

THE OIE PVS TOOL

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Under the rubric ‘Veterinary Services – a Global Public Good’, the OIE supports good governance by encouraging its Members to comply with international standards, using if needed the OIE PVS Pathway. Since the inception of the OIE PVS Pathway in 2006, the OIE has continued to review the international standards of quality for Veterinary Services, with appropriate modification of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code*. The 5th edition of the OIE PVS Tool was published in 2010.

In an OIE PVS mission, trained and certified OIE PVS experts assess the quality of a Member’s national veterinary services against the standards in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. In the PVS Tool there are specific critical competencies relating to the capacity of the veterinary services to develop and implement relevant veterinary legislation. In addition, many of the critical competencies that relate to key functions of the veterinary services (e.g. disease control) refer to the existence of adequate legislation as a first level indicator of capacity, followed by indicators dealing with implementation of programmes and, at the higher levels, evaluation and audit of programmes for compliance with international standards.

In 2008 the OIE developed a specific legislation component to the PVS Pathway. The publication of Guidelines on Veterinary Legislation was followed by the conduct of missions under the Veterinary Legislation Strengthening Programme (VLSP). To 30 September 2010, the OIE has, at the request of Members, conducted 14 Identification missions. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the improvement of national veterinary legislation has been established between the OIE and several Members. The training of additional legislation experts, which will take place after this conference, will support needed expansion of the VLSP programme.

Experience from the conduct of more than 100 PVS missions has shown that many developing countries need to modernise their national veterinary legislation to enable veterinary services to meet the challenges of today and prepare for the future. The OIE has developed the VLSP to help Members make the changes that are needed.

Keywords: Veterinary Legislation – OIE PVS Pathway.
