



Anatomy of Exotic Animals or an Useful Tool for Innovative Education

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Abstract

The subject Anatomy of Exotic Animals was born an innovation itself. It was implemented in the Veterinary School of the University Complutense in 1999, for the first time in a Vet School in Spain. Two years later, concerns about the Principles of the Bologna Treaty and about innovation in veterinary education started in our University. And Anatomy of Exotic Animals, as well as other disciplines, was used as a tool to train teachers and students for the new time to come. These disciplines were called, in general, "Pilot Subjects", as something to drive the university community towards the future. Thank to them, we all got used to substitute lectures by seminars or conferences by discussions in small groups. Students changed their role by organizing every session under the supervision of a lecturer, who started to be "tutor", instead of a "traditional professor". In other words, through these Pilot Subjects, we have changed from a teacher-centred education to a student-centred education.

Practically at the same time, the UCM implemented new projects in relation with University Education. Their name was clearly related to their goal: "Innovative Education Projects". Up to date, our group has already participated in seven of them, always on the basis of the exotic animals. In all cases, our main interest has been to consider these species, which increasing interest in Veterinary Medicine is out of discussion, as a whole: anatomy, radiology, pathology, medical treatment (including surgery), etc. We tried to relate Anatomy with other disciplines which clearly have the Anatomy as the basis. In summary, we always had a "transversal" point of view, looking for the interest of students and professionals.