

THE OIE PVS PATHWAY

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The OIE capacity building activities aim to support the Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) in their efforts to implement the OIE international standards as set out in the OIE *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* (the *Codes*) respectively. These activities include conferences and workshops conducted at global, regional and sometimes national levels. The most important global capacity building initiative of the OIE is the PVS Pathway for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, and AAHS, for compliance with the quality standards set out in the *Codes*. The PVS Pathway comprises the following steps:

- The “diagnosis step”. The initial country PVS evaluation is a qualitative assessment of the compliance of Veterinary Services (or AAHS) with the standards in the *Codes*, using the OIE PVS Tool. The PVS Tool contains specific critical competencies relating to the capacity of these services to develop and implement relevant OIE standards.
- The “prescription step”. A PVS Gap Analysis mission is a quantitative evaluation of a country’s needs and priorities based on the outcome of the independent external evaluation of the country’s Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS Tool. It facilitates the definition of a country’s Veterinary Services’ objectives in terms of compliance with OIE quality standards, suitably adapted to national constraints and priorities; defines the activities to be carried out; and determine the human, physical and financial resources needed to achieve the expected results within 5 years.
- The “treatment step”. Based on the results of the PVS Evaluation missions conducted to date, the OIE has identified transversal capacities that would need to be strengthened in Member countries to improve their compliance with OIE standards. In order to address this and, at the request of Members, the OIE is developing specific programmes for veterinary legislation, public/private partnership, veterinary education, veterinary statutory bodies and laboratories.
- Regular country PVS Pathway Follow-up missions (every 2 to 5 years) are useful to assess, monitor and accompany progress made (change in legislation, structure, impact of national and international investments, technical capacities improved, etc.) in sustainably improving their compliance with the OIE quality standards.

Considering the growing importance of aquaculture to provide high quality protein and help combat poverty, in 2012 the OIE will convene an expert *ad hoc* Group with the objective of refining the PVS Tool to better reflect the specificities of national Aquatic Animal Health Services, including their capacity to deliver effective health programs for aquatic animals.

Since the inception of the OIE PVS Pathway in 2006, the OIE has completed more than 110 PVS evaluations and more than 50 PVS Gap Analysis missions. The OIE continues to review the international standards of quality for Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, with appropriate updating of the *Codes* and the PVS Tool.

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