme - 87.5% of practical mark.
  - Reports of practical classes - 12.5% of practical mark.