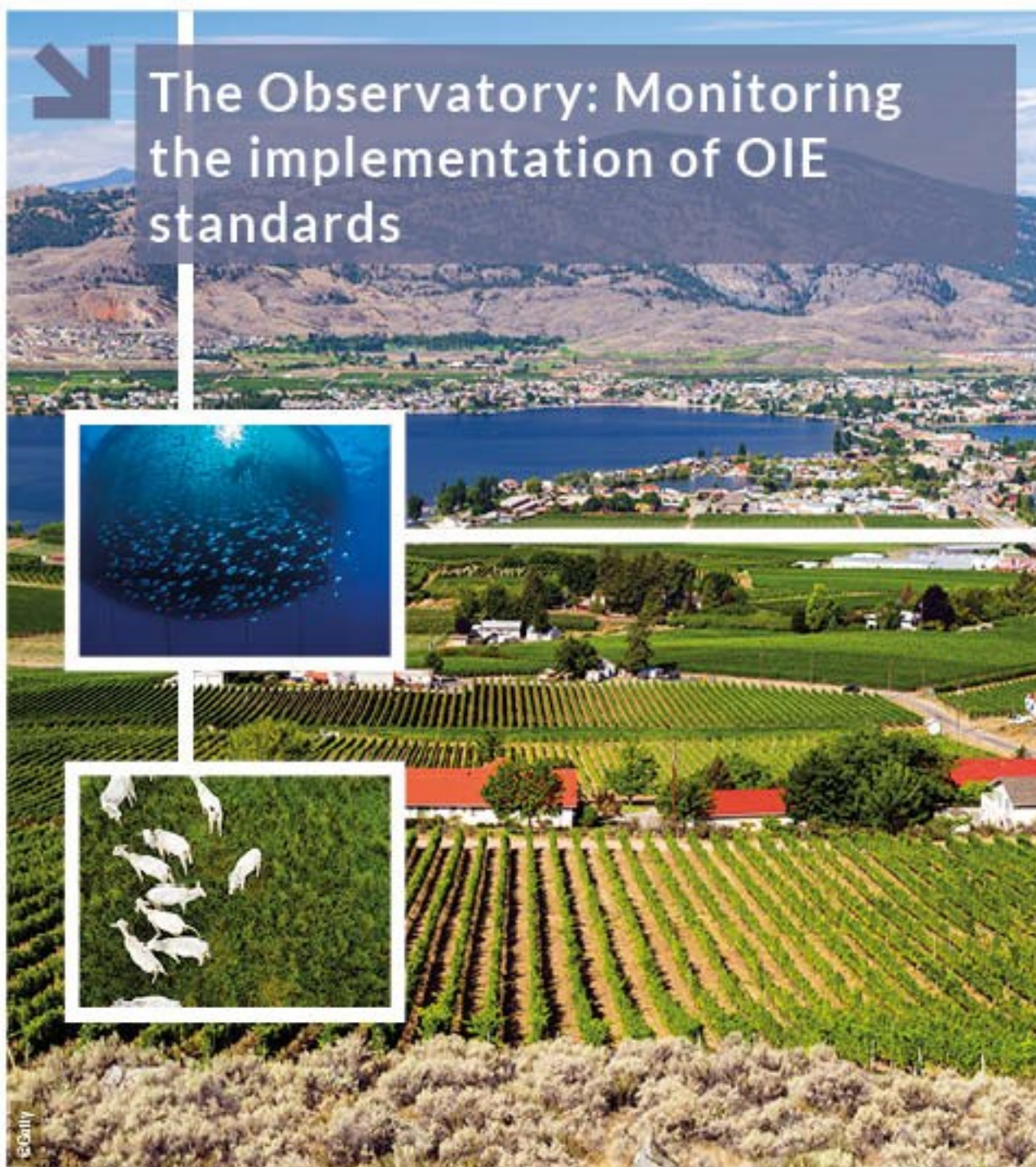


# PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



## The Observatory: Monitoring the implementation of OIE standards



# PERSPECTIVES

| # DOSSIER

| # AROUND THE WORLD

## EDITORIAL

### OIE Observatory, for a better understanding of the implementation of OIE international standards

#### KEYWORDS

#editorial, #international organisation, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #OIE Strategic Plan, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

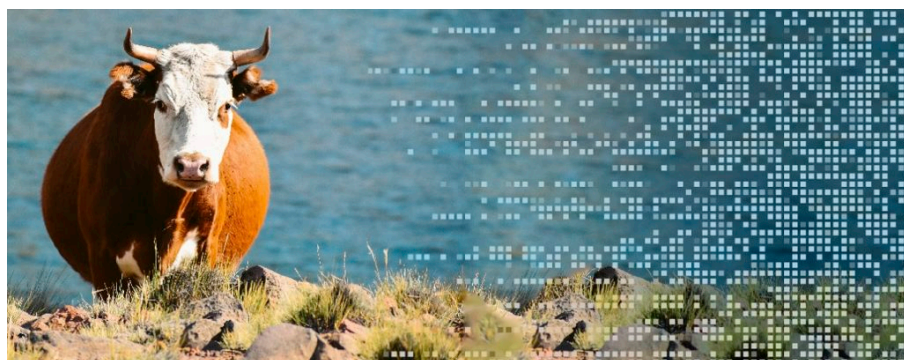


Photo by [Fermin Rodriguez Penelas](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*With the world becoming increasingly interconnected, countries face a growing challenge to coordinate their policy-making in order to manage global sanitary risks more effectively.*

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is recognised as the international organisation that assists national Veterinary Services to improve animal health and welfare by setting international standards to support the safe trade of animals and animal products, and improve the prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonoses. Monitoring the implementation of OIE standards will make a significant contribution towards international cooperation and tackling global challenges.

The OIE has been developing international standards for over six decades, based on the principles of inclusiveness, consensus and transparency. The Organisation must also understand how its international standards are being implemented.

With a greater understanding of their implementation, the OIE will be able to measure the impact of OIE standards, particularly in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

| Examining the evidence to address Members' needs

In adopting [Resolution No. 36](#) at the 86th General Session in 2018, the World Assembly of Delegates recommended that the OIE develop an Observatory to monitor the implementation of OIE standards.

With the establishment of the OIE Observatory, the OIE will be better able to support its Members through the standard-setting process, as well as through targeted capacity-building activities. Information on implementation will inform the way in which the OIE establishes its standards and will ensure that these standards remain consistent with the realities confronting Members. Moreover, it is essential that we have the relevant knowledge to design targeted capacity-building activities for Members who face specific difficulties in implementing OIE standards.

The OIE Observatory will also support evidence-based communication and ultimately promote the wider use of OIE standards by Members.

## | Building resilience through digital transformation

The Observatory will be based on a data-driven approach so that it becomes a continuous and systematic mechanism for observing and analysing Members' practices in implementing OIE standards.

The Observatory is an important strategic and long-term project, which forms part of the [OIE Seventh Strategic Plan](#). The Observatory will create a harmonised and standardised framework for analysing the large volume of official data on the implementation of standards, collected by the OIE through different programmes and processes. It will contribute to ensuring that the data held by the OIE are readily accessible, and that they are analysed to generate strategic insights and to create a more agile way of working in response to Members' needs.

## | Towards an efficient multilateral system

Supported by the [G20 Agriculture Ministers](#) in 2018 and the [Global Forum for Food and Agriculture \(GFFA\) Agriculture Ministers](#) in 2021, the OIE Observatory will promote the implementation of OIE standards and demonstrate the value of an international rules-based system.

The development of the OIE Observatory is aligned with the principles embodied by the [Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking](#) initiated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). To tackle global challenges, we must develop stronger and more effective international cooperation.

This edition of *Panorama* is intended to explain the emerging role of the OIE Observatory, what we have achieved so far, and the vital part played by digital transformation, as well as the synergies that can be gained through the initiatives of other international organisations.

We wish to thank the authors for their contributions and hope you find this issue useful and informative.

**,Mark Schipp<sup>(1)</sup> Past President**

---

***Monique Éloit, Director General  
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)***

---

(1) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, Australia.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3276>

## EDITORIAL

### The international regulatory cooperation response to global challenges

#### Supporting implementation and maximising the impact of international instruments through enhanced monitoring

##### KEYWORDS

#COVID-19, #editorial, #international organisation, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), #Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*



Photo by [Linus Nylund](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*International organisations (IOs) have been established by their Members to enhance stability worldwide and advance the economic, social or environmental well-being of people across the world, in a range of different policy areas. They do so by serving as a platform for continuous dialogue and a source of shared evidence and expertise to work towards common approaches, often culminating in the development of international instruments. Yet, to have a real impact on people's lives, these instruments need to be adopted and implemented, typically through application in national legislation or through use by private companies.*

Without effective implementation, the issues which international instruments were designed to address remain

unresolved. Unsuccessful or uneven implementation casts doubt on the capacity of IOs to fulfil their mandates and deliver high-quality instruments, and raises questions regarding the credibility of the international system at large.

## What can international organisations do to make sure that there is true follow-up to their work?

But here is the conundrum: IOs rarely have control over the practical implementation of their standards, nor the mandate in most cases. This is typically the task of governments, who develop laws and regulations adopting international instruments, or businesses, which apply them in their everyday work. So what can IOs do to make sure that there is concrete follow-up on their work?

Most organisations support implementation with ‘soft’ means, through technical assistance or by actively advocating, disseminating and communicating about their instruments. At the other end of the spectrum, a few IOs have specific compliance mechanisms and, eventually, sanctions, which entail specific legal and institutional frameworks, as is the case, for example, with the European Union, the World Intellectual Property Organization or the World Trade Organization.

Perhaps the most significant effort that IOs can make to foster implementation is to gather comparable information, closely monitor and evaluate the uptake of international instruments and their impacts, and use this information strategically. Indeed, IOs are by essence platforms to share information; they have a direct relationship with all of their Members and centralise technical expertise among their Secretariat staff, making them well placed to collect data, and review and analyse the implementation of their instruments. By monitoring the use of international instruments, IOs can target their assistance efforts to the most pressing needs of their members and adapt, revise or replace their instruments, continuously striving for relevance.

## The OIE Observatory seeks to improve transparency in Members’ implementation of OIE standards

This is the ambition of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Observatory, a largely unprecedented project among IOs, which seeks to improve transparency in Members’ implementation of OIE standards, both to better target capacity-building efforts and to continuously improve these standards. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with the OIE in the establishment of the Observatory, which represents an important milestone for the international rules-based system.

Enhancing implementation is a central focus for the [Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking](#), which brings together 50 IOs under the auspices of the OECD to enhance the quality and efficacy of international rulemaking. The [Compendium of International Organisations’ Practices](#) gathers actual experiences and innovative practices to help IOs to better support Members in the use of their international instruments [1]. We hope that the example of the OIE Observatory will encourage other IOs to step up their efforts to monitor implementation and enrich the evidence base underpinning their instruments.

**Elsa Pilichowski**

**Director for Public Governance**  
***Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)***

**You may also be interested in the following articles included in this issue of *Panorama*:**

- Karttunen M. (2021). – [Strengthening the implementation of international standards: OECD recommendations for the design of the OIE Observatory](#).
- Pinsard C., Bourgasser L., Coronado Pertriaux G., Bertholon K., Goulu G. & Rapenne E. (2021). – [Learning from the experience of other international organisations](#).
- [Compendium of international organisations' practices](#).
- [Facing global crises together: Better international rulemaking for better results](#). 8th Annual Meeting of International Organisations.
- [International regulatory co-operation. OECD best practice principles for regulatory policy](#).
- [OECD study on the World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\) Observatory](#).

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3277>

## REFERENCES

1. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2021) – [Compendium of International Organisations' practices: Working towards more effective international instruments](#).
2. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2020). – OECD study on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Observatory: Strengthening the implementation of international standards. OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/c88edbcd-en>.
3. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2020). – [No policy maker is an island: the international regulatory co-operation response to the COVID-19 crisis](#). OECD Publishing, Paris.
4. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2021). – [International regulatory co-operation: adapting rulemaking to an interconnected world](#).

## PERSPECTIVES

### ► OIE ACTIONS

## OIE Observatory: pathway from vision to reality

### KEYWORDS

#international organisation, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### AUTHORS

Karen Bucher, Standards Department, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

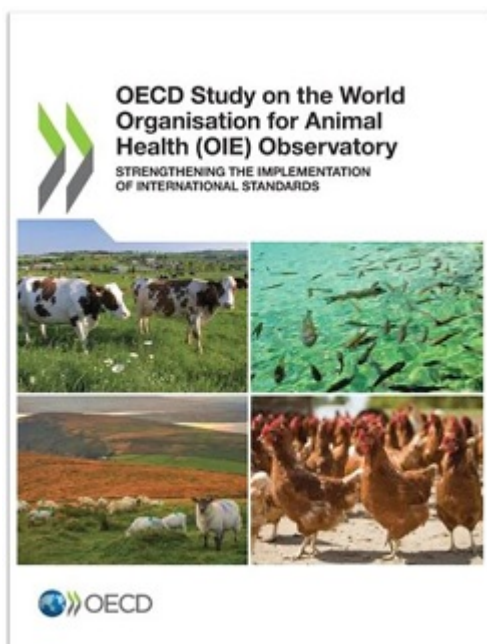


Photo by [Vidar Nordli Mathisen](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Observatory has been designed to monitor the implementation of the OIE's international standards. Data collection and analysis will assist the Organisation in gaining a better understanding of implementation, including the challenges that Members face when applying these standards, and also help to identify the capacity-building needs of Members. The question now is: how can this idea be transformed into an operational reality?*

**The OIE has devised a multi-phased approach to establish the OIE Observatory.**

**The design phase: learning from the experience of other international organisations**



In July 2018, the OIE entered into collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to benefit from the OECD's expertise in international regulatory cooperation. An OECD study provided the OIE with recommendations on how it can use its existing institutional framework and information-collecting mechanisms to establish the OIE Observatory.

