



Terms of Reference for the VICH Outreach Forum

The VICH Organisational Charter states in its objectives that as well as establishing and implementing harmonised technical requirements for registration of veterinary medicinal products in the VICH regions, the programme should “work towards providing a basis for wider international harmonisation of technical requirements”.

VICH continues to re-iterate this objective of wider international harmonisation in its strategic priorities (e.g. Strategy for Phase IV: 2016-2020), and has initiated a set of activities aimed at the wider dissemination and acceptance of VICH guidelines and co-operation on a more global level, including:

1. Establishment of the VICH Outreach Forum, with two main objectives:
 - a. to provide a basis for wider international harmonization of registration requirements
 - b. to improve information exchange and raise awareness of VICH and VICH guidelines with non-VICH countries/regions
2. VICH Training Strategy, including development of training materials and participation in regional training events
3. Dissemination of information through an upgraded website, and through the OIE website

The criteria for participation in the VICH Outreach Forum are:

- A Regulatory framework for the marketing authorisation of veterinary medicinal products is in place and operational in the country;
- Willingness to work towards accepting and implementing VICH guidelines;
- Willingness to self-fund own costs for participation (travel costs, accommodation and translation, if needed);
- Regular participation in the VICH Outreach Forum meetings;

Moreover, a national competent authority is encouraged to invite its local industry association to also participate in VICH Outreach Forum meetings.

The VICH Outreach Forum is a VICH initiative, and will be chaired by VICH in collaboration with OIE, recognising the OIE’s membership in VICH as well as its broader mandate. The VICH Outreach Forum will meet in the margins of the VICH Steering Committee meetings, which take place every 12 months typically at a location in one of the VICH member countries/regions.

Topics that will be addressed at the VICH Outreach Forum will include:

- How to participate in VICH, including submitting comments on concept papers and draft guidelines
- Discussing practical issues related to VICH guidelines arising in the participants' countries/regions and providing feedback to the Forum
- Collaborating and sharing of translations of guidelines
- Providing feedback on acceptance of existing guidelines
- Detailed review of selected topics covered by VICH guidelines

Concept papers and draft guidelines for consultation will be distributed to non-VICH countries and regions through OIE and the VICH website.

The VICH Steering Committee supports the participation of VICH Outreach Forum members in VICH activities and will consider requests for involvement in guideline development by Forum participants.

In light of the discussions at the Forum meetings the VICH Steering Committee will review other questions arising and may add or amend tasks and roles or composition of the Forum.

Other relevant documents include:

- The VICH Organisational Charter
- The VICH Outreach Forum – topics that are out of scope