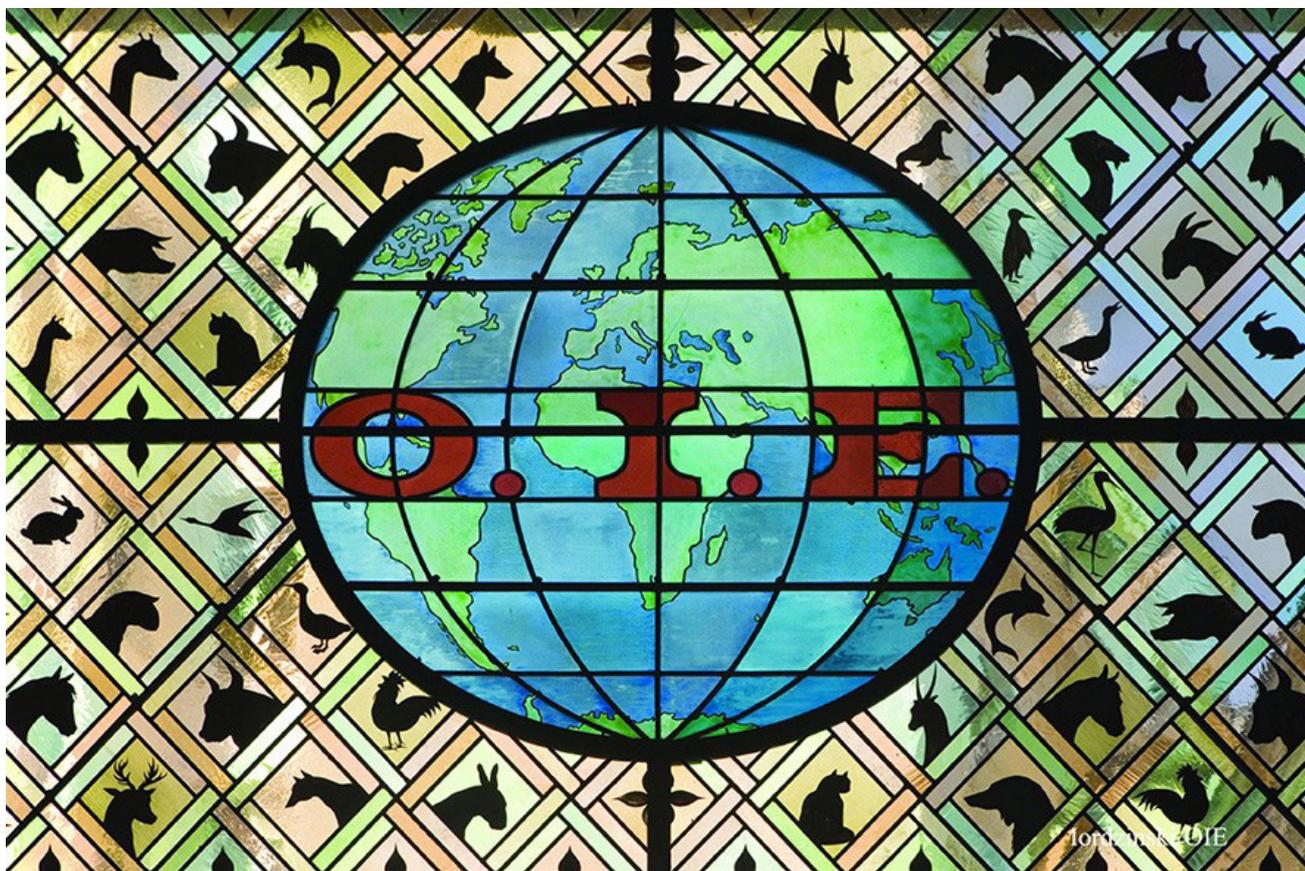




OECD Study on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Observatory

Strengthening the Implementation of International Standards



The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) sets essential international standards to support its Member Countries in their efforts to prevent and control animal diseases (including zoonosis), improve animal welfare and facilitate safe international trade. Nevertheless, Member countries face challenges in the use of these standards. As voluntary standards, the implementation process is not prescribed by the OIE. The Organisation has identified the need to understand how its standards are implemented and to what degree, but the current collection of information about the implementation is not yet systematic and information remains limited in scope and irregular in frequency.

The OECD Study on the OIE Observatory supports the OIE in setting up an Observatory on Standards Implementation. It builds on long-standing OECD work on regulatory policy and international regulatory co-operation as set out in the OECD 2012 Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance. It benefits from the broad range of relevant experiences of 50 international organisations as reflected in the Partnership for Effective International Rulemaking.

The OIE Observatory is an ambitious project, largely unprecedented among international organisations, that will help gain transparency about the use of OIE standards across its Members. To support the OIE in this endeavour, the OECD study provides an in depth diagnostic of the rule-making and governance structure of the OIE and offers tailored recommendations on how the OIE can use its existing institutional framework and information collection mechanisms to set up the OIE Observatory. These recommendations can be of interest to any country and international organisation seeking to gain a better and more holistic vision on the use of international rules and standards.

THE OECD RECOMMENDATIONS:

STEP 1. SETTING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE OBSERVATORY

By collecting information on implementation, the OIE Observatory will enable to:

- target capacity building activities to the identified needs of OIE Members.
- improve the OIE standard-setting process through an evidence-based approach.



Available at
<http://oe.cd/study-oie>

STEP 2. DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE OBSERVATORY

The information collected by the OIE Observatory should feed into the Organisation's core mandate and be resource effective:

- Systematise, standardise and expand existing sources of information to ensure comparability of information collected, across Members and on a regular basis.
- Start small focusing on monitoring of core standards for which information is already available and gradually expand.
- Complement information collection with analysis about implementation.
- Co-operate with other international organisations, Member Countries and regional bodies to make better use of their information on OIE standards.

STEP 3. DECIDING THE OPERATIONAL MODALITIES

The OIE Observatory can learn from other international organisations in defining how it will operate:

- Define key outputs that offer transparency and accessibility of information and analytical perspective: e.g. searchable online database, country profiles, regular reports.
- Endow the Observatory with adequate resources.
- Locate the Observatory strategically in existing governance structure: access to information sources and autonomy to carry out analysis.
- Establish mechanisms to gather inputs from stakeholders (international organisations, academia, experts, civil society).
- Involve Members to feed into work of the Observatory and use resulting analysis to their benefit.

International regulatory co-operation (IRC) can help national policy objectives. IRC represents an important opportunity for countries, and in particular domestic regulators, to consider the impacts of their regulations beyond their borders, expand the evidence for decision-making, learn from the experience of their peers, and develop concerted approaches to challenges that transcend borders.

When joint approaches are needed, international organisations have the institutional setting and the technical expertise to help promote ambitious multilateral solutions, while respecting the specificities of individual countries. However, to be effective, the rules developed by international organisations need to be adopted, and to be adopted, they must be trusted.

Under the auspices of the Regulatory Policy Committee, the OECD has convened the Partnership for Effective International Rule-making, a platform of some 50 international organisations with different natures and mandates that meet annually since 2014 to improve the quality, effectiveness and impact of international rules. This collective effort has led to an unprecedented collection of information on the rulemaking activities of international organisations and exchange of practices and tools on implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation and co-ordination of international instruments.

For further information on our work on international regulatory co-operation, see <http://oe.cd/irc>