The Biobank of Veterinary Resources (BVR) at IZSLER has been recognized as an OIE Collaborating Centre. The aim of this infrastructure is to optimize cooperation in sharing biological resources, including reference reagents. The experience of IZSLER has allowed the creation of a network with other IZS laboratories, in order to increase the types of biological resources held in the biobank. Each biobank in the network maintains its specific identity and autonomy. Currently, four IZS laboratories contribute to the network with biological resources collected as part of their activities as National Reference Centres and OIE Reference and Collaborating Laboratories.

To optimize interactions among the scientific community, a short questionnaire was designed to gather information on the availability of ‘animal biological resources’ and ‘standard reference reagents’ among the OIE Reference Centre network. The requested data on ‘animal biological resources’ concerned in particular the production, quality control, database recording, storage, and the sharing of such resources with external groups. Furthermore, the development of ‘standard reference reagents’ was also investigated, in order to ascertain their quality parameters evaluated through proficiency tests. Another area of interest was the difficulties that can be met in the distribution of these materials and related to import/export permits, government authorisation, biological risk level, MTA (material transfer agreements) etc. The summary of survey results and their analysis will improve information about the type and number of stored samples within the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in order to facilitate their sharing among the scientific community.