In Africa, education in veterinary science and medicine is diverse and is provided by 60 training institutions. They can be divided into three categories, based on their founding date: first-generation institutions (prior to 1960); second-generation institutions (between 1960 and 2000) and third-generation institutions (after 2000). All are national institutions except the Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine of Dakar (EISMV), which is shared by 15 French-speaking member countries from three of Africa's five regions (West, Central and East).

The training imparted by these institutions diverges widely, as education systems were shaped by the countries' colonial past. Degree courses last between five and six years, leading to the equivalent of Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). The number of graduates ranges from 15 to 135 per year per institution, with barely 5% of women represented. African institutions have limited human and financial resources, infrastructure and facilities.

Curricula cover virtually all veterinary education disciplines, with the emphasis varying from country to country.

In terms of performance, first- and second-generation institutions have real capacity to provide good-quality education, while those of the third generation will need to benefit from the experience of more established institutions under the OIE twinning programme.

Finally, reforms to harmonise curricula, standardise degrees, develop human resources and promote mobility should improve the performance of veterinary education on the continent, to ensure that graduates acquire strong skills and sufficient autonomy to begin their careers and help to enhance Africa's veterinary services.

**Keywords**: Africa – Curricula – Performance – Veterinary education.