## **Pilot phase: an iterative process to understand, explore and realise this objective**

Since the OIE Observatory's purpose is to cover all OIE standards, a gradual approach has been developed, starting with the implementation of a pilot phase. One of the objectives of this first phase is to identify the existing mechanisms that could generate insights into the present implementation of OIE standards, as well as the barriers facing OIE Members.

To this end, small-scale preliminary studies called 'prototypes' are being developed. These prototypes will contribute to the development of a 'Standards Monitoring Framework', which will define a standardised and repeatable methodology and metrics. These metrics will in turn be used to produce OIE Observatory Standards Implementation Reports, to be published on an annual basis.

## **The engagement of OIE Members and key stakeholders is essential to ensure the success of this project**



The involvement of Members and key stakeholders takes place at various levels:

- the OIE Council plays a strategic role in the governance of the project;
- the Reference Group provides technical support during the design phase and pilot phase. The Reference Group is composed of representatives of Members, regional economic communities and partner international organisations<sup>(1)</sup>;
- communication with all Members. In 2021, a newly developed portal brings together all information related to the design and pilot phases of the OIE Observatory.

The OIE Observatory is a challenging project which will move forwards gradually and allow the Observatory team to 'learn by doing'. Many benefits are expected, in particular from making the best use of the information collected by the OIE to promote the implementation of OIE standards.

(1) The Reference Group is composed of representatives from:

- OIE Members: Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, New Zealand, South Africa, Tunisia;
- regional economic communities: the Eurasian Economic Commission, European Commission, Gulf Cooperation Council;
- international organisations: the Codex Alimentarius, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**You may also be interested in the following articles included in this issue of *Panorama*:**

- Awada L., Tizzani P. & Cabezas A. (2021). - [Implementation of the OIE standards on FMD in the Americas.](#)
- Bucher K., D'Alessio F. & Leboucq N. (2021). - [Competencies of Veterinary Services in international trade: analysis and tailored training.](#)
- Karttunen M. (2021). - [Strengthening the implementation of international standards: OECD recommendations for the design of the OIE Observatory.](#)
- Lasley J. (2021). - [Shining a light on laboratory sustainability.](#)

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3278>

## PERSPECTIVES

### ► OIE ACTIONS

## Enriching the evidence-based approach underpinning the OIE's standard-setting process and capacity-building strategy

### KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #OIE PVS Pathway, #training, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### AUTHORS

Gillian Mylrea<sup>(1)\*</sup> & Barbara Alessandrini<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Standards Department, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

(2) Capacity Building Department, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

\* Corresponding author: [g.mylrea@oie.int](mailto:g.mylrea@oie.int).



© OIE/Seterkhan Injuu

*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) develops international standards, which aim to ensure transparency in animal health status, establish good governance of Veterinary Services and support the safe trade of animals and animal products. The [PVS Pathway](#) supports OIE Members in implementing these standards through continued and sustainable improvement of their national Veterinary Services, a mandate supported by the OIE Training Platform.*

The [Observatory](#) will provide a feedback loop with the [OIE standard-setting process](#) and its capacity-building activities. This will help to ensure that OIE standards are fit for purpose and well implemented, resulting in improved animal health and welfare worldwide.

## Expected benefits

### The standard-setting process

OIE standards are developed by means of an expert-driven and participatory standard-setting process, resulting in science-based standards. The Observatory provides a mechanism to link information collection and evaluation with the revision of these standards. This will benefit the process by:

- identifying strengths and weaknesses in the use of the standards and their relevance to OIE Members. This information will feed back into the standard-setting process, signalling when the standards need to be revised or when new standards are required, thus ensuring their continued relevance over time;
- identifying whether specific standards have unintended consequences that need to be remedied;
- analysing linkages between standards and outcomes, thereby contributing to a better understanding of their effectiveness at improving the quality of Veterinary Services and animal health and welfare, and facilitating safe international trade.

### The PVS Pathway and capacity building

The PVS Pathway – targeted at Members' needs – will provide the Observatory with specific information on how well Members are putting the OIE standards into practice. The Observatory will transform this information into an analysis that determines learning needs. This learning-needs assessment will in turn be used by the OIE training platform to develop training solutions – mainly Web-based – thus generating new learning in a continuous cycle of improvement.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3279>

## PERSPECTIVES

### ► OIE ACTIONS

## The digital transformation supporting the OIE Observatory, and vice versa

### KEYWORDS

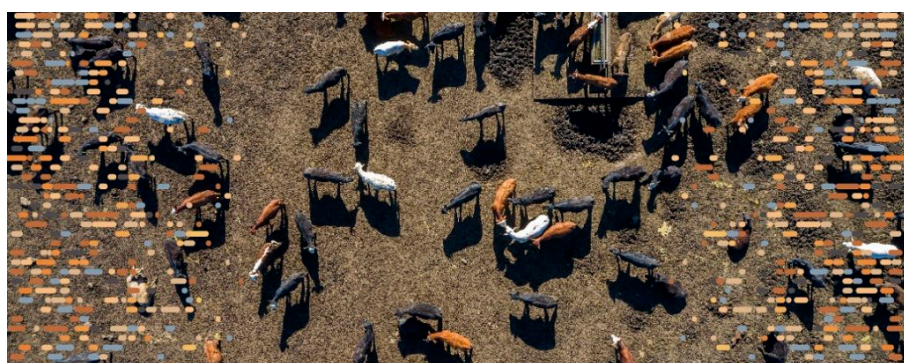
#data management, #digital technology, #OIE Observatory, #OIE Strategic Plan, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### AUTHORS

Matthew Stone<sup>(1)</sup> & Audrey Thery<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Former Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

(2) Head of Department, Digital Transformation and Information Systems, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).



© Getty Images

*Digital transformation is identified as a key objective in the World Organisation for Animal Health's (OIE's) [Seventh Strategic Plan](#), and is an important response to the need to become a more modern and agile organisation. This is a vital shift in view of the increasing use of information technologies to support regulation for animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.*

The OIE is responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of a large volume of official data, through various platforms and processes. OIE data support both national decision-makers and the international community in making evidence-based decisions. Managing data to provide added value is becoming an increasingly complex and digitally driven task. It requires organisations that are responsible for compiling, managing and communicating data to do so from a structured and strategic perspective, in line with best international practices. In recognition of its role as a steward of global animal health data, the OIE must ensure that its data governance systems manage

data securely and provide access to validated data sets for the international community. It is hoped that, in this way, these data will become a valuable resource from which important insights and information can be gained: a process helped by ensuring compatibility with data from other trusted external sources. The development of a strong digital culture will be crucial to driving innovative data use and supporting the digital transformation of the OIE.

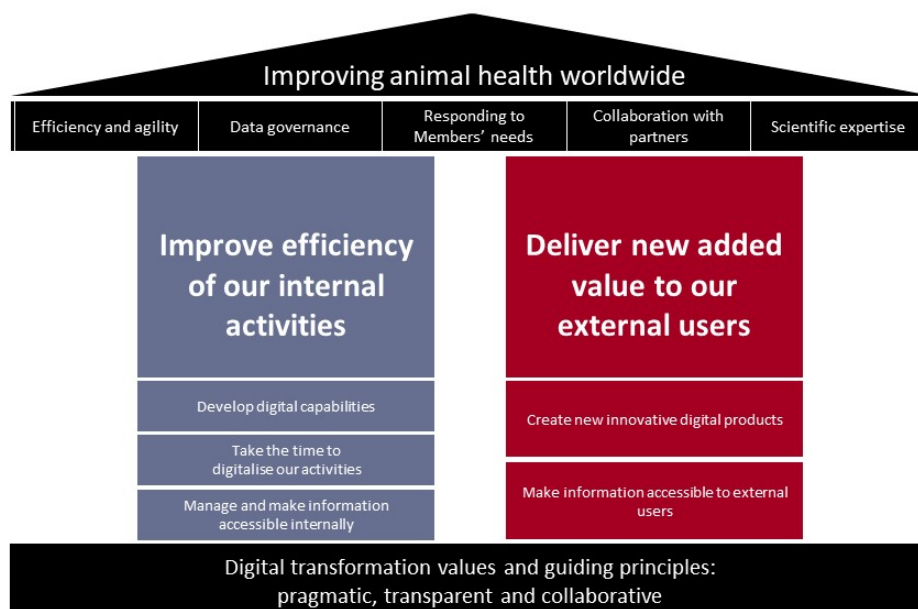
At present, the OIE is defining its expectations of data stewardship through the establishment of **a data governance framework**. These expectations include demonstrating responsible management of data and enhancing access to data for Members while respecting concerns for privacy and intellectual property. This work will provide essential organisation-wide rules and processes while also determining the development and direction of each of our key information systems, including those contributed to regularly by OIE Members (e.g. [World Animal Health Information System](#); [antimicrobial usage](#); [Performance of Veterinary Services](#); [official recognition of animal health status](#)).

The OIE Observatory will use data from multiple OIE work-streams, and also from external sources. Developing prototypes helps us to understand what data already exist, and in what forms; how analytical processes applied to these data can serve the OIE Observatory's objectives; and how the results of these analyses can be presented to OIE work-stream managers and OIE Members to provide the greatest impact in driving better implementation of the OIE international standards. Prototyping will enable each of the OIE work-streams identified in the OIE Observatory's **standards monitoring framework** to be ready to make systematic and ongoing contributions to the OIE Observatory annual **standards implementation report**.

The OIE Observatory is providing the impetus for the development of information systems that support data interoperability, repeatable value-added analytical processes, intuitive and informative data visualisations, and feedback loops for system improvements. In this way, the OIE Observatory is acting as a strong driving force for digital transformation and data stewardship across the OIE's Member-centred programmes.

## OIE digital strategy

5 strategic objectives and 2 pillars



<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3280>

## PERSPECTIVES

### ► OIE ACTIONS

## Strengthening the credibility of the international system and collective action

How to engage OIE Members in a new mechanism monitoring the implementation of OIE standards

### KEYWORDS

#Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), #OIE Observatory, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### AUTHORS

Jean-Philippe Dop<sup>(1)</sup> & Matthew Stone<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Former Deputy Director General, Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

(2) Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).



*As an intergovernmental organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is governed by the principles of multilateralism, such as inclusiveness and striving for consensus, to promote and develop common solutions at the international level to challenges in animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.*

The World Trade Organization [Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures \(SPS Agreement\)](#) recognises that all trading partners have differing sanitary statuses, and different levels of risk that they are willing to accept. This has the potential to create technical barriers to trade that could undermine the benefits of the rules-based international trade system. The SPS Agreement obliges countries to harmonise their national sanitary rules with international standards, including those of the OIE. There is little need to remind

anyone, at this time of a global pandemic, that the OIE standards also contribute to One Health and global health when it comes to threats such as zoonotic disease or antimicrobial resistance.

| The ambition of the OIE Observatory is to become an integrated mechanism for monitoring the implementation of OIE standards

How well are we doing as an international community with that harmonisation? Are we making progress? How could we improve? What support do OIE Members need? These are difficult questions, and they become even harder in a global context in which cross-border issues are becoming more and more complex. Moreover, the trust between trading partners is subject to numerous threats, and appears increasingly fragile outside established alliances.

To respond to these concerns, the OIE must analyse and report on whether its international standards are being used well, used only partially or not used at all by OIE Members, to identify progress as well as obstacles in their implementation. Knowledge and analysis of such realities should support the OIE and its Members in their decision-making and systems improvements. It will also help the OIE to understand how better to support Members in their efforts to put the OIE standards into practice.

The ambition of the [OIE Observatory](#) is to become an integrated mechanism for monitoring the implementation of OIE standards. This requires, on the one hand, rules for managing and processing information and, on the other, a network of actors, producers and/or users of information, who share a common vision of exchange, openness, learning and systems improvement.

Transparency of information and dialogue are key elements for effective and sustainable change. To that end, a strategy of engagement is needed to accompany the development of the OIE Observatory, to strengthen the discussion of standards implementation with stakeholders and Members, to measure results, and to assess the quality of decisions taken to address Members' needs, particularly in terms of capacity building and the standard-setting process. This type of exchange with stakeholders and Members was tested during the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, from 9 to 11 February 2021. The 2020 [Technical Item](#), 'Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges', was presented in an innovative format with a [video](#) and interactive session with Delegates. The goal was to show a concrete application of the [OIE Seventh Strategic Plan](#) and its vision, by highlighting the link between OIE international standards, OIE Observatory insights into their implementation, and OIE programmes; in particular, the [PVS Pathway](#) and the new OIE Training Platform to strengthen the capacities of Members.

