**SWOT ANALYSIS**

1) **STRENGTHS**
   a) High quality of scientific publications
   b) In 2017 the VMF has been designated “Department of Excellence” by the MIUR on the basis of a national competitive research program
   c) As “Department of Excellence” the VMF increased the number of full-time professors and young researchers/assistant professors
   d) As “Department of Excellence” the VMF will improve the laboratory equipment for teaching and research
   e) A qualified QA system for teaching, and ANVUR accreditation in 2017
   f) Innovative and updated degree course (like emergency management, practice management, comparative oncology, emerging parasitosis, veterinary biodiversity, and other elective courses as specified in Standard 3)
   g) Close and mutual exchange relationships between the Students and the teaching and technical staff
   h) High number of selected practitioners working at VMF facilities
   i) High number of agreements for External Practical Trainings on companion animals, wild and food-producing animals
   j) Continuous involvement of students in the degree committees and teaching management
   k) Involvement of the Students in the research activities for the degree thesis preparation
   l) High number of candidates participating in the admission test compared to the given position (2018 – 1:9)
   m) Several opportunities of high-level international mobility for students and teachers (Erasmus Studio and Erasmus Traineeship Programmes, International Veterinary Student Association — IVSA)
   n) Good relationships with the national and local public veterinary services (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale, Abruzzo regional veterinary service)
   o) Wide post-degree didactic packages (four post-graduate schools, a PhD course, several masters and post-graduate courses) (see Standard 10)
   p) The VMDP was validated by ISO 9001:2015 quality standards in 2019
   q) The VMF is located in the Abruzzo Region, named the Green Region of Europe (200400 ha of protected area (National Parks) — 36% of total surface of the region)
   r) High motivation and enthusiasm of teachers and researches
   s) Advantageous position easy to be reached by public transportations (railway station just in front of the main entrance of the faculty)

2) **WEAKNESSES**
   a) The compulsory closure of the Molinari building in 2013 (due to the earthquake) forced some research units (Microbiology and Infectious Diseases of Animals, Parasitology, Pathology, Embryology, Animal Food Sciences) to move into the Piano d’Accio building modifying the general management, logistics and area organization, and the biosecurity paths
   b) Low number of members of the teaching and technical staff
   c) Shortage of public funding
   d) Late final ranking list flow of the first year enrolled Students by MIUR
   e) High costs for maintaining the degree program
   f) Complicated and slow Public Administration procedures
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

g) The location in a region with a low density of people and livestock animal population

3) OPPORTUNITIES
a) The Piano d’Accio new buildings (see Standard 4) will facilitate and implement all the VMF activities
b) The established involvement of public and private stakeholders in the evaluation and revision of the current VM degree
c) As “Department of Excellence” the VMF will increase the number of young researchers by various PhD and post-doc fellowships
d) As “Department of Excellence” the VMF will improve the equipment for teaching and research
e) Teramo municipality is friendly and allows a good quality of life with reasonable costs
f) The recently established system for quality assessment will improve the undergraduate “career” progression

4) THREATS
a) Necessity to harmonize the ANVUR and EAEVE accreditation systems
b) High costs for education degree, including maintenance for the VTH and the other faculty facilities
c) Limitations on human resource hiring, due to shortage public funds
d) Italian university laws hinder the appropriate management of repeating students, causing the extension of the career of the students
e) To date there is no information on the guidelines for the next Research Quality Evaluation (VQR) for 2015-2019
f) Insufficient public research grants and funding for specific topics as companion animals, and wildlife
g) Unpredictable number of enrolled students per academic year assigned by MIUR
h) No possibilities to reward the meritorious members of the teaching staff