

## Veterinary Education in the PVS Pathway

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Since 2006, the OIE's 'Performance of Veterinary Services' (PVS) Pathway has assisted OIE Member Countries to improve the compliance of their national Veterinary Services with OIE intergovernmental standards in a sustainable manner. The PVS Pathway is a continuous process, comprised of 'diagnosis' (PVS evaluations), 'prescription' (PVS Gap Analysis) and 'treatment' phases, under which specific missions are undertaken to strengthen national animal health systems and their contribution to global public goods.

The findings of various initial OIE PVS Evaluation missions have underlined shortfalls in veterinary education and its provision. To address these shortfalls, the OIE has, under the 'treatment' phase of the PVS Pathway, developed recommendations and guidelines for Veterinary Education Establishments around the world to modernise their veterinary curriculum and delivery of high quality initial veterinary education. The ultimate intent is to equip future veterinarians with the knowledge required to support the public and private sectors of national Veterinary Services.

The *OIE recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') to assure National Veterinary Services of quality'* outline the specific and advanced competencies required by graduates to serve the public good needs of countries, notably in the areas of early detection of animal diseases, transparency and notification; rapid response to animal disease outbreaks, implementation of biosecurity and bio-containment measures; and veterinary public health related to zoonoses and food safety

To complement these recommendations, the *OIE Guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum* and its model core veterinary curriculum present various recommended courses and cross-detail them with the 'Day 1 Competencies' that a specific course should address.

In furthering the implementation of these recommendations and guidelines, the OIE has initiated its Veterinary Education Twinning Programme between Veterinary Education Establishments: the aim is to improve the quality of veterinary education, through the exchange of teachers and students. The programme furthermore seeks to better understand the threshold of initial veterinary education worldwide so that assistance can be directed to building the capacity of Veterinary Education Establishments falling below this threshold.

To accompany twinning partners embarking on a project under this programme, the OIE's *Guide to Veterinary Education Twinning Projects* details the scope of twinning and processes involved. To date, 8 projects are ongoing and 7 expressions of interest have been received.

The OIE recognises the importance of diversifying the means to deliver high quality veterinary education, and is reviewing proposals for the development of web-based educational tools that promote curriculum alignment with the OIE's recommendations and guidelines on veterinary education.

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