The OIE is committed to co-designing the OIE Observatory and collaborating in its implementation through a strong engagement with Members and Partners, for our collective benefit. This approach is all the more important as **the Organisation reaches its 100th anniversary in 2024.**

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3281>

## PERSPECTIVES

### ► OPINIONS AND STRATEGIES

## Strengthening the implementation of international standards: OECD recommendations for the design of the OIE Observatory

### KEYWORDS

#international organisation, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), #Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### AUTHORS

[Marianna Karttunen](#), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*

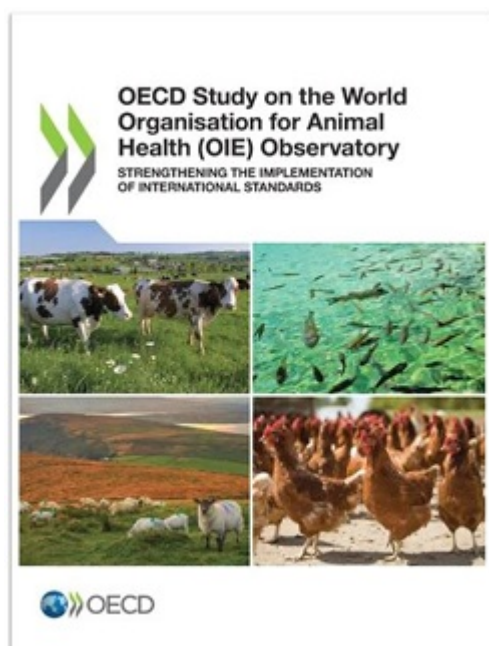


© Getty Images

*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Observatory is an ambitious project designed to enhance the transparency of the Organisation's standards. This will lead to more regular and comprehensive information collection, better alignment of monitoring activities with strategic objectives, and should more fully address the implementation challenges facing Members. Ultimately, the Observatory will shed greater light on the OIE's role in achieving its objectives of preventing and controlling animal diseases (including zoonoses), improving animal welfare and*

## *facilitating safe international trade.*

OIE standards are recognised as the international reference standards in the areas of animal health, animal welfare and zoonoses. However, as with many international instruments, evidence on their actual uptake remains scarce. The OIE Observatory is an ambitious project, largely unprecedented among international organisations, to bring transparency to the use of OIE standards.



To support the OIE in this endeavour, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has completed a comprehensive diagnostic of the OIE's rulemaking and governance structure, with tailored recommendations that pave the way for the establishment of the OIE Observatory [1]. The study shows that the OIE is not starting from scratch. It already has 13 data-collection mechanisms that the Observatory can build on to gain a better understanding of the use of OIE standards.

Based on this, the OECD makes three sets of recommendations:

1. Setting clear objectives for the Observatory will allow the OIE to gain the right information to tailor its capacity-building efforts to the specific needs of Members, and strengthen the evidence base underpinning its standards.
2. The Observatory's scope should support the OIE's core mandate and use existing resources more effectively, leveraging present information sources. It should 'start small', by monitoring core standards, pairing information collection with analysis, and engaging other key actors who gather evidence relevant to the OIE standards.
3. The Observatory should develop useful outputs that guarantee the transparency of the information collected. More broadly, the Observatory should be strategically embedded within the OIE's governance structure, involve Members to ensure that their needs are met, and be given adequate resources.



Other international organisations will be able to learn much from the OIE's experience in setting up the Observatory. The OIE's active participation in the [Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking](#) is therefore timely and very welcome.

With its own experience in this area, the OIE is now spearheading efforts to build evidence on emerging trends and innovative implementation practices; collaborating intensively with other international organisations; and contributing to the development of a *Compendium of International Organisations' Practices* [2].

Along with its other partner international organisations, the OIE is thus contributing to an international rulemaking landscape that is becoming progressively more effective, transparent and coherent.

**You may also be interested in the following articles included in this issue of *Panorama*:**

- Pilichowski E. (2021). – [The international regulatory cooperation response to global challenges.](#)
- [Compendium of international organisations' practices.](#)
- [Facing global crises together: Better international rulemaking for better results. 8th Annual Meeting of International Organisations.](#)

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3282>

## REFERENCES

1. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2020) – OECD study on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Observatory: Strengthening the implementation of international standards. OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/c88edbcd-en>.
2. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2021) – [Compendium of International Organisations' practices: Working towards more effective international instruments.](#)

## PERSPECTIVES

### ► OPINIONS AND STRATEGIES

## Learning from the experience of other international organisations

### KEYWORDS

#education, #international organisation, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #Veterinary Services, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

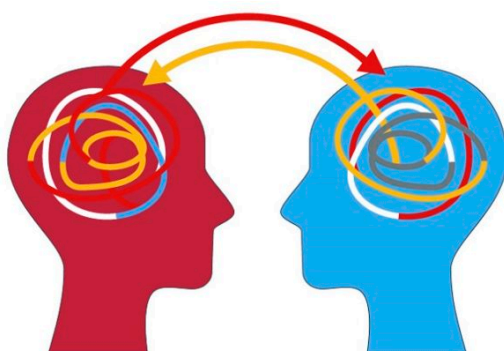
### AUTHORS

Céline Pinsard<sup>(1)</sup>, Lorraine Bourgasser<sup>(1)</sup>, Géraldine Coronado Pertriaux<sup>(1)</sup>, Karine Bertholon<sup>(1)</sup>, Gilles Goulou<sup>(1)</sup> & Elisa Rapenne<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Groupe d'étude des politiques publiques (GEPP), [École nationale des services vétérinaires – France vétérinaire internationale \(ENSV-FVI\) VetAgro Sup](#), Marcy-l'Étoile, France.

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*



© Getty Images

*Monitoring the implementation of standards and their relevance is an increasing concern for many international organisations, as demonstrated by the Partnership of international organisations launched by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2014 to do just that. Indeed, several international organisations have put a mechanism in place to provide a global view of the implementation of their standards, such as the [Observatory](#)*

of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Here are some examples.

The **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** systematically reviews its standards at least once every five years. National standards bodies (NSBs) are required to answer a survey and the results are then computerised and processed in a dedicated database. At the end of this process, the relevance of the standard is discussed, and it may be amended or even withdrawn [1].

The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** has had a [Standards Review Mechanism \(SRM\)](#) in operation since 2015, implemented by a tripartite working group of governments, employers and workers. The group meets once a year and reviews the different standards based on a thematic approach, assigning their status as: 'up-to-date', 'in need of revision' or 'outdated'. The group then provides recommendations, including deadlines for follow-up action.

The Secretariat of the **International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)** also has a mechanism, called the [Implementation Review and Support System \(IRRS\)](#), which takes place every three years. It has a dual function: to identify obstacles to the implementation of standards and to strengthen capacities [2].

Although the OIE Observatory is only in the pilot phase, it is already attracting considerable interest from other international organisations. They are closely monitoring how it evolves in terms of function and governance, aspects that are crucial for the effectiveness of its actions. A similar French initiative within the **Codex Alimentarius**, presented at the [32nd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles \(CCGP32\)](#), is evidence of this interest.

**You may also be interested in the following articles included in this issue of *Panorama*:**

- Kruse H. & El Haffar F. (2021). – [Improving monitoring of the use of Codex standards](#).
- Nersisyan A. & Shamilov A. (2021). – [The International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\) – monitoring the implementation of IPPC standards](#).
- Pilichowski E. (2021). – [The international regulatory cooperation response to global challenges](#).
- [Facing global crises together: Better international rulemaking for better results. 8th Annual Meeting of International Organisations](#).

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3283>

## REFERENCES

1. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (2019). – [Guidance on the systematic review process in ISO](#).
2. International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (2013). – [Implementation Review & Support System \(IRRS\)](#).

## DOSSIER

### Competencies of Veterinary Services in international trade: analysis and tailored training

#### KEYWORDS

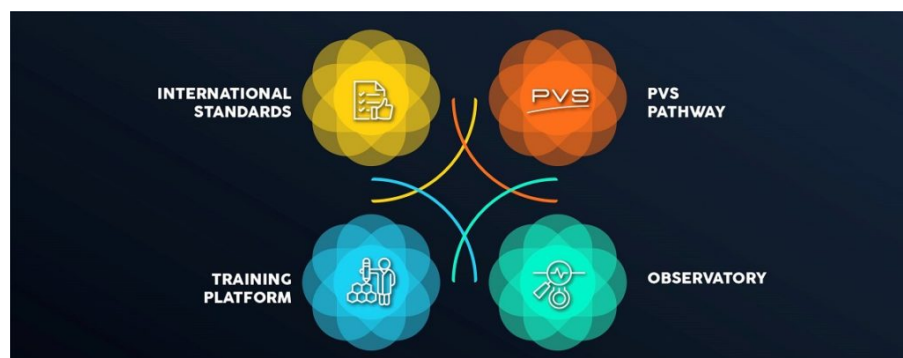
#capacity building, #OIE Observatory, #safe trade, #training, #Veterinary Services, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

#### AUTHORS

Karen Bucher<sup>(1)</sup>, Francisco D'Alessio<sup>(1)</sup> & Nadège Leboucq<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Standards Department, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

(2) Secretariat of the OIE Training Platform, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).



*An opportunity to create linkages between the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#) international standards, the [OIE PVS Pathway](#), the [OIE Observatory](#) and the [OIE Training Platform](#) was explored in the 2020 OIE Technical Item: 'Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges' [1].*

### A wide range of competencies is needed for safe trade

OIE standards provide recommendations to improve animal health and welfare worldwide and to achieve safe trade. In conjunction with the principles of the [World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures \(SPS Agreement\)](#) recognises, the OIE standards provide the framework to avoid unjustified animal health barriers in the area of international trade.

Through a deep analysis of the existing OIE standards and the role of the WTO, the OIE has developed a comprehensive description of the role of Veterinary Services (VS) in achieving safe trade. This description ([summarised here](#)) was used to analyse the implementation of the OIE standards by OIE Members and identify their

needs when it comes to competencies.

The results revealed a complex matrix that requires competencies of a technical, institutional, political, legal and collaborative nature. It covers topics that may be more pertinent to other aspects of the Veterinary Services' role, such as the ability to establish a national animal health surveillance programme. It also requires the Veterinary Services workforce to acquire knowledge and experience in a wide variety of arenas, such as the 'soft skills' needed to liaise with trading partners during trade negotiations.

A set of 20 Critical Competencies, included in the PVS Pathway, were considered to be directly related to the role of Veterinary Services in international trade.

## How to reinforce Members' trade competencies

A comprehensive capacity-building programme should be developed to respond to this complex set of requirements and the OIE has embraced this important work as part of the reform of its training system. Of the 15 Competence Packages that make up the OIE's **Competency-Based Training Framework** (under development), one is entirely dedicated to trade and will consist of more than 30 electronic modules, depending on available funding. These e-modules are intended to cover Section 5 of the OIE *Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes* fully [2, 3], and to provide a training solution for all Members with a low level of advancement in the trade-related Critical Competencies of the OIE PVS evaluation tool, through national customised online training.

## OIE initiatives for fit-for-purpose training

Thanks to the OIE Observatory, the OIE can now carry out in-depth learning needs assessments from multiple sources of information, such as the PVS Pathway, the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), Members' official disease status, WTO databases, etc.

The Observatory monitors the implementation of OIE standards and classifies the challenges faced by Members into three categories:

- legislation and enforcement
- interaction with stakeholders
- technical capacity.

This information will be translated into blended regional training (i.e. combining face-to-face teaching with online instruction) or, where appropriate, into training by country type, determined by that country's level of market access. The continued dialogue between the Observatory and the Training Platform will increase the competencies of Veterinary Services in trade. In addition, it will contribute towards better defining the conditions for safe trade between countries, and help to ensure better compliance with the principles of the SPS Agreement and the OIE's international standards.

**You may also be interested in the following article included in this issue of *Panorama*:**

- Leboucq N. (2021) – [Connecting the OIE Observatory to the OIE Training Platform for Veterinary Services](https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3284).

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3284>

## REFERENCES

1. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2020). - [Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges](#).
2. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). - [Section 5. Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification](#). In Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
3. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). - [Section 5. Trade measures, importation/exportation procedures and health certification](#). In Aquatic Animal Health Code.

## DOSSIER

### Implementation of the OIE standards on FMD in the Americas

Exploring the data: developing a better understanding of the implementation of OIE standards

#### KEYWORDS

#Americas, #disease status, #foot and mouth disease (FMD), #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #surveillance, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

#### AUTHORS

Lina Awada<sup>(1)</sup>, Paolo Tizzani<sup>(1)</sup> & Aurelio Cabezas<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

(2) Status Department, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).



Photo by [Rickie-Tom Schünemann](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*How can we better understand the processes developed by Members of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to implement OIE standards? How can we investigate the various challenges facing them? Finally, how can we make best use of the data sources accessible to the OIE to assist in answering both these questions? Resolving this final problem was the aim of the study presented below, which served as a prototype for the pilot phase of the [OIE Observatory](#).*

The prototype aimed to monitor the implementation of OIE standards on foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the Americas. This scenario was selected because of the history and engagement of the region in controlling this disease by applying the OIE standards.

Two aspects of the implementation of the OIE standards were analysed, based on various sources of information:

1. How well the OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services and disease surveillance, notification, and control were implemented
2. The impact of the OIE standards on animal health and international trade.

This article focuses on the implementation of selected surveillance and control activities, based on the [World Animal Health Information System \(OIE-WAHIS\)](#), and on the number of OIE Members with officially recognised FMD-free status from 1996 to 2020.

Figure 1 below shows the percentage of Members in the region that implemented selected surveillance and control measures in domestic animals, between 2005 and 2019. The measures most often applied were passive surveillance and precautions at borders (around 95%, on average). Active surveillance (average: 41%) and movement control (average: 54%) came next. Zoning and official vaccination were applied by 29% of Members on average.

