

The commitment of the EU Institutions against Antimicrobial Resistance & how to advocate with policymakers



Patient Empowerment Training

What we need to know about antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance

24/7 service

Date
Friday 27th January 2023

Time
18:30 - 20:00 hrs

Venue
Life Sciences Park,
San Gwann



Speakers

Mr. Mariano Votta (Director of Active Citizenship Network ACN & Board member of AMR Patient Alliance)

Prof. Michael Borg (Chair of the National Antibiotic Committee. Malta)

Take care of your Health for a better life

AMR
PATIENT ALLIANCE



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
CITTADINANZA *ATTIVA*

Faithing AMR: the commitment of the EU Institutions

2001: [Communication from the Commission on A Community Strategy Against Antimicrobial Resistance](#) on 4 key areas of action: **Surveillance:** *reinforcing accurate surveillance systems on antimicrobial resistance in the human and veterinary sector and the consumption of antimicrobial agents.* **Prevention of communicable diseases and infection control:** *to reduce the needs for antimicrobial agents.* **Research** and product development. **International co-operation:** *the antimicrobial resistance does not respect frontiers.*

2011: This policy was reinforced with the “[Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance](#)”, notable for its One Health approach, addressing AMR in both humans and animals.

2017: The [European One Health Action Plan against AMR](#) is motivated by the need for the EU to play a leading role in the fight against AMR and to add value to Member States’ actions. Its overarching goal is to preserve the possibility of effective treatment of infections in humans and animals.

Since 1999: the Commission has invested over EUR 1.3 billion in AMR research, making Europe a leader in this domain.

“One Health” according to the WHO definition

'One Health' is an integrated, unifying approach to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment. It is particularly important to prevent, predict, detect, and respond to global health threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together. This way, new and better ideas are developed that address root causes and create long-term, sustainable solutions.

*One Health involves the public health, veterinary, public health and environmental sectors. The One Health approach is particularly relevant for food and water safety, nutrition, the control of zoonoses (diseases that can spread between animals and humans, such as flu, rabies and Rift Valley fever), pollution management, and **combatting antimicrobial resistance** (the emergence of microbes that are resistant to antibiotic therapy).*

Among the global health problems, [AMR is the one that most clearly illustrates the One Health approach](#). AMR is a critical global problem affecting humans, the environment, and animals. This is related to each of these three components due to the irresponsible and excessive use of antimicrobials in various sectors (agriculture, livestock, and human medicine). Improper management of antimicrobials, inadequate control of infections, agricultural debris, pollutants in the environment, and migration of people and animals infected with resistant bacteria facilitate the spread of resistance.

The European One Health Action Plan against AMR

The key objectives of this new plan are built on three main pillars:

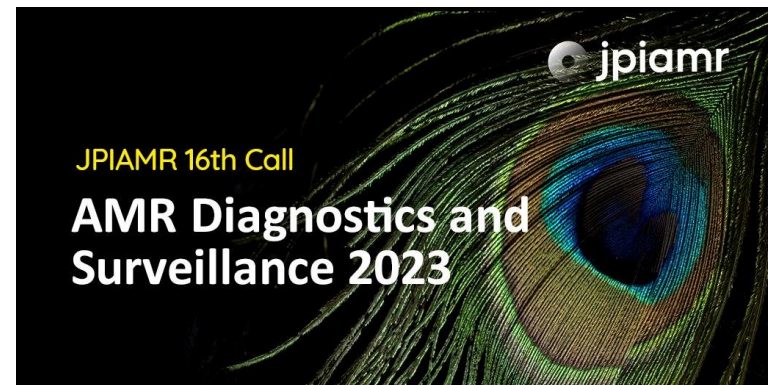
1. making the EU a best practice region: this will require better evidence, better coordination and surveillance, and better control measures. EU action will focus on key areas and help Member States in establishing, implementing and monitoring their own national One Health action plans on AMR, which they agreed to develop at the 2015 World Health Assembly;
2. boosting research, development and innovation by closing current knowledge gaps, providing novel solutions and tools to prevent and treat infectious diseases, and improving diagnosis in order to control the spread of AMR;
3. intensifying EU efforts worldwide to shape the global agenda on AMR and the related risks in an increasingly interconnected world.



