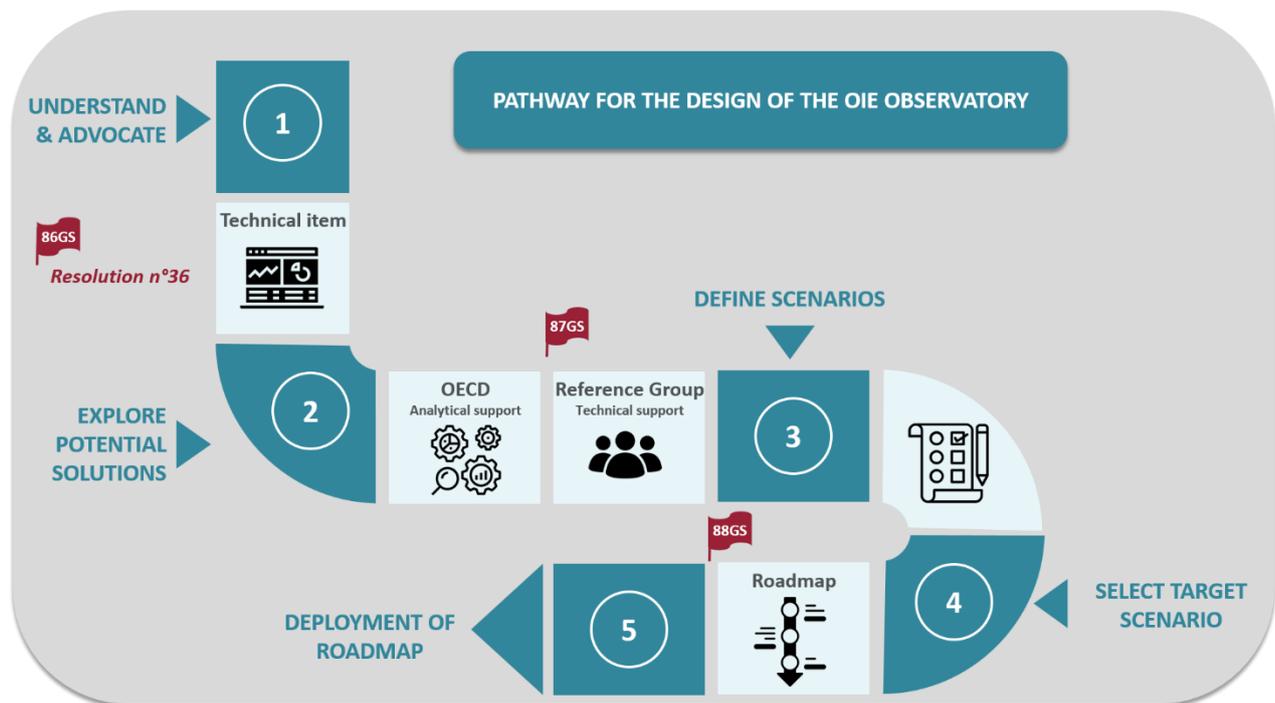


The OIE Observatory project

How to transform an idea into an operational reality?

The OIE is designing an Observatory to monitor the implementation of its international standards. Data collection and analysis will assist the OIE in gaining a better understanding not only of the challenges in implementing these standards, but also in evaluating their efficiency. This information collected and analysed by the Observatory will contribute to improving the OIE standard-setting process, proposing solutions to help OIE Member Countries to overcome implementation challenges and evaluating the impact of OIE international standards.

Currently, the Observatory is still a concept. Thus, the question is: how can this idea be transformed into an operational reality? With this aim in mind, the OIE has developed a pathway to achieving this based on a multi-phased approach.



The **first phase**, which aims to recognise the need for a mechanism to monitor the implementation of OIE standards, was achieved through the adoption of **Resolution N°36** by the World Assembly of Delegates at the OIE General Session held in May 2018. In addition, and further strengthening the project’s mandate, the Observatory received the support of the G20 Agriculture Ministers last July.

The project is currently in its **second phase**, which aims to explore potential solutions for operationalising the Observatory. To that end, the OIE entered into a collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in July 2018 to gain analytical support. Thus, the OECD is

carrying out analysis of the concept of the ‘implementation’ of OIE standards, and a review of existing mechanisms supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these standards. As part of this work, the OECD will provide the OIE with recommendations and scenarios for the design of the Observatory.

In addition, the OIE has established a Reference Group to provide technical support for this project. The Reference Group was formally launched in January of this year and is composed of experts from:

- six Member Countries (Canada, People’s Republic of China, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa and Tunisia);
- three Regional Economic Communities (European Commission, Eurasian Economic Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council);
- six International Organisations (*Codex Alimentarius*, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), OECD, Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and World Trade Organization (WTO)).

The **third phase** will be **to define and assess** different scenarios, while the **fourth phase** will **select** the target scenario. A roadmap will be developed to build this scenario, which will complete the design process of the Observatory.

After the design phase, the implementation phase will begin and it will be at this point that we will see the idea transformed into an operational reality.

To engage in the OIE Observatory project

The OIE wishes to engage its Member Countries and key stakeholders in the Observatory project to ensure the project’s success. This engagement is taking place on the following different levels:

- **Consultation with all Member Countries**, for example through the questionnaire for the Technical Item on implementation of OIE standards, presented at the 86th General Session in 2018. With an overall response rate of 80% (145 respondents), this analysis provides useful baseline data for the OIE Observatory project.
- **The strategic role of the OIE Council** in the governance of the project.
- **Technical support provided by the Reference Group** through regular consultations during the design phase of the project.
- **Communication with the public** through regular updates of the OIE web page devoted to the Observatory project: www.oie.int/en/standard-setting/overview/oie-observatory/

Do you want to know more about the OIE Observatory project?

During the 87th General Session, a side event on the OIE Observatory project, with the participation of the OECD, will be held on Tuesday, 28 May 2019, from 13.15 to 14.15.

For further information on the OIE Observatory project, please contact: standards.dept@oie.int

■ March 2019