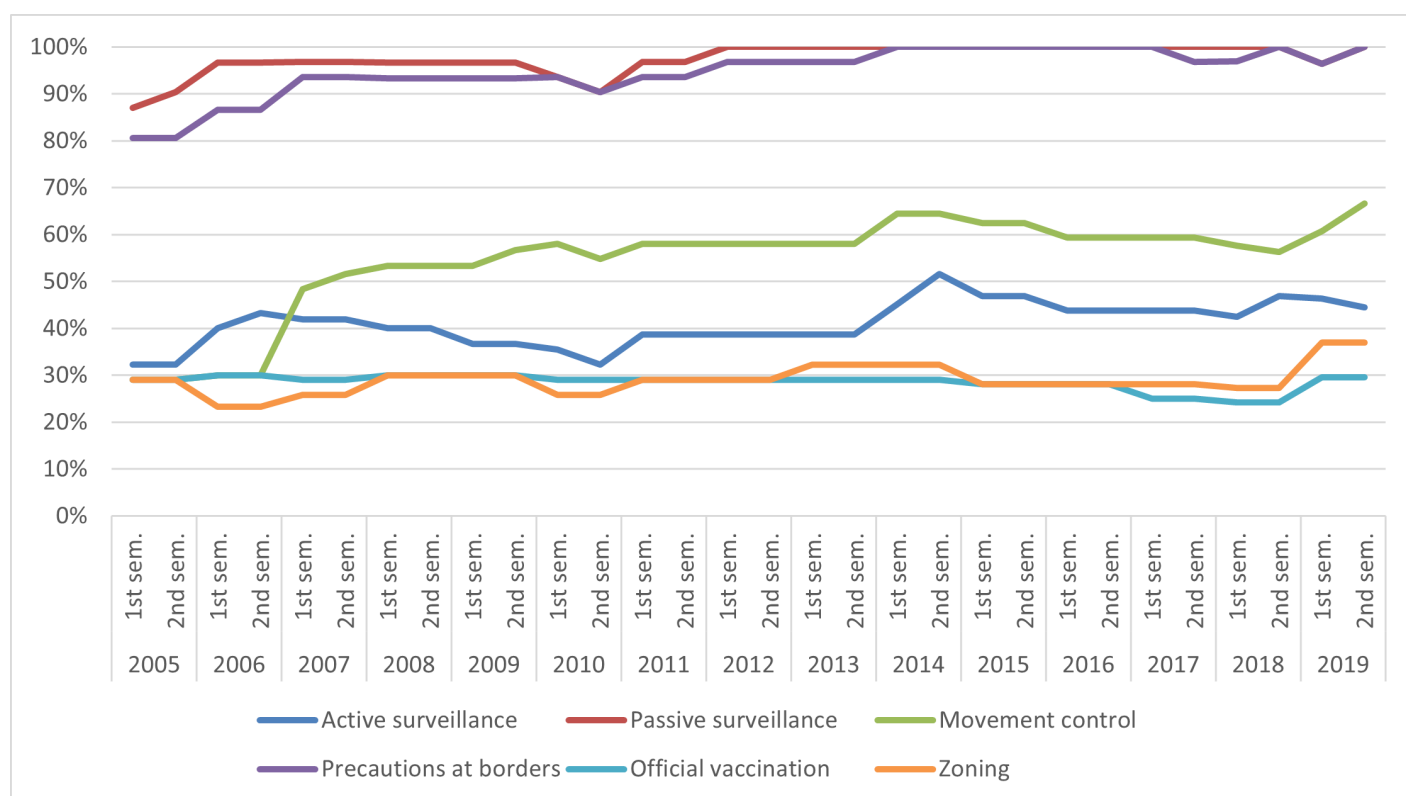


Fig. 1. Percentage of reporting Members in the Americas who implemented selected surveillance and control measures, per semester (two per year), between 2005 and 2019

Figure 2 below shows the increasing number of disease-free Members in the region between 1996 and 2020. All Members in North and Central America and the Caribbean, and 90% of Members in South America, achieved FMD-free status in 2020. Nevertheless, suspensions of that status have occurred through the years.

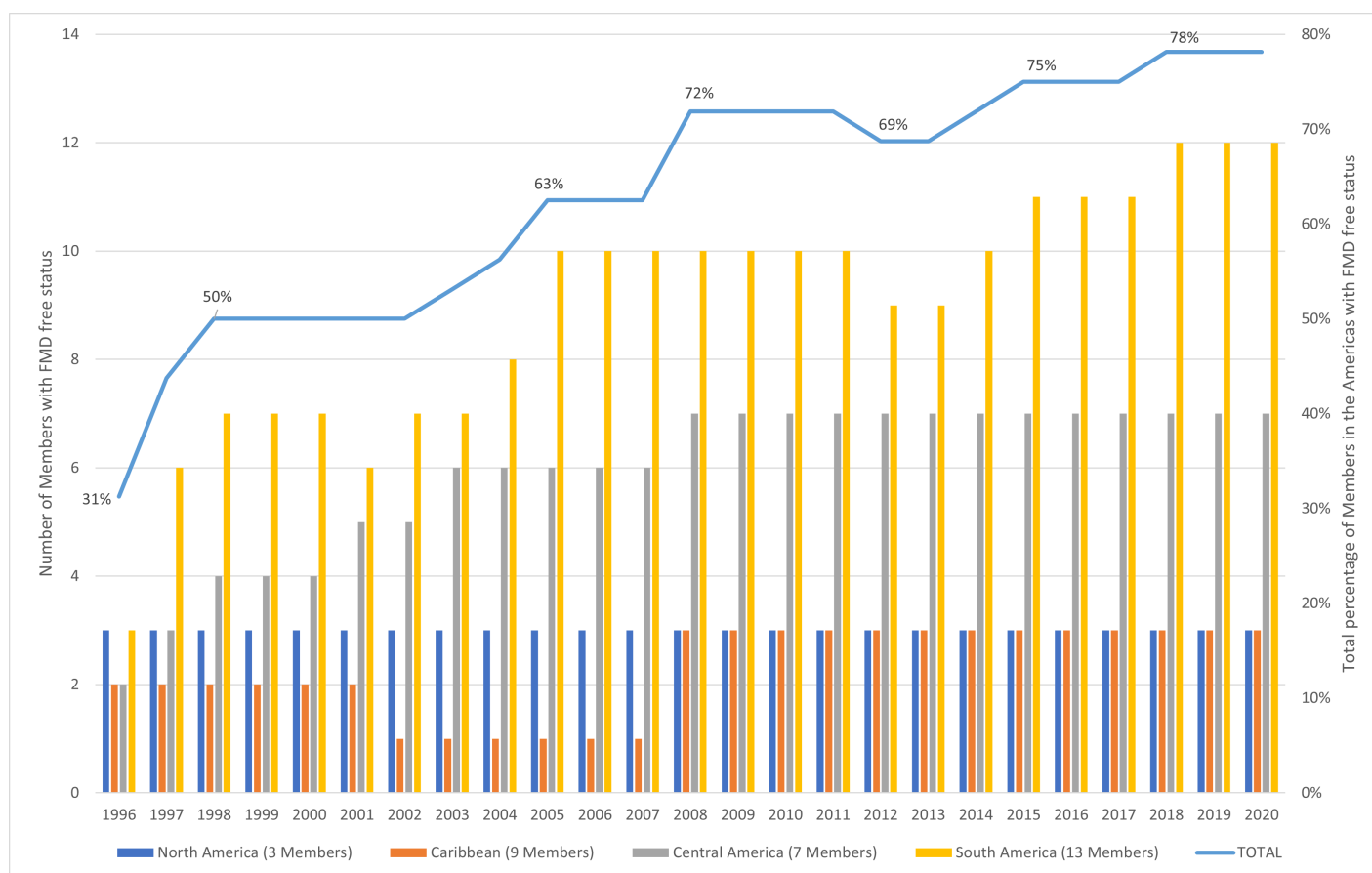


Fig. 2. Number of Members in the Americas listed as countries or zones recognised as FMD free, by year of adoption of these resolutions at General Sessions and by sub-region

This prototype approach can be extrapolated to other diseases and regions by applying robust and global methodology to the relevant data sources. Such analyses provide inputs for targeting capacity-building activities, as part of regional or global strategies. In the course of its [digital transformation strategy](#), the OIE aims to improve the quality of the data collected and their alignment with evolving standards, and to better connect the existing databases within the OIE, for improved synergies.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3285>

## DOSSIER

### Shining a light on laboratory sustainability

#### Links to the PVS Pathway and the OIE Observatory

##### KEYWORDS

#data management, #laboratory, #OIE Observatory, #OIE PVS Pathway, #sustainability, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

##### AUTHORS

Jennifer Lasley, Preparedness and Resilience Department, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).



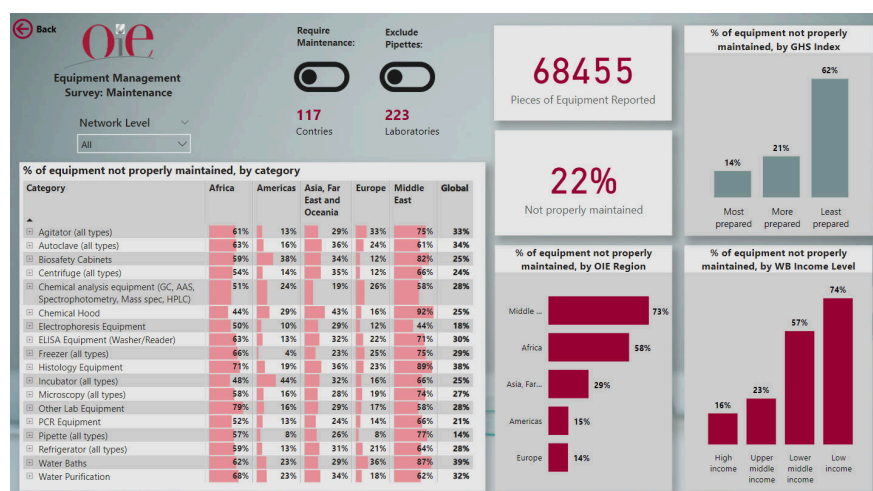
*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) collects a lot of information and data from Members. The [OIE Observatory](#), supported by the OIE's digital transformation strategy, will bring 'dark data'<sup>(1)</sup> into the light.*

Thanks to the generous support of Global Affairs Canada, data from the [OIE-PVS Laboratory missions](#) are being harnessed to gather evidence about challenges to laboratory sustainability. These insights will enlighten Members and the OIE on how we can improve laboratory sustainability around the world. This activity contributes to the OIE Observatory's mission to better understand and monitor the implementation of [OIE international standards](#), mainly by placing the evidence centre stage.

Evidence on the implementation of OIE international standards by Members, relevant to laboratories, is easier to access and update

Data visualisation, Web portals, and electronic forms will allow more dynamic monitoring of the implementation of OIE international standards; in particular, Part 1 of the OIE *Manuals* [1, 2] and the chapters of the OIE *Codes*

relevant to laboratory practice [3, 4].



Excerpt of the OIE Equipment Management Survey (2019) dynamic dashboard on maintenance status of animal health laboratory equipment globally. Visualisations like this can help to pinpoint small and big insights to build our evidence for laboratory sustainability, quality, safety, and security.

Outputs from the Sustainable Laboratories Tools, currently under development, will provide insights which can facilitate trade negotiations, audits, and PVS evaluations. This approach will also allow Members the opportunity for self-evaluation by democratising access to PVS Pathway tools and analysing dynamic trends.

## Evidence on the performance of laboratory systems can be used for the evaluation of PVS Critical Competencies

Insights provided by the PVS Laboratory missions (the first to be delivered 100% virtually in March 2021) should make data entry easier, and provide better-quality data, greater understanding, seamless continuity of data throughout the PVS Pathway, and increased access for more Members.

With the digitalisation of the PVS Laboratory methodology and data, PVS Experts and Members can make full use of these data and tools beyond the PVS Laboratory mission, and can better determine the level of advancement of Veterinary Services for those PVS Critical Competencies relevant to laboratories.

## Evidence can inform advocacy for appropriate investment in sustainable laboratory systems

Evidence-based policies and decision-making are more essential than ever, since the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of laboratory preparedness and sustainability. Investments will need to be carefully considered for long-term improvements and should focus on sustainable performance, quality, safety, security,

and competency.

Using this approach, the OIE can ensure that the standards it develops are relevant and fit for purpose, and that the OIE's capacity-building efforts are more effective at meeting its Members' needs.

---

(1) Dark data: 'Information that is collected but not yet used to derive insight for decision making'. *Source:* Wikipedia (2020). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark\\_data](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_data).

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3286>

## REFERENCES

1. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). - Part 1. General standards. *In* [Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals](#).
2. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). - Part 1. General provisions. *In* [Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals](#).
3. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). - [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#).
4. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). - [Aquatic Animal Health Code](#).

