As established in its 5th Strategic Plan, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) will pursue capacity building activities in order to meet the objectives of the organisation such as to provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases and to improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services.

The OIE capacity building activities ultimately aim at bringing the Veterinary Services into line with the international standards. The OIE general capacity building activities include conferences and workshops conducted at regional, global and sometimes at national level.

One the most important capacity building activities performed by the OIE is the evaluation of the quality standards compliance of the Veterinary Services through the OIE-PVS Pathway, which includes the OIE Global Veterinary Legislation initiative.

Among activities included within the work program of the OIE Regional and Sub-regional Representations, the capacity building of the OIE Delegates and the National Focal Points is a key element to help OIE Members to accomplish their obligations as Members of the OIE as well as to stimulate a better participation in the OIE standard-setting process and comply with guidelines and standards developed by the OIE.

The OIE also recognizes official Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Among the different activities undertaken by the institutes recognised, they play an important role in capacity-building by providing technical and scientific training to OIE Members. The Laboratory Twinning activities initiative which ‘twins’ Reference Laboratories or Collaborating Centres and candidate institutes provide another approach to capacity building by improving diagnostic capacity and expertise around the world.

The OIE constantly updates and improves its capacity building activities. In the interest of undertaking such an effective program of capacity building, the OIE collaborates closely with other international organisations and with donors.

Keywords: Capacity building – OIE-PVS Pathway – Focal points – Reference Laboratories – Collaborating Centres – Twinning