OIE Twinning Projects
Parent Laboratory Benefits
The Teramo Institute experience
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The OIE concept of Twinning Laboratories

• The most effective way to avoid, control and respond to animal diseases is to ensure good veterinary governance in MC
• Strategic for OIE to develop a world wide veterinary system with an adequate capacity to respond to animal diseases and food safety challenges
• The Twinning is one instrument amongst others, to empower laboratories of a “in-transition or developing Country” to become a Reference laboratory or a Collaborating Center of the OIE
But..... in our experience, the Twinning is a good instrument also to improve the competence of the “so called” Parent Lab!

Why?
The OIE Twinnings carried out in Teramo, Abruzzo, Italia

- **Botswana**: CBPP - June 2008
- **Cuba**: CBPP and Epidemiology – July 2008
- **Eritrea**: Brucellosis – September 2008
- **Tunisia**: BT – October 2010
- **Namibia**: Food safety – November 2010
- **Tunisia**: Food safety – January 2011
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Training initiatives to improve the skill of the Parent Laboratory personnel
Need of human resources: Necessity to improve knowledge all over the personnel and not only in privileged ones.
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Possibility to improve the knowledge of the disease, especially if the disease is not present in the Parent’s Lab but it is present in the Candidate Lab
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Possibility to study and apply diagnostic and epidemiological methodologies in «different areas» and in less “sophisticated” conditions
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Possibility to better understand, in situ, health priorities and diagnostic/epidemiological needs of an in-transition or developing Country.
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Going to the Candidate Lab Country, the consequence is:

Improvement of capability of the personnel involved - particularly junior scientists - to work, either in the field or in the Lab, in less than ideal situations and learn to solve problems.
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Going to the Candidate Lab Country, the consequence is:

*Improvement of the personnel - particularly junior scientists* - skill in epidemiology, diagnosis, and, very important, control of diseases for which they have sometimes little if any direct experience.
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Going to the Candidate Lab Country, the consequence is:

Improvement of the personnel - particularly junior scientists skill in acquiring new experiences in an autonomous way, talking with professional people, looking for outbreaks, materials and information.
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Going to the Candidate Lab Country, the consequence is:

Improvement of the personnel skill in culture and sensitivity in interacting with different behaviours, traditions, populations, in completely different socio-political-cultural scenarios.
In order to achieve these goals it’s crucial to know the «Candidate» Country history, and also to improve the capacity of communication, to build Trust and Transparency.
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OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Trust and Transparency:
Of paramount importance to work toghether, to collect, to share, to utilise biological material in an ethical way.
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

and

• **Possibility to carry out experimental activities on laboratory animals or to carry out animal testing due to the fact that some diseases are not exotic in the candidate Country**
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Positive analysis cost-benefit, for the Parent Lab, to carry out experiments in Countries where working conditions have less constraints due to the presence of the disease and less demanding structural constraints as well as fewer restrictions in working with the agent with consequent considerable saving of monetary resources.
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

Additionally:
Opportunity for definition of collaboration beside the Twinning
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

- **Publication of scientific papers reporting data arising from the Twinning Project.**

  and

- **Publication of scientific papers reporting data concerning other activities carried out during the period of the Project.**
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

And, very important....... 

• Critical analysis of the Parent Laboratory weaknesses (eg. languages knowledge)
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

• **eLearning English course delivered by Istituto ‘G. Caporale’ devoted to hits personnel**
OIE Twinning: Benefits for a Parent Laboratory

.....and, last but not least:

✓ new friends.....

✓ sun, sea, exotic beaches, sunsets.....

✓ Interesting food,....interesting beverages
The need of a long term Collaborative Liaison between Southern and Northern Laboratories is the natural consequence of an OIE Twinning Project.
In conclusions

- **For the OIE Reference Lab: improvement of the compliance with the OIE mandate**

- **For the Parent Lab and the Candidate Lab: Mutual scientific, technical and cultural improvement**
Twinning is part of the building of the global infrastructure to fight animal diseases, including zoonosis and to assure food security and safety worldwide with positive cost-benefit ratio for the international community.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!