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► OIE ACTIONS

## Connecting the OIE Observatory with the OIE Training Platform for Veterinary Services

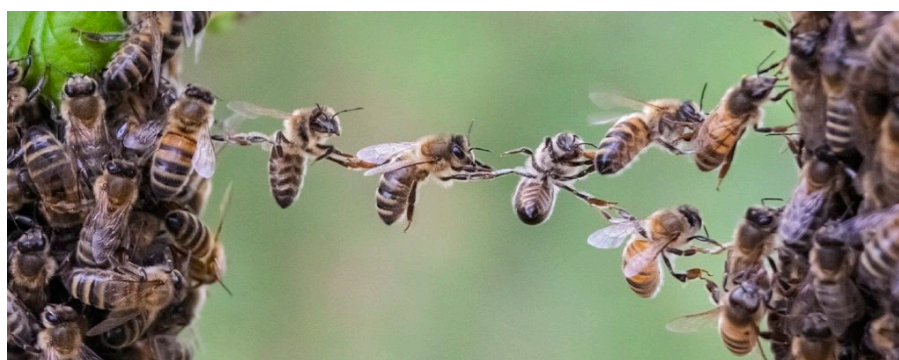
The workings of an important collaboration

### KEYWORDS

#education, #OIE Observatory, #training, #Veterinary Services, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### AUTHORS

Nadège Leboucq, Secretariat of the OIE Training Platform, [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).



© Getty Images

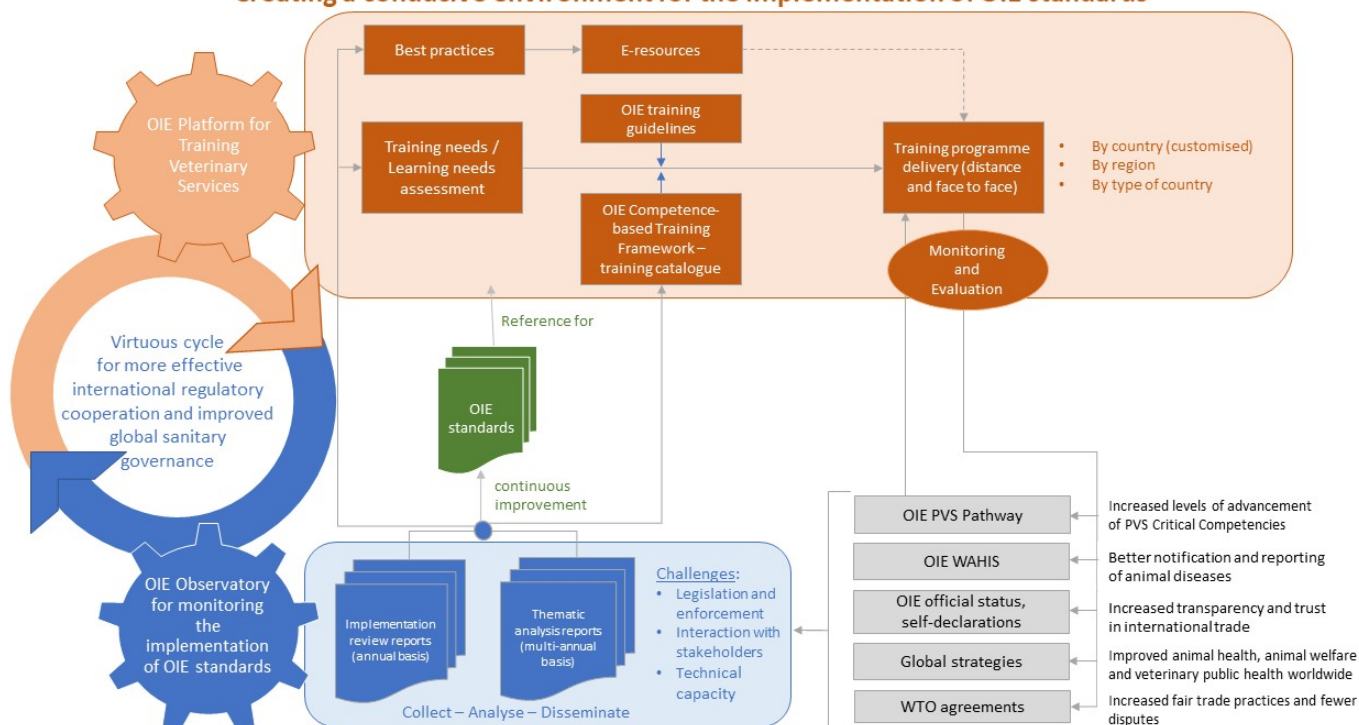
*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Observatory and Training Platform are working in close collaboration to create an environment that promotes more effective implementation of OIE standards by its Members.*

The Observatory will provide an analysis of training needs and ‘feed’ examples of good practice into the [OIE Training Portal](#)’s online pool of resources.

The Training Platform, with its tailor-made programmes and robust system of monitoring and evaluation, will strengthen the competencies of Veterinary Services and measure progress through the use of OIE standards, supported by the [OIE PVS Evaluation Tool](#).

The expected outcome of this cross-cutting collaboration within the OIE is more effective international regulatory cooperation, for the benefit of better global animal health governance.

Responding to Members' needs (Strategic Objective 3 of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan):  
**'Creating a conducive environment for the implementation of OIE standards'**



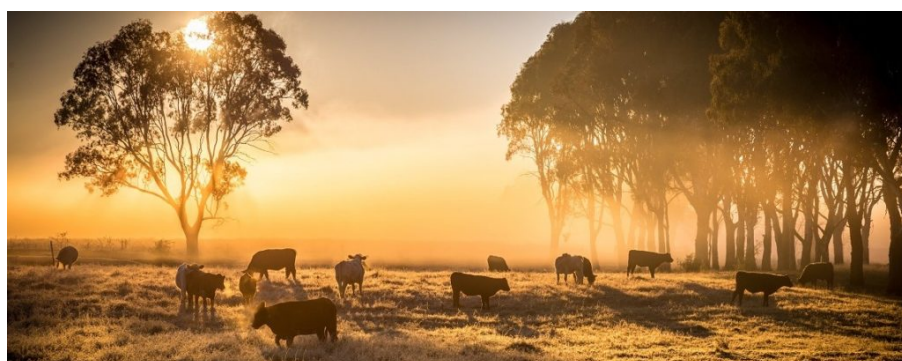
## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► OIE ACTIONS

## From OIE standards and guidelines to the establishment of the OIE Global Antimicrobial Use Database: advancing together

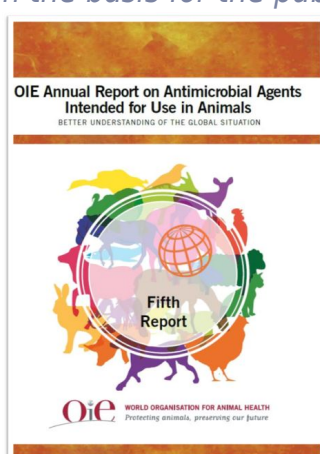
### KEYWORDS

#antimicrobial resistance (AMR), #data management, #guidelines, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).



© Pelooyen / Getty Images

*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) standards and guidelines are agreed upon by Members, and form the basis for the publication of an annual report on the use of antimicrobial*



*agents in animals.*

*In addition, the OIE Observatory is a mechanism designed to observe and analyse Members' practices in implementing OIE standards.*

An upcoming publication, *From OIE Standards to Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials: supporting stewardship for the use of antimicrobial agents in animals*, clarifies the connection between these two initiatives.

[More information on the OIE Global Antimicrobial Use Database](#)

[More information on the OIE Observatory](#)

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► NETWORK INITIATIVES

## The WTO SPS Agreement and its role in monitoring the process of harmonisation and the use of international standards

### KEYWORDS

#Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #safe trade, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), #World Trade Organization (WTO).

### AUTHORS

Christiane Wolff<sup>(1)</sup> & Arti Gobind Daswani<sup>(1)\*</sup>

(1) SPS Section, Agriculture and Commodities Division, [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](https://www.wto.org/).

\* Corresponding author: [Arti.daswani@wto.org](mailto:Arti.daswani@wto.org); [spscommittee@wto.org](mailto:spscommittee@wto.org).

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*



© Getty Images

*'Harmonisation' is one of the key principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), defined as: 'The establishment, recognition and application of common sanitary and phytosanitary measures by*

*different Members' [1, 2].*

The SPS Agreement encourages WTO Members to base their SPS measures on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, developed by the three international standard-setting bodies recognised by the WTO for this purpose: the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) for food safety, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for plant health, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal health and zoonoses [3].

The [SPS Committee](#) is tasked with monitoring the process of harmonisation and the use of international standards [4]. It has established a monitoring process which allows WTO Members to identify the non-use of an existing international standard, the need to update a standard, or situations where an international standard may be missing [5, 6]. The SPS Committee considers annual monitoring reports which are brought to the attention of the international standard-setting bodies, and cooperates closely with them in their respective areas.

The *Fifth Review of the operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement* highlighted the role of the international standard-setting bodies in sharing guidance on scientific uncertainty and the insufficiency of scientific evidence in the risk analysis process, and encouraged Members to periodically review their SPS measures in light of developments and updates in relevant areas [7, 8].

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3287>

## REFERENCES

1. World Trade Organization (WTO) (1994). – [Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](#). 15 pp.
2. World Trade Organization (WTO) (1998). – [Understanding the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](#).
3. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2020). – Ensuring safe trade in animals and animal products. *Rev. Sci. Tech. Off. Int. Epiz.*, **39** (1). <https://doi.org/10.20506/rst.issue.39.1.3056>.
4. World Trade Organization (WTO) & Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2019). – [Facilitating trade through regulatory cooperation. The case of the WTO's TBT/SPS Agreements and Committees](#).
5. World Trade Organization (WTO) (2004). – Revision of the procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization. Document [G/SPS/11/Rev.1](#).
6. World Trade Organization (WTO) (2021). – [Sanitary and Phytosanitary Information Management System](#).
7. World Trade Organization (WTO) (2020). – Review of the operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement. Documents [G/SPS/64](#) and [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#).
8. World Trade Organization (WTO) (2020). – [WTO members adopt report on food safety, animal and plant health, paving way for new work](#).

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► NETWORK INITIATIVES

## The Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

### KEYWORDS

#Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), #capacity building, #OIE Observatory, #safe trade, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), #World Trade Organization (WTO).

### AUTHORS

María Álvarez de Cózar, Trade Facilitation Section, Market Access Division, [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#).

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*



© Getty Images

*The World Trade Organization (WTO) [Trade Facilitation Agreement Database \(TFAD\)](#) is an online platform that allows users to track and analyse the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).*

The TFA is the first WTO Agreement in which developing and least-developed country Members can set their own implementation schedules, and progress in implementing the Agreement is explicitly linked to acquiring the necessary technical assistance and support to build capacity.

The [TFAD's interactive implementation dashboard](#) makes it easier to analyse this process by providing various tools to examine the status of WTO Members' implementation commitments. Collectively, these commitments provide a roadmap of when we can expect full implementation of the TFA by the entire Membership.

The TFAD also provides in-depth information on the series of transparency notifications mandated by the TFA, such as the requirement to publish online information on import and export procedures or to provide Contact Points to respond to enquiries. This information is available on each [Member profile](#), as well as on [a dedicated page for governments and traders](#) to consult. In addition, the Member profiles provide a platform for in-depth examinations of individual progress on implementation.

The database also allows users to access all [notifications and communications](#) submitted by Members. Moreover, it updates the activities of the WTO [Trade Facilitation Committee](#) and provides access to related information.

## Background information

Traders from both developing and least-developed countries have long pointed to the vast amount of 'red tape' that exists when moving goods across borders and which poses a particular burden on small and medium-sized enterprises. To address this, WTO Members negotiated a landmark TFA, which is designed to deliver practical measures to strengthen global trade and economic growth. The TFA – which [came into force on 22 February 2017](#) – contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between Customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and Customs compliance issues. It further contains provisions for technical assistance and capacity building in this area.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3288>

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► NETWORK INITIATIVES

## The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) – monitoring the implementation of IPPC standards

### KEYWORDS

#International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #safe trade, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### AUTHORS

Avetik Nersisyan<sup>(1)</sup> & Artur Shamilov<sup>(1)\*</sup>

(1) [International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat \(IPPC\)](#), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

\* Corresponding author: [artur.shamilov@fao.org](mailto:artur.shamilov@fao.org).

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*



© Getty Images

*The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is the [global treaty, signed by 184 countries](#), to protect plant resources (including forests, aquatic plants, non-cultivated plants and biodiversity) from plant pests. It was designed to facilitate safe trade through common and*

*effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of plant pests and promote appropriate measures for their control.*

## Implementation Review and Support System

The IPPC [Implementation Review and Support System \(IRSS\)](#) was originally conceived as a process which would monitor challenges in implementing the IPPC, its standards, and the recommendations from the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, which is the governing body for the IPPC. The IRSS also aims to scan emerging issues and provide assistance to signatories to enable them to focus on implementation.

Two examples of the value of the outputs of the IRSS include the [2012 IRSS Study on Aquatic Plants](#) and the [2012 IRSS Study on Internet Trade in Plants](#).

## More about the International Plant Protection Convention

The IPPC was established as a Convention in 1951 and amended in 1979 and 1997. The IPPC is one of the 'Three Sisters' recognised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, along with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

[International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\) website](#)

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3289>

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► NETWORK INITIATIVES

## Improving monitoring of the use of Codex standards

### KEYWORDS

#Codex Alimentarius Commission, #Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #World Health Organization (WHO), #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### AUTHORS

Hilde Kruse<sup>(1)\*</sup> & Farid El Haffar<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) [Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission](#), Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

\* Corresponding author: [hilde.kruse@fao.org](mailto:hilde.kruse@fao.org).

