This presentation outlines the development and the application of the OIE standards and recommendations on veterinary education and VSBs to enhance the good governance and competence of National Veterinary Services.

The quality of Veterinary Services can only be as good as the competency and training of their personnel. In fact, veterinary education of quality together with effective Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) are the cornerstones of good governance of Veterinary Services. Therefore the OIE has been mandated by Member countries to take a global leadership role in establishing basic requirements for veterinary education and effective VSBs to support good governance of National Veterinary Services.

The need to define minimum educational requirements for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals was addressed in Chapter 3.4 ‘Veterinary Legislation’ of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code), which was adopted in 2012. In the same year the OIE published ‘Recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians (‘Day 1 graduates’) to assure National Veterinary Services of quality’), based on the work of an expert (ad hoc) Group comprising veterinary Deans, academicians and other experts. These recommendations were designed to be relevant to all Member countries while respecting their specific needs and circumstances. The OIE provided an additional support in the form of “Guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum” (May 2013). The OIE mandate for the various initiatives to strengthen veterinary education and good governance globally is found in Resolutions of the World Assembly of Delegates and in the Recommendations of OIE Global Conferences on Veterinary Education (2009, Paris and 2011, Lyon).

As stated in the Terrestrial Code, the VSB should have the capacity, supported by appropriate legislation, to exercise and enforce control over all veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. These controls should include, where appropriate, compulsory licensing and registration, minimum standards of education (initial and continuing) for the recognition of degrees, diplomas and certificates, setting standards of professional conduct and exercising control and the application of disciplinary procedures.

Applying OIE Standards and Recommendations on Veterinary Education and VSB’s ensures quality in the delivery of professional services, increases credibility of the Veterinary Services and contributes to the development of good governance.

Keywords: Terrestrial Animal Health Code – Veterinary Education – Veterinary Statutory Body.