Twinning is not a new concept and has been used extensively to facilitate capacity building and networking, and to bring communities together. Through twinning, the OIE aims to provide a more balanced geographical distribution of expertise, allowing more countries to access high quality diagnostic testing and technical knowledge within their own region, facilitating early disease detection and rapid control. A high level of scientific expertise is needed to allow countries to formulate science-based animal health control strategies and to maintain veterinary scientific communities to support the standard setting process of the OIE.

**OIE Laboratory Twinning**

**Parent and Candidate laboratories**

**Twinning is working**
- 30 Laboratory Twinning projects are underway
- 6 Laboratory Twinning projects have been approved and are due to commence
- 6 Laboratory Twinning projects have been completed
- 3 Twinning Candidate laboratories have become OIE Reference Laboratories

**Twinning delivers concrete results because**
- Projects help countries to meet their own objectives
- Projects on zoonotics diseases are saving lives
- Projects improve the capacities of veterinary services to control diseases of production and trade, creating opportunities for small farmers
- Projects can rapidly and effectively amplify expertise for disease control
- Projects extend and strengthens global and regional networks

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**Projects are sustainable**
- Twinning projects have the support of National Veterinary Services
- Projects focus on expertise rather than infrastructure
- Projects are low cost yet high impact
- They are driven by individual and collective enthusiasm and mutual benefits
- Participating institutes can put themselves on the map advertising themselves at the international and regional level

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**Future developments**

The OIE has extended this successful concept to:
- Veterinary Statutory Bodies assists developing and in-transition countries create a regulatory framework with clearly defined objectives and powers to regulate the whole veterinary profession
- Veterinary Education: facilitates the implementation of a basic core curriculum and creates opportunities for developing and in-transition countries to develop modern educational facilities and methods based on accepted international standards