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE, FAO or WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE, FAO or WHO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*

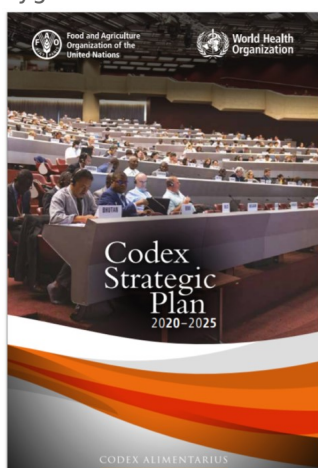


© OIE/ Afshin Azadi

*The Codex Strategic Plan 2020–2025 includes a goal to ‘increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards’. By improving monitoring of the use of Codex standards, the overall effectiveness of Codex will ultimately be strengthened.*

The mission of [the Codex Alimentarius Commission \(Codex\)](#), established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963, is to set out international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in food trade. The Commission also promotes the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Animal food production can affect food safety and quality. Hence, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and Codex have many common interests, particularly with regard to such topics as veterinary drug residues, food hygiene and antimicrobial resistance.



In 2019, the Commission adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2020–2025, which includes an ambitious new goal to ‘increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards’ and provides indicators to help measure the effects of these standards. Improved monitoring of the use of Codex standards will provide more accurate information to help in identifying the most useful standards, as well as assist the Commission to better understand the challenges encountered by Members when applying these standards. The ultimate objective is to strengthen the overall effectiveness of Codex.

The experiences of the OIE Observatory, and lessons learned, will be invaluable to Codex as it builds its own monitoring system.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3290>

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► NETWORK INITIATIVES

## Facilitating safe trade: how to ensure that SPS measures are fit for purpose?

### KEYWORDS

#Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #safe trade, #Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Trade Organization (WTO).

### AUTHORS

Camille Fléchet<sup>(1)</sup> & Marlynne Hopper<sup>(2)\*</sup>

(1) [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#).

(2) [Standards and Trade Development Facility \(STDF\)](#).

\* Corresponding author: [STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*



**STDF** | STANDARDS and TRADE  
DEVELOPMENT FACILITY



© STDF/José Carlos Alexandre

*All countries maintain sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures to ensure that food is safe for consumers and to prevent the spread of pests and diseases among animals and plants. Good*

*regulatory practices (GRPs) help to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures so that they achieve the expected policy outcome(s).*

The [Standards and Trade Development Facility \(STDF\)](#), a global partnership to facilitate safe trade<sup>(1)</sup>, is developing practical guidance for SPS regulators in developing countries on how to use GRPs (such as stakeholder consultations, regulatory stock-taking or regulatory impact assessments), even when capacity or resources are limited.

The forthcoming GRP Guide, developed in consultation with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and other STDF partners, will help SPS regulators to use good practices to develop, design and review SPS measures that are fit for purpose. The aim is to improve compliance with the international standards recognised in the World Trade Organization SPS Agreement (and provided by the Codex Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention and the OIE) to ensure health protection while facilitating trade.

---

(1) The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global partnership to facilitate safe trade, contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. Through its global platform, knowledge work and funding to develop, implement and learn from innovative pilot projects, the STDF supports developing countries to make sustainable improvements in their SPS programmes.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3291>

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► NETWORK INITIATIVES

## AMR–Lex, a new platform to access relevant legislation on antimicrobial resistance

### SUMMARY

**AMR–Lex is a global database of legislation and policies impacting antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use within agrifood systems.**

### KEYWORDS

#antimicrobial resistance (AMR), #data management, #Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), #legislation.

### AUTHORS

Andres Vatter Rubio<sup>(1)</sup> & Carmen Bullón Caro<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

© Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2021.

*The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.*



© Getty Images

*Legislation is the foundation for taking appropriate regulatory action and for ensuring that compulsory and sustainable policy objectives are put into operation in a timely manner. AMR-Lex, a subsidiary of FAOLEX, facilitates access to all legislation that has an impact on or is relevant to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), across all sectors and regulatory areas.*

AMR-Lex provides access to some 27,000 legislative and policy documents from around the world. This information is organised into three clusters, each composed of several domains and regulatory areas:

- regulation of antimicrobials (veterinary medicinal products, medicated feed, pesticides)
- antimicrobial contamination in food and the environment (food safety, soil, waste, water)
- preventative regulatory frameworks (animal health and production, plant health).

It is a subset database of FAOLEX, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO's) comprehensive and up-to-date online repository of regional, bilateral and national laws, regulations, policies and agreements on food, agriculture and natural resources management.

Together with AMR-Lex, and with the support of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), FAO has developed a methodology to analyse AMR-relevant legislation in the food and agriculture sector. This methodology examines the relevant regulatory areas for AMR and can help to assess the compatibility of national and regional legal instruments with international standards and good practices. The methodology has been piloted in more than 20 countries and regional organisations [1].

As a next step, the Tripartite Organisations (FAO, OIE and WHO) will work on the development of a One Health methodology that takes into full consideration human, animal and environmental sectors.

[FAOLEX Database](#)

[FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Portal](#)

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3292>

## REFERENCES

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2020). – [Methodology to analyse AMR-relevant legislation in the food and agriculture sector. Guidance document for regulators](#). Draft for public review. 40 pp.
2. World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) & World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2020). – [International instruments on the use of antimicrobials across the human, animal and plant sectors](#). 60 pp.
3. World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) & World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). – [Antimicrobial resistance and the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework. Guidance for United Nations country teams](#). 24 pp.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► SUCCESS STORIES

## The OIE international standards, a harmonised framework used when formulating or modernising national legislation

### Lessons learnt from practices of OIE Members for the implementation of OIE standards

#### KEYWORDS

#animal health, #Aquatic Animal Health Code, #China (People's Rep. of), #European Union, #international standard, #legislation, #New Zealand, #Terrestrial Animal Health Code, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

#### AUTHORS

Members of the Reference Group for the OIE Observatory.

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*



Photo by [Beatriz Pérez Moya](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) international standards set out in the generic ('horizontal') chapters of the [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#) and [Aquatic Animal Health Code](#) describe a continuum of measures aimed at preventing and controlling diseases and ensuring safe international trade. These standards serve as a basis for national Veterinary Services to develop appropriate national legislation that enables them to carry out their responsibilities*

*effectively and well.*

Countries' Competent Authorities use the OIE standards as a framework to define and develop their core policies and programmes for animal health surveillance, disease notification, and disease prevention and control, as well as import risk analysis and trade measures.

**The newly revised Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China** [1], which came into force on 1 May 2021, using the OIE standards as its reference, specifies the measures to be taken for the risk assessment of animal diseases, establishment of disease-free zones and compartments, development of animal disease elimination plans and reporting of animal diseases, and describes the responsibilities of official veterinarians.

In addition to this legislation, procedures and technical requirements for the risk analysis of import and export animals and animal products were also issued, to further standardise risk assessment of imported and exported animals and animal products [2].

**The New Zealand Biosecurity Act of 1993** [3] provides the legal framework to enable the detection, exclusion, eradication or effective management of pests and unwanted organisms. It covers:

- pre-border risk management and standard setting
- border management
- surveillance, readiness and response
- long-term pest management.

The Act requires that import health standards comply with [Sanitary and Phytosanitary \(SPS\) Agreement](#) principles and, by extension, OIE standards for trade in animals and animal products.

According to this Act, the Governor-General may, by Order in Council, declare any organism to be a notifiable organism for the purpose of surveillance and prevention. This places a duty on all New Zealanders to report the presence or suspected presence of notifiable organisms. The list of organisms in this Order is based on the [OIE List of notifiable diseases](#).

**The European Union (EU) Animal Health Law** and its accompanying delegated and implementing Acts [4] became applicable on 21 April 2021. This new legal framework represents a comprehensive overhaul and modernisation of EU animal health legislation. The goals of the Animal Health Law include:

- simplifying and clarifying rules;
- categorising and prioritising animal diseases for EU intervention;
- better prevention, early detection and more effective control of animal diseases;
- safe and efficient trade, both within the EU single market and for the entry of goods from third countries.

Over all, the EU's objective was to increase the convergence of EU animal health measures with the international standards of the OIE. Finally, the [EU Animal Diseases Information System \(ADIS\)](#) and [OIE World Animal Health Information System \(OIE-WAHIS\)](#) have also been interlinked.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3293>

## REFERENCES

1. People's Republic of China (2021). – [Animal Epidemic Prevention Law](#).
2. People's Republic of China (2021). – [Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China](#).
3. New Zealand (2020). – [Biosecurity Act of 1993](#). Public Act 1993 No 95. Reprint as at 1 December 2020.
4. European Union (2021). – [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health \(Animal Health Law\) \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► SUCCESS STORIES

## Putting OIE international standards into practice, to support countries' claims of freedom from disease and to facilitate safe international trade

### Lessons learnt from practices of OIE Members for the implementation of OIE standards

#### KEYWORDS

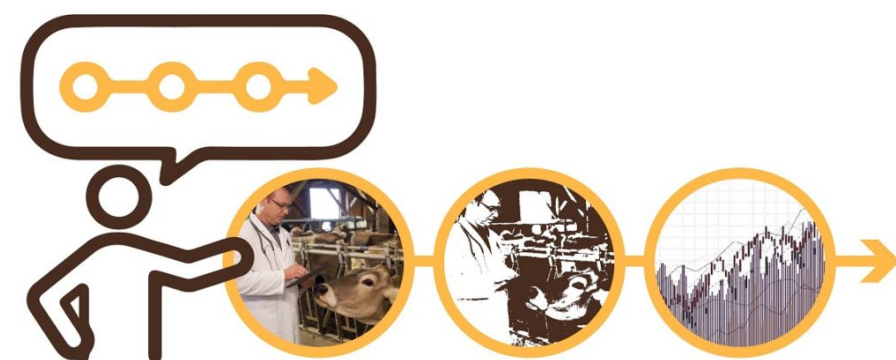
#Aquatic Animal Health Code, #China (People's Rep. of), #compartmentalisation, #disease status, #international standard, #legislation, #OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme, #safe trade, #surveillance, #Terrestrial Animal Health Code, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

#### AUTHORS

Members of the Reference Group for the OIE Observatory.

*The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.*

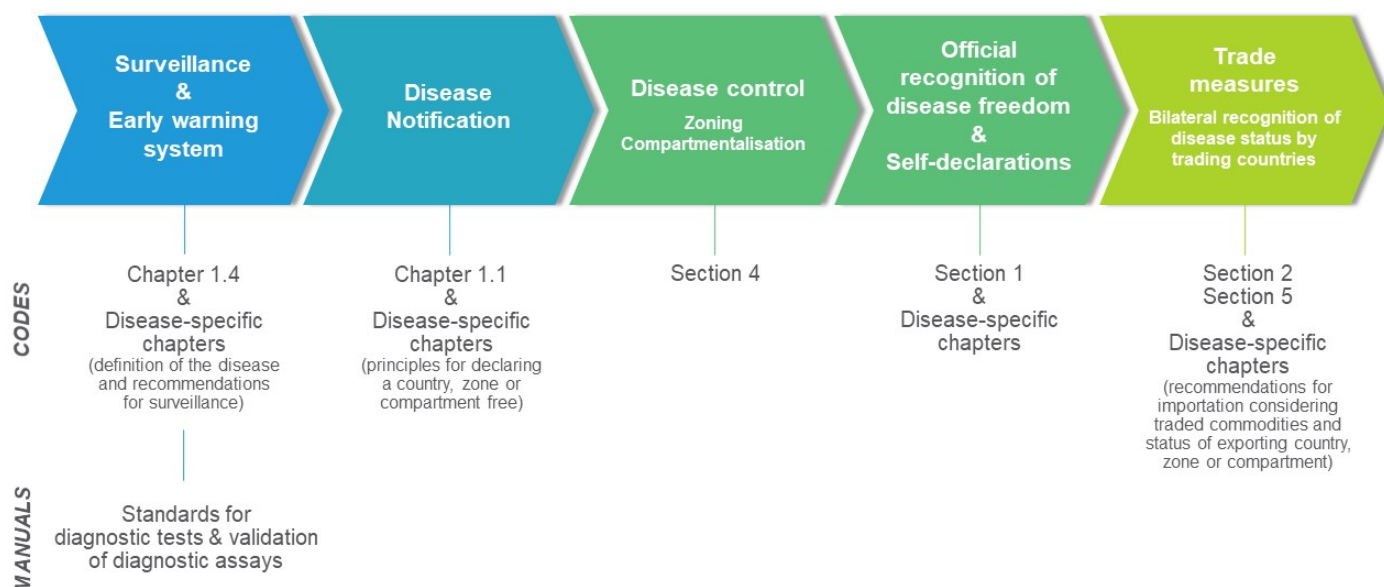
*The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.*



© Getty Images

*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) international standards set out in the OIE Codes [1, 2] and Manuals [3, 4] are used by the Competent Authorities of importing and exporting countries to ensure that good practices are in place for the early detection, reporting and control of animal diseases, and to ensure the safety of international trade in animals and animal products.*

The process of putting OIE standards into practice involves a continuum of measures from surveillance, through to the notification and control of diseases, to trade measures (see diagram).



This continuum consists of a series of processes, illustrated by the following examples.

