The quality of Veterinary Services is strongly linked with the role of a functioning Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB). The OIE PVS Pathway, based on the use of the Tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), provides a framework for the evaluation and strengthening of national Veterinary Services and has been widely used in OIE Member countries. The PVS Tool takes into account the capability of the VSB as part of the PVS evaluation.

In the period 2006-2009 the OIE PVS Tool contained one Critical Competency relating to the level of advancement of the VSB. Since 2010, the authority and the capacity of VSB’s have been assessed as two distinct Critical Competencies. All Critical Competencies are qualitatively assessed by the OIE evaluator to produce estimated levels of advancement (five possible levels). The results of the evaluation provide an indication of the performance of a national VSB. Gaps in capability have an important bearing on the governance of the veterinary services. The results of 112 assessments in the period 2006–2013 reveal that in many countries there is still no legislation for establishing a VSB and, consequently, little or no regulation of veterinarians or veterinary para-professionals. In addition, some countries have no formal professional organisation representing veterinarians or veterinary paraprofessionals.

An analysis of the PVS assessments carried out between 2009 and 2013, when the PVS Tool defined separate Critical Competencies for VSB authority and capacity, showed that in more than half of the countries assessed the VSB had the lowest level of advancement for capacity, i.e. ‘the VSB has no capacity to implement its functions and objectives’.

The analyses conducted pre- and post- 2009 complement each other and show clearly that there is a global need to strengthen both the authority and the capacity of VSB’s with a view to improving the governance of national Veterinary Services.

**Keywords:** Veterinary Statutory Body – OIE PVS Tool – Veterinary Legislation.