Laboratory Twinning to improve
disease security world wide

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Possible origins of animal disease outbreaks

- Natural disease events
- Deliberate release (bioterrorism)
- Breaches in laboratory bio-containment
- New and emerging diseases

“Disease detection and control for a natural, deliberate or accidental release of animal pathogen or emerging pathogen is virtually the same”
CURRENT NETWORK OF EXPERTISE

A network supporting disease prevention, surveillance, detection, and control world wide
Mandate of an OIE Reference Laboratory (disease based)

• Centre of expertise and standardisation

• Provide technical advice, diagnostic services, and training

• Report positive findings to OIE

• Develop new diagnostic tests

• Publish and disseminate useful information

• Place expert consultants at the disposal of OIE
Mandate of an OIE Collaborating Centre
(competence based)

• Centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques

• Provide technical advice and training

• Develop new techniques and procedures

• Publish and disseminate useful information

• Place expert consultants at the disposal of OIE
THE CONCEPT

Sustainable enhancement of capacity and expertise by supporting a link between an OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre (parent) and a national laboratory (candidate)
Aims and objectives of twinning - expertise

• To build scientific communities and improve compliance with OIE standards (surveillance and control)

• Improved access to high quality diagnostics and technical assistance for more OIE Members

• Eventually for some Candidates to apply for ‘reference’ status

• To help countries to enter scientific debate on an equal footing with others
Aims and objectives of twinning - networking

• Extend the OIE network of expertise to provide better global geographical coverage for priority diseases in priority areas

• To form long and lasting links between the institutes

• Strengthen global disease surveillance networks

• To strengthen national, regional and international scientific networks

• Create collaborative research opportunities, improve sharing, and advance science
Scope

• Project length is 1-3 years

• For OIE listed diseases or topics

• All include essential generic topics such as bioethics, biosafety, biosecurity, and quality assurance

• Ultimate aim to reach OIE reference status

• Funding to support the link, but not to buy equipment or pay salaries
Steps after twinning

• Engaging with the international scientific community
• Joining disease networks
• Joint research opportunities
• Applying for OIE Reference Laboratory status
IMPROVING DISEASE SECURITY WORLDWIDE
Outputs from twinning the twinning programme

• Improved access for OIE Members to rapid and accurate detection and characterisation of pathogens

• Improved biosafety, biosecurity, and bioethics

• Stronger scientific networks

• Stronger global disease surveillance

• Improved capability to prevent, detect, and respond to disease events whatever the source