## Implementation of OIE standards by laboratories to carry out veterinary diagnostic tests and surveillance

The Veterinary Research Institute of Tunisia is the national Reference Laboratory for the diagnosis of major animal diseases. The laboratory draws on its full range of expertise to assist health authorities in decision-making. In order to harmonise and improve the quality of diagnostic testing in the virology laboratory, two [OIE twinning projects](#) were carried out, with the aim of developing a reliable and sensitive diagnostic in accordance with OIE standards [5, 6]. The risk of expansion of emerging diseases, including Rift Valley fever (RVF), in previously disease-free regions requires the implementation of effective surveillance programmes for animal populations. To achieve this, it is pivotal to regularly assess the performance of existing diagnostic tests, and to evaluate the capacity of veterinary laboratories to detect RVF infection in an accurate and timely manner. In this context, several external quality assessments were organised to examine the diagnostic capacities of veterinary laboratories [7, 8].

## Implementation of OIE standards to support disease freedom claims

National animal disease surveillance programmes may differ from one country to another, according to their specific production systems and epidemiological situation. Therefore, OIE standards are result-oriented and do not prescribe specific models. This creates a variable array of implementation patterns across the world. Nevertheless, the need to comply with the notification obligations laid down in Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal*

Health Codes [1, 2] through the [OIE-WAHIS reporting system](#), and the provision of structured frameworks for [official recognition of free status](#) and for [self-declaration of disease-free status](#), allows for some harmonised implementation.

## Implementation of OIE standards to control animal diseases and ensure the safety of international trade

In the *Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes*, Sections 2 and 5, alongside various disease-specific chapters [1, 2], address aspects of trade associated with the principles of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), particularly regionalisation. Concepts such as zoning and compartmentalisation have been developed to enable countries to continue to trade safely, even in the event of animal disease outbreaks.

### Technical specifications of the People's Republic of China for the management of specific animal-disease-free zones and for the management of disease-free compartments [9, 10]

In regard to the OIE standards for disease-free zones, free zones have been established in China for foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and specific equine diseases.

In accordance with the OIE principles for disease-free compartments, 6 compartments free from HPAI have been established so far in 4 provinces, and 62 compartments free from African swine fever (ASF) have been established in 25 provinces.

### The European Union (EU) policy on prevention, control and eradication of ASF [11]

Regionalisation (or zoning) is at the centre of EU policy on ASF. With legislation and guidelines based on the principles laid down in the relevant OIE standards, the EU aims to prevent the introduction and spread of ASF on its territory by ensuring safe trade of pigs and pig commodities through a comprehensive system of regionalisation. African swine fever remains contained in limited areas of the EU and has already been eradicated in two of its Member States (the Czech Republic and Belgium).

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3294>

#### REFERENCES

1. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). – [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#).
2. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). – [Aquatic Animal Health Code](#).
3. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). – [Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals](#).
4. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2021). – [Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals](#).
5. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSve) (2018). – [OIE twinning project between the IZSve and the Tunisian Veterinary Research Institute \(IRVT\) on the diagnosis of viral encephalopathy and retinopathy](#).
6. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "Giuseppe Caporale" (2016). – [Bluetongue diagnosis twinning and cooperation project](#).
7. Monaco F., Cosseddu G.M., Dombia B., Madani H., El Mellouli F., Jiménez-Clavero M.Á., Sghaier S., Marianneau P., Cetre-Sossah C., Polci A., Lacote S., Lakhdar M., Fernández-Pinero J., Sari Nassim C., Pinoni C., Capobianco Dondona A., Gallardo C., Bouzid T., Conte A., Bortone G., Savini G., Petrini A. & Puech L. (2015). – First external quality assessment of molecular and serological detection of Rift Valley fever in the western Mediterranean region. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0142129>.
8. Pérez-Ramírez E., Cano-Gómez C., Llorente F., Adzic B., Al Ameer M., Djadjovski I., El Hage J., El Mellouli F., Goletic T., Hovsepian H., Karayel-Hacioglu I.,

Maksimovic Zoric J., Mejri S., Sadaoui H., Hassan Salem S., Sherifi K., Toklikishvili N., Vodica A., Monaco F., Brun A., Jiménez-Clavero M.Á. & Fernández-Pinero J. (2020). – External quality assessment of Rift Valley fever diagnosis in 17 veterinary laboratories of the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0239478>.

9. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China (2016). – [Notice of the Ministry of Agriculture on issuing the 'Technical regulations for the management of animal disease free zones'](#) [in Chinese].

10. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China (2020). – [Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on the issuance of the 'African swine fever free zone standard' and the 'Technical specifications for the management of animal disease free zones'](#) [in Chinese].

11. European Commission (2021). – [African swine fever](#).

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ► THEMATIC EVENTS

## Facing global crises together: better international rulemaking for better results

### 8th Annual Meeting of International Organisations

#### KEYWORDS

#cooperation, #international organisation, #international standard, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), #Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).



© Phawat Topaisan/Getty Images

*The Partnership of International Organisations (IOs) for Effective International Rulemaking, comprising 50 IOs, was set up by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) within the framework of the work performed by its Regulatory Policy Committee to promote international regulatory cooperation.*

The IOs involved in the Partnership work together to exchange information, experiences, and best practices in the areas of development of international instruments, implementation and evaluation of these instruments, stakeholder engagement and coordination across IOs. These efforts aim to support the greater use of international instruments, and strengthen the quality, evidence base and consistency of international rules.

On 13–14 September 2021, the 8th Annual Meeting of IOs, co-hosted by the OECD and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), brought together 42 IOs.

[Event webpage](#)

Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General of OECD, launched two key reports of the IO Partnership, that together aim to

foster better and more effective international co-operation among governments with the support of a more effective rules-based international order:

- *International Regulatory Co-operation* provides guidance to governments on co-operating in their rulemaking, particularly through international organisations [1].
- The *Compendium of International Organisations' Practices* brings together the experiences of some 50 IOs helping the user to understand international rulemaking practices and governance arrangements, and to improve international instruments through several key principles [2].



**You may also be interested in the following articles included in this issue of *Panorama*:**

- Karttunen M. (2021). – [Strengthening the implementation of international standards: OECD recommendations for the design of the OIE Observatory](#).
- Pilichowski E. (2021). – [The international regulatory cooperation response to global challenges](#).

## REFERENCES

1. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2021). – International Regulatory Co-operation. OECD Best Practice Principles for Regulatory Policy. <https://doi.org/10.1787/5b28b589-en>.
2. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2021). – Compendium of International Organisations' practices: Working towards more effective international instruments. <https://doi.org/10.1787/846a5fa0-en>.

## RESOURCES

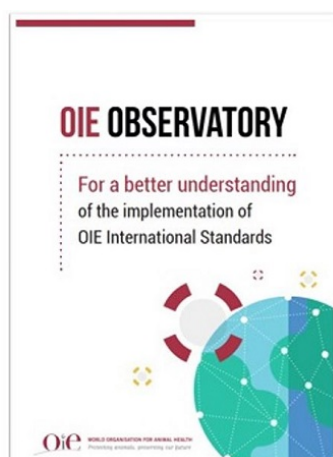
### ► OIE PUBLICATIONS

#### OIE Observatory

For a better understanding of the implementation of OIE international standards

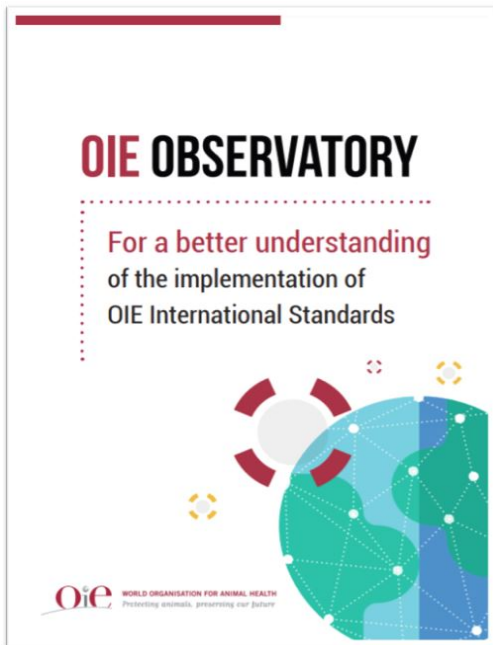
##### KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #OIE publication, #safe trade, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).



World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

4 pages



For more information, [please visit the OIE Observatory portal](#)

## RESOURCES

### ► OIE PUBLICATIONS

## Ensuring safe trade in animals and animal products

*Scientific and Technical Review*, Vol. **39** (1)

### KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #international standard, #OIE Observatory, #OIE publication, #safe trade, #Scientific and Technical Review, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), #World Trade Organization (WTO).



Edited by: C. Wolff & A. Hamilton

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

April 2020

330 pages

ISSN: 0253-1933

ISBN: 978-92-95115-56-9

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.20506/rst.issue.39.1.3056>

The intention of this issue of the [Scientific and Technical Review](#) is to present a series of articles that assist World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Trade Organization (WTO) Members and the international community interested in trade in animals and animal products to better understand the frameworks created by the WTO trade agreements and OIE international standards, both through the discussion of the theory underpinning these standards/agreements and by providing examples of their implementation.

[ [Order the printed version](#) ]

The articles in this issue are available freely by clicking on the titles below.

## Contents:

- **Preface** – [Ensuring safe trade in animals and animal products](#)
- **Introduction** – [Ensuring safe trade in animals and animal products](#)
- C. Wolff & I. Calderón – [World Trade Organization agreements: a framework for trade in animals and animal products](#)
- G. Stanton & G. Prakash – [World Trade Organization disputes related to animal diseases](#)
- A. Gobind Daswani & K. Bucher – [International regulatory cooperation: contribution of the OIE and the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and SPS Committee](#)
- K. Bucher, D. Tellechea, F. Caya & J. Stratton – [Implementation of OIE international standards: challenges and opportunities for monitoring](#)
- S. Kahn – [Animal welfare in the context of World Trade Organization dispute settlement](#)
- A. Hamilton – [Facilitating market access: risk assessment, equivalence and regionalisation provisions in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](#)
- M. Escandor, S. Amurao, I. Santos & C. Benigno – [Developing and implementing a protocol for bilateral trade agreements: the Philippines' shift to a risk assessment policy and meeting its challenges](#)
- H.I. Maldonado Cáceres – [Guatemala: efforts to facilitate free trade in an animal health context](#)
- G. Funes, A.L. Merlo, M. Sowul, N. Rendine, X. Melon & A. Marcos – [Disease-free zones: bilateral recognition procedure in South America](#)
- F. Meliado & P. Widders – [Mutual recognition of veterinary testing and inspection results to facilitate international trade](#)
- H.M. Vesterinen, A.M. Pérez & K.M. Errecaborde – [Building capacity for World Trade Organization dispute settlement: piloting polarity mapping for trade relations](#)
- D. Adamson, W. Gilbert, P. Rothman-Ostrow & J. Rushton – [The pros and cons of animal health harmonisation](#)
- D. Grace & P. Little – [Informal trade in livestock and livestock products](#)
- E. Bonbon – [A framework for national official assurance systems with reference to World Organisation for Animal Health standards](#)
- W.T. Jolly – [National official assurance systems for international trade in animals and animal products, with reference to the standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
- M. Maja, L. Janse van Rensburg & C. Gerstenberg – [Compartmentalisation: an example of a national official assurance system](#)
- R.K. Aumüller & E. Coetzer – [Animal welfare in GLOBALG.A.P.'s integrated farm assurance standard for livestock: an industry perspective and example of a private and globally acting quality assurance system](#)
- M. Tripoli & J. Schmidhuber – [Optimising traceability in trade for live animals and animal products with digital](#)

## technologies

- N. Gibbens – [National Veterinary Services and the private sector: the role of private veterinarians, aquatic animal health professionals and veterinary para-professionals in animal health and food safety assurance](#)
- R. Alcala, H. Vitikkala & G. Ferlet – [The World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and veterinary control procedures](#)
- A.Tan – [Use of the standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health in veterinary certificates](#)
- D. Grace – [Trust in trade: a global perspective on health certification](#)
- B.S. Cooper & P. Loopuyt – [eCertification \(eCert\)](#)
- P. Cáceres, P. Tizzani, F. Ntsama & R. Mora – [The World Organisation for Animal Health: notification of animal diseases](#)
- R. Alcala & M.B. Martinez-Hommel – [World Trade Organization: notification of sanitary and phytosanitary measures](#)

## RESOURCES

### ► OIE RESOURCES

## Implementation of OIE standards by OIE Member Countries: state of play and specific capacity building needs

Technical item presented during the 86th General Session of the OIE

### KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #international standard, #safe trade, #Technical Item, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).



World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
2018

Technical item presented to the World Assembly of Delegates during the 86th General Session of the OIE, Paris, 20-25 May 2018.

Author: Sarah Kahn

16 pages

## Summary:

This technical item addressed the implementation by Members of the OIE standards for international trade in live animals and animal products. The purpose of the study was to identify and analyse factors that limit implementation of the standards and make recommendations on how the OIE could help Members to overcome these difficulties. The high response rate (80%) shows that the importance of the OIE standards is generally understood and provides confidence regarding the analysis and recommendations in this report. In general, Members expressed a high level of support for the implementation of OIE standards and this is very encouraging. However, some newer and more complex concepts are not well understood and opportunities to implement safe trade are being missed. Key challenges that were reported by a significant number of countries included a lack of technical expertise, outdated veterinary legislation, lack of confidence in applying risk management, lack of transparency, and failure on the part of both importing and exporting countries to respect the OIE standards. Inevitably, political and commercial considerations have an effect on trade policies. It is, therefore, important that OIE Delegates and their staff base their advice on scientific evidence and OIE recommendations to the extent possible, having regard to national legislative and policy frameworks within which they must operate.

