



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Vacancy title	Consultant on capacity-building in veterinary epidemiology
Type of contract	Consultancy agreement
Location	Home based
Starting date	January 2021
Expected working days	30 days
Expected duration	17 months
Application deadline	December 9, 2020

1. CONTEXT

1.1 BACKGROUND

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide. The standards it develops for the trade of live animals and products of animal origin are recognized by the World Trade Organization as reference international sanitary rules (<http://www.oie.int/fr/>).

The OIE, then known as the « Office international des épizooties », was created on the 25th of January, 1924. Its headquarters are based in Paris. It comprises 182 Member Countries and is present on all continents through 13 Representations or Bureaus in total.

1.2 PURPOSE

The consultancy activity will be carried out in the framework of the project “Strengthening capabilities for Epidemiology and Biosurveillance”, developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) - the “Tripartite”.

Epidemiologists play a vital role in the detection and reporting of outbreaks of diseases and are thus a key element in addressing biological threats to both humans and animals. Given this important role of epidemiologists, it is essential to ensure that these professionals are trained to the standard core competencies required to perform this role properly. The need for properly trained epidemiologists to strengthen countries’ capabilities in disease surveillance, epidemiological investigations, and outbreak response is a requirement recognized and supported by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) Cooperative Threat Reduction Program (BTRP). In addition, other United States Government (USG) agencies and international organizations have made veterinary epidemiology a priority, including the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) and the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Field Epidemiology Training Programs for Veterinarians (FETPV). The presence of an applied epidemiology training program has also been included in the World Health Organization (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool since 2016, further motivating countries to develop and/or strengthen these capabilities.

Although independent organizations such as the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) and the United Nations World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)



have established relevant curricula and accreditations, no internationally accepted competencies exist for epidemiologists nor are standardized curricula or continuing education requirements for graduates available. This results in graduates with varying competence and the dilution of the reputation of the FETP or FETPV certification.

The Tripartite (WHO, OIE, FAO) has the unique and powerful position to convene key international, regional, and national stakeholders from a variety of sectors to contribute expertise to the development and implementation of internationally accepted epidemiology competencies. Development of such competencies would ensure a deep global pool of well-trained epidemiologists that could be called on by the global health community during a disease outbreak. Coordination with members of the Tripartite in the development of FETP and FETPV core competencies supports BTRP's mission to reduce the risks associated with zoonotic disease through validated, quantifiable and sustainable training programs in partner countries.

In the framework of this project, the consultant will contribute to the development of Tripartite-endorsed standardized competencies for applied epidemiology for both the public and animal health sectors and guidance regarding methods for testing or ensuring trainees' comprehension of the competencies.

2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant will work in a multidisciplinary team under the supervision of the Head of the OIE Capacity-Building Department and in coordination with the experts provided by WHO and FAO. The work will be carried out at distance, with regular meetings in videoconference to discuss and validate advancements and completion of the assigned activities. The possibility to attend face-to-face meetings will be evaluated if and when the Covid-19 sanitary situation allows for safe travel.

The consultant is expected to contribute to the development of the following products:

- Public Health and Veterinary Epidemiologist competency matrix
- Public Health and Veterinary Epidemiology competency guidelines
- Public Health and Veterinary Epidemiology curricula guidelines
- Guidance on methods for structuring, certifying and tracking continuing education trainings and training programmes
- Guidance for establishing, expanding, or supporting existing mentorship programmes for trained epidemiologists
- Guidance outlining the recommended technical approach(es) to certification/ evaluation of trainee competence

The project Steering Committee will have the responsibility to validate the deliverables.

2.2 EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

Deliverables	Deadline (prov.)	Days of work (prov.)
1. Epidemiologist competency matrix	Mar 2021	5
2. Public Health and Veterinary Epidemiology competency guidelines	July 2021	5

3. Public Health and Veterinary Epidemiology curricula guidelines	July 2021	5
4. Guidance on methods for structuring, certifying and tracking continuing education trainings and training programmes	May 2022	5
5. Guidance for establishing, expanding, or supporting existing mentorship programmes for trained epidemiologists	May 2022	5
6. Guidance outlining the recommended technical approach(es) to certification/ evaluation of trainee competence	May 2022	5

3. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Qualifications
 - o Degree in veterinary medicine
 - o A post-graduate comprehensive course in veterinary epidemiology (e.g. master classes, advanced classes, specialisation courses) would be an asset
- Previous experience
 - o At least 15 years of experience as a veterinary epidemiologist
 - o At least 10 years of experience on capacity building in veterinary epidemiology in international contexts. Experience in developing or in-transition countries would be an asset
- Competencies
 - o Excellent command of veterinary epidemiology
 - o Advanced design and delivery of capacity-building activities in veterinary epidemiology
 - o Advanced editorial skills
 - o Excellent command of English
 - o Strong analytical and critical thinking
 - o Sustained commitment to the development of new ideas or processes
 - o Teamwork
 - o Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to work in an international environment and to respect multiculturalism

4. WORK ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 ORGANISATION OF THE WORK

The consultant can provide his activity at distance. He/she is requested to attend regular meetings in videoconference. The possibility to participate in face-to-face meetings will be assessed upon need and if the restrictions due to the Covid-19 sanitary situation allow for safe travel. Dates indicated are provisional and will also depend on availability/scheduling of WHO and FAO.

4.2 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- 50%: upon validation of deliverables 1, 2 and 3
- 50%: upon validation of deliverables 4, 5 and 6



The OIE will eventually cover any costs related to the participation in missions requested for the purposes of the project development.

5. STRUCTURE OF THE RESPONSE

The interested consultant should apply to this call providing the following:

- CV
- Cover letter, specifying the understanding of the context, the reasons of the application and the commitment to the development of the assigned tasks (maximum 1 page)
- Daily rate/fees

6. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS AND AWARD OF THE CONTRACT

The OIE will proceed to an evaluation of all final proposals according to the criteria described below:

- Non-financial criteria (80%)
 - Expertise in veterinary epidemiology (40%)
 - Expertise in veterinary epidemiology capacity-building (30%)
 - Demonstrated understanding of the context (10%)
- Global cost (20%)

7. RESPONSE PROCEDURE

The OIE places high value on a multicultural and positive work environment and seeks gender and geographical balance in its international consultants. The OIE welcomes applications of all qualified candidates, irrespective of their ethnic origin, gender, opinions or beliefs.

If you are interested in the consultancy, please complete your application online by December 9, 2020 at the latest by clicking on the link below.

The OIE, as a data controller, will process the personal data you provide in the application form for the purposes of identifying a suitable consultant to support its work. The data collected will be processed internally for the aforementioned purposes and it shall be kept for 5 years. You have rights to access and rectify your personal data, as well as to request erasure and obtain data portability under certain circumstances. You may withdraw your consent to the processing of your data at any time by contacting Barbara Alessandrini. To exercise these rights or if you have any questions about the processing of your data, you can contact our data protection officer at dpo@oie.int. For more information check our Privacy Policy: <https://www.oie.int/en/privacy-policy/>.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Should you have any questions, please contact Barbara Alessandrini (b.alessandrini@oie.int).