

PROJECT INFO-SHEET

Mitigation of animal disease threats through Sustainable Laboratory biosafety and biosecurity

BACKGROUND

By contributing to disease surveillance, detection and control, laboratories services play a key role in supporting health systems and help reduce the risks posed to animal, human, and environmental health. To fulfil their role, they need to maintain safety, security and quality standards taking into account social, environmental, and economic factors in their operations.

Yet, veterinary laboratories across the world face challenges in meeting and sustaining critical requirements to varying degrees, and potentially represent a threat to national, regional, and global security. In order to strengthen global health security and reduce biological threats, the OIE and its partners are developing a multidisciplinary initiative to improve the sustainability of laboratories.

Recent sanitary crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, offer both opportunities and challenges to laboratory sustainability, and it is necessary that the global response encourages innovative solutions. Strategies on how to leverage investments and pivot to new opportunities will be critical in achieving sustainable laboratory biosafety and biosecurity in the long term.

OBJECTIVE

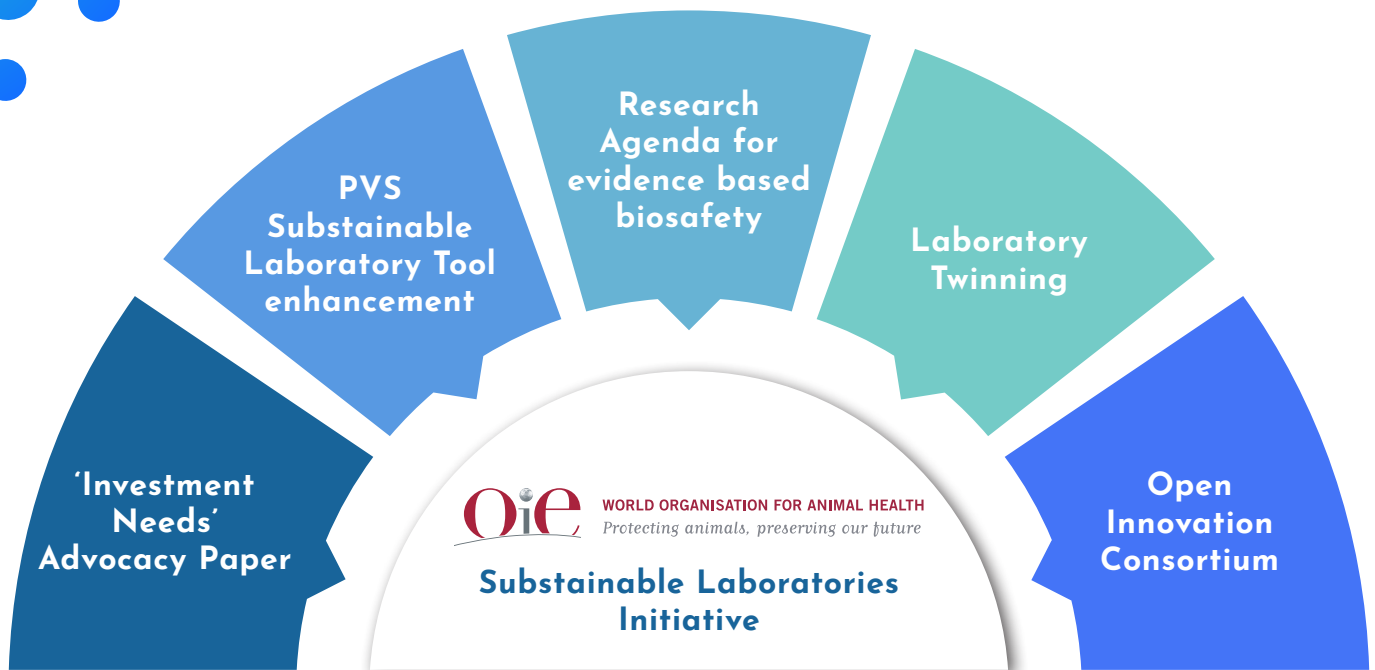
To promote improved sustainability of laboratories, particularly to ensure that they are safe and secure, and to encourage innovative solutions.

STAKEHOLDERS

- National Veterinary Services
- Public Health Services
- Health laboratory networks
- Policy makers

ACTIVITIES

- Conducting a descriptive data analysis on investment needs for sustainable laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, based on [Performance of Veterinary Services \(PVS\) Laboratory](#) data.
- Developing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), evidence-based arguments and advocacy tools for OIE Members to support their advocacy and resource mobilisation efforts to ensure the sustainability of their laboratories.
- Improving existing tools to enable OIE Member Countries to better understand capital and operating expenditures, as well as the cost and benefit of effective and sustainable laboratory systems.
- Developing a road map to improve the application of risk-based approaches to biosafety and biosecurity, and to identify solutions for low resource settings.
- Building new pathways for veterinary laboratories to work with public health authorities during sanitary crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supporting Laboratory Twinning Projects to facilitate capacity building and networking.
- Researching and developing ideas for a Grand Challenge to identify solutions to improve the sustainability of laboratories through open innovation.



EXPECTED RESULTS

- **Enhance** awareness among decision-makers and stakeholders of the reality of and the challenges to laboratories' sustainability, acquire an in-depth understanding of the dynamics underpinning them, and investments priorities to address them.
- **Support** health services to make informed decisions and improve their strategic planning concerning laboratory systems, by promoting the concept of "fitness for purpose" and the need to balance design against available resources over time.
- **Design** practical solutions for national authorities to improve the sustainability of their laboratories, including innovative solutions and tools to advocate for resources.
- **Promote** the adoption of values which improve the sustainability of laboratories and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Project title: Mitigation of Animal Disease Threats through Sustainable Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity

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Contact:

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
12, Rue de Prony, Paris, France
Tél. : +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88 • oie@oie.int

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