To support the national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, the OIE should continue to promote its normative role and to provide communications material that can influence Members' decision-makers. This is particularly important to avoid non-scientific responses to disease events at the national and global levels. The OIE should also continue its role as advocate for Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, and the provision of the [PVS Pathway](#), which provides important support to developing countries and is increasingly finding application in developed countries.

Turning specifically to the uptake of the international standards, nearly all countries saw a need for more training on the OIE standards, including their relationship with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization. The current arrangements for provision of technical advice, training and networking opportunities should be maintained or increased, with more focus on the specific needs of regions. Expansion of training opportunities through the use of distance learning should be considered. OIE Members are strongly encouraged to consider the application of good regulatory practices as a means to improve the efficiency of their regulatory processes and build sustainable alliances with the private sector. Finally, the OIE initiative to establish an Observatory on the implementation of standards is particularly welcome. This should provide for identification and analysis of the impediments to use of the standards and, importantly, the recommendation of practical solutions.

[ [View the report](#) ]

[ [View the descriptive analysis of the questionnaire](#) ]

[ [View the resolution](#) ]

DOI of the original report: <https://doi.org/10.20506/TT.2936>

## RESOURCES

### ► OIE RESOURCES

#### The OIE Resolution no. 36 of May 2018

Implementation of OIE standards by OIE Member Countries: state of play and specific capacity building needs

##### KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #international standard, #resolution, #safe trade, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).



#### Implementation of OIE standards by OIE Member Countries: state of play and specific capacity building needs

##### CONSIDERING

1. OIE international standards have the objective of improving animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health, worldwide, and taking into account the variable animal health situation of Member Countries, to facilitate safe international trade of live animals and animal products, while also avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers;
2. In addition to animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health, OIE international standards address the capability of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, which need to be supported by effective and

transparent legislation, good governance and engagement with the private sector;

3. The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) requires that members adopt sanitary measures that are non-discriminatory and based on OIE international standards; more restrictive measures should be justifiable, based on scientific evidence and risk assessment;

4. OIE Member Countries are aware of the importance of the OIE standards and their relevance to national obligations under the WTO SPS Agreement but there are still many instances where sanitary measures are not based on or consistent with OIE standards and this has a negative effect on trust between trading partners and on trade;

5. The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, and sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities, including Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, in order that the responsibilities under and interactions between the SPS and TFA Agreements be effectively managed at the national or regional level;

6. While countries need to consider more systematically OIE international standards in their national legislation and decision making, they also need assurances that these standards are continuously relevant and fit for purpose. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of OIE international standards is essential;

7. The Good Regulatory Practices, identified by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), should be used by the OIE and Member Countries to ensure that regulatory processes are effective, transparent and inclusive and provide sustainable results;

8. Lack of engagement between the public and the private sector is a challenge to the provision of health safeguards at national and international level. Resolution No. 39 adopted by the Assembly in May 2017, at the 85th General Session, promoted the establishment of Public-Private Partnerships to support the achievement of animal health and veterinary public health objectives;

9. The OIE seeks to improve the adoption and implementation of OIE international standards by all Member Countries.

## THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to advocate that national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services improve implementation of the OIE international standards, as the foundation for improving animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health at the national, regional and international level;

2. The OIE develop an Observatory to monitor the implementation of its international standards, to increase transparency and to identify constraints and difficulties faced by Member Countries. The design of the Observatory should ensure an efficient and integrated collection, analysis and reporting of information on progress and challenges associated with implementation of OIE international standards by Member Countries in a manner that incentivises increasing harmonisation while maintaining anonymity of the Member Countries;

3. In addition to monitoring the implementation of the international standards, the Observatory should evaluate the relevance, feasibility and effectiveness of the standards to Member Countries, as a basis to develop a more strategic focus to the OIE standard setting and capacity building work programmes;

4. The OIE support Member Countries in the implementation of its international standards by providing guidance, organising training workshops and continuing to improve the Pathway for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS Pathway) and related tools;

5. The OIE, through the PVS Pathway, notably the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, encourage the application of Good Regulatory Practices as defined by the OECD;
6. OIE Member Countries improve their participation in the OIE standard-setting process, in particular by carrying out effective multi-stakeholder coordination at the national and regional level;
7. OIE Member Countries commit to improve their implementation of the OIE standards and the key SPS Agreement principles of harmonisation, risk analysis, equivalence, regionalisation, transparency and non-discrimination;
8. OIE Member Countries should comply with their obligations to notify diseases and, for the purposes of trade, should use the OIE standards, including official OIE disease status;
9. OIE Member Countries support increased participation of officials who are responsible for setting sanitary measures and negotiating market access in OIE capacity building activities relevant to the international standards;
10. OIE Member Countries consider, on a voluntary basis and as relevant, requesting PVS Pathway missions, notably missions on Veterinary Legislation and PVS Follow-up missions to evaluate country progress in complying with OIE international standards and recommendations;
11. OIE Member Countries promote a greater responsibility of the private sector in the implementation of OIE international standards, in particular by facilitating the development of Public-Private Partnerships to provide more efficient and effective approaches to the management of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health.

---

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018  
in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)

## RESOURCES

### EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

## Compendium of international organisations' practices

### Working towards more effective international instruments

#### KEYWORDS

#international organisation, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), #Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking.



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

September 2021

127 pages

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/846a5fa0-en>

The *Compendium of international organisations' practices* brings together the experiences of some 50 international organisations with different mandates, memberships and institutional frameworks. The ultimate objective of the Compendium is to draw lessons from these experiences to improve international rulemaking.

The document is designed to serve not only all national and international policy practitioners, but also civil society

actors, academic experts, private actors, and citizens who seek to understand, benefit from and perhaps even contribute to the international rulemaking process, which is meant to benefit all.

[ [View the document](#) ]

[ [View the key highlights brochure](#) ]

## RESOURCES

### ► EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

## International regulatory co-operation

### OECD best practice principles for regulatory policy

#### KEYWORDS

#cooperation, #international organisation, #international standard, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

July 2021

65 pages

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/5b28b589-en>

Established domestic regulatory frameworks are reaching their limits to cope with today's increasing cross-boundary policy challenges. Only united action can effectively navigate the rapid growth of economic integration and interdependencies, particularly driven by innovative technologies. Yet, contemporary regulatory frameworks tend to build on national jurisdictional boundaries constraining common solutions to meet the growing transboundary nature of policy challenges. In the aftermaths of global crises, such as the 2008 financial crisis or the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed the vulnerabilities of global health, economic and governance systems, it is

time for a true paradigm shift towards more systematic consideration of the international environment in domestic regulatory frameworks.

The OECD best practice principles for regulatory policy provide practical guidance supporting policy makers and civil servants in adapting regulatory frameworks to the interconnected reality. They outline key elements in defining a dedicated whole-of-government strategy and governance structure, embedding international considerations throughout the domestic regulatory design, development and delivery, and leveraging bilateral, regional and multilateral international co-operation on regulatory matters to support national policy objectives. Compiling various ways of international regulatory co-operation and experiences from countries, the OECD best practice principles for regulatory policy provide impetus for policy makers and civil servants in a variety of legal and administrative environments on how to promote quality and resilience of regulatory frameworks in times of an increasingly interconnected world.

[ [View the document](#) ]

## RESOURCES

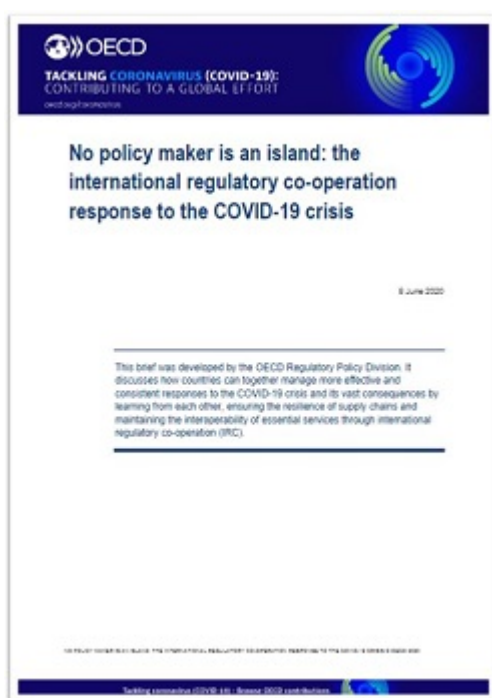
### ► EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

## No policy maker is an island

The international regulatory co-operation response to the COVID-19 crisis

#### KEYWORDS

#cooperation, #COVID-19, #international organisation, #international standard, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), #resilience.



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

June 2020

46 pages

This brief was developed by the OECD Regulatory Policy Division. It discusses how together countries can manage more effective and consistent responses to the COVID-19 crisis and its vast consequences by learning from each other, ensuring the resilience of supply chains and maintaining the interoperability of essential services through international regulatory co-operation.

[ [View the document](#) ]

## RESOURCES

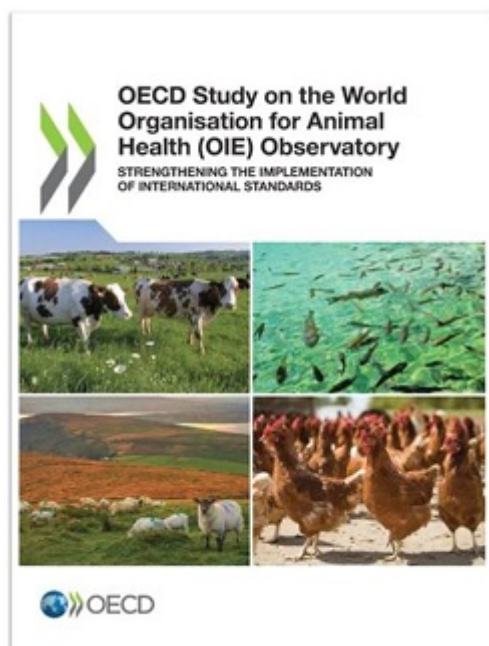
### EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

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

Strengthening the implementation of international standards

### KEYWORDS

#international standard, #OIE Observatory, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

February 2020

92 pages

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/c88edbcd-en>

A case study was developed specifically on the design of the [OIE Observatory](#). This OECD study provides an in-depth diagnostic of the rulemaking 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.

[ [View the document](#) ]

## RESOURCES

### EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

## Facilitating trade through regulatory cooperation

### The case of the WTO's TBT/SPS Agreements and Committees

#### KEYWORDS

#Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), #cooperation, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), #safe trade, #trade impediment, #transparency, #World Trade Organization (WTO).



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) & World Trade Organization (WTO)

July 2019

104 pages

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/ad3c655f-en>

This publication highlights how the WTO's Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the work of their related committees promote opportunities for regulatory cooperation among governments, and ease trade frictions. It demonstrates how members' notification of draft measures, harmonisation of measures with international standards, discussion of specific trade concerns and

other practices help to facilitate global trade in goods. The study also makes recommendations on how to benefit further from the transparency and cooperation opportunities provided by the TBT and SPS Agreements.

Visit [www.wto-ilibrary.org](http://www.wto-ilibrary.org) and [www.oecd-ilibrary.org](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org) for more information.

[ [View the document](#) ]

## RESOURCES

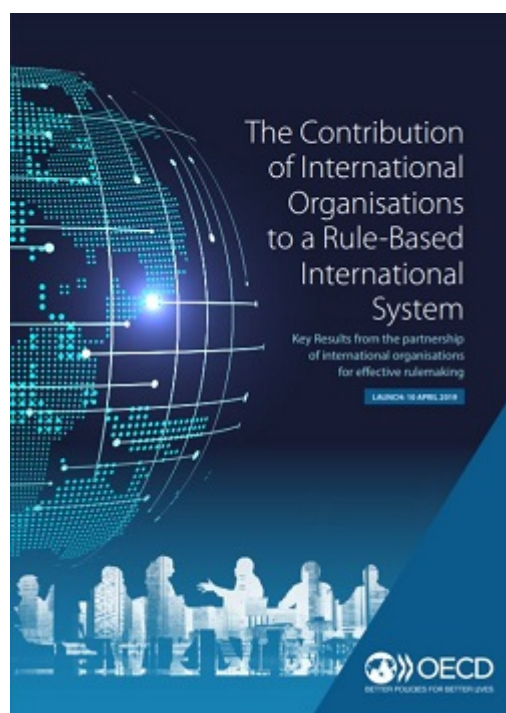
### ► EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

## The contribution of international organisations to a rule-based international system

Key results from the partnership of international organisations for effective rulemaking

### KEYWORDS

#international organisation, #international standard, #Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), #Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking.



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

April 2019

24 pages

This OECD brochure builds on and synthesises the results of a collective effort of some 50 secretariats of international organisations (IOs) working together since 2014 on the quality of international rulemaking. It highlights key features of the international rulemaking and standard-setting landscape, sheds light on how international rulemaking functions, and identifies areas where both IOs and countries could take steps to improve

the results.

[ [View the document](#) ]

**The OIE** is an international organisation created in 1924 with a mandate from its 182 Members to improve animal health and welfare. Its activities are permanently supported by 329 centres of scientific expertise and 13 regional offices with a presence on every continent.



Follow the OIE: [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)



@OIEAnimalHealth



World Organisation for Animal Health - OIE



OIEVideo



World Organisation for Animal Health



World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)



Digital version: [www.oiebulletin.com](http://www.oiebulletin.com)



**WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

12, rue de Prony - 75017 Paris, France  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88 - Fax: +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87 - [oie@oie.int](mailto:oie@oie.int)