EU main initiatives on AMR (overview)

- 2013: launch of the [New Drugs for Bad Bugs \(ND4BB\) programme](#), the world's biggest public-private AMR research partnership, forming part of the [Innovative Medicines Initiative \(IMI\)](#): *The EUR 650 million programme comprises 8 projects that are finding solutions to the scientific, regulatory, and business challenges that are hampering the development of new antibiotics.*
- 2017/2021: [Join Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections](#), a partnership of 44 partners and over 40 stakeholders, with the mission to foster synergies across all members using a One Health approach to influence policy to tackle Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections.
- [Ongoing since 2012: Joint Programming Initiative on AMR \(JPIAMR\)](#) with the aim to better coordinate and align worldwide AMR research efforts. JPIAMR is an international collaborative platform engaging 29 nations and the European Commission to curb antimicrobial resistance (AMR). JPIAMR coordinates national public investments from member countries and supports collaborative action seeking new knowledge and supporting solutions to decrease the burden of AMR with a One Health approach. To date, JPIAMR has supported more than 1600 researchers in 112 projects and 44 networks with funding about 141 million Euro.

16 Jan. 2023: The [call](#) is open! A joint research call on AMR diagnostics and surveillance! Est. budget: 18.8 Million Euro. 18 countries participate, providing funding for researchers in national contexts.





Advocating with Policymakers
and Other Stakeholders

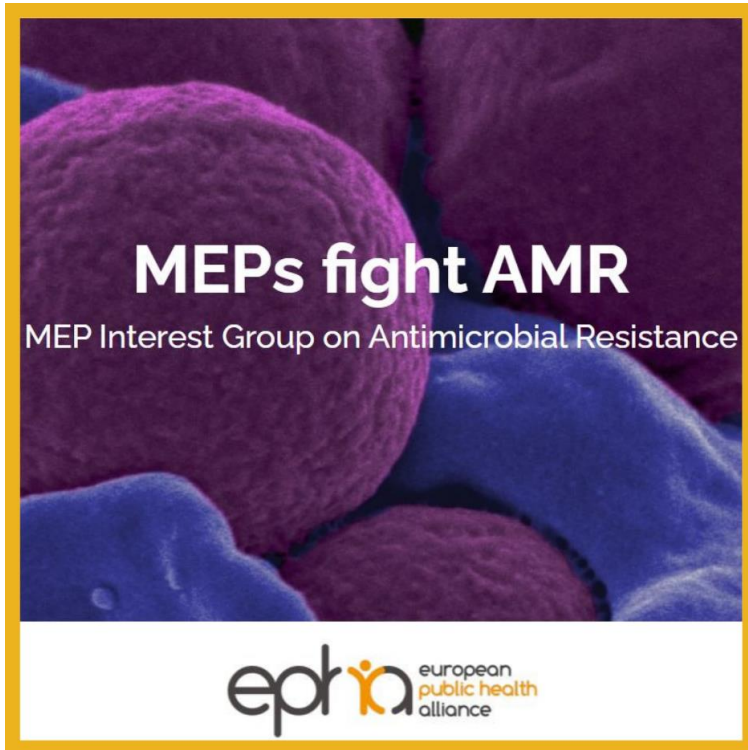
What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (1)

Open letter to the Members of the European Parliament on the importance to sustain EU progress in fighting against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

17 organisations active in human and animal health have sent an open letter to the Members of the European Parliament, urging them to bring antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to the forefront of EU interinstitutional discussions and to support the establishment of a dedicated AMR parliamentary group.

On September 2019, just after the European election of the new EU Parliament, 17 organisations active in human and animal health have sent an open letter to the newly elected Members of the European Parliament, urging them to bring antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to the forefront of EU interinstitutional discussions and to support the establishment of a dedicated AMR parliamentary group

What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (2)



To involve Members of the European Parliament from different countries and political groups with the support of non institutional actors



What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (3)

5th February 2019 - TOWARDS HIGHER PATIENT SAFETY IN EUROPEAN HOSPITALS. Innovation in hygiene and sanification to reduce healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance

08 February 2022



Sharing best practices to promote the value of innovation at the EU level

Involve other MEPs & Interest groups at the EU Parliament dedicated to the protection of public health and the respect of patients' rights

SAVE THE DATE

Driving Collaboration in the Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance

Going Further, Aiming Higher



ORGANIZED BY

Shionogi
with the support of
Active Citizenship Network



DATE & TIME

15 November 2022
11:00 – 12:30 CET



LOCATION

European Parliament
Room A3E-2

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has become a serious global health threat that places a significant burden on our healthcare systems, society and animal health. The planned revision of the pharmaceutical legislation and the

special emphasis of the current Council Trio Presidency on AMR sets the right conditions to convene policymakers, industry and civil society to discuss solutions to address unmet needs and drive innovation in the fight against AMR.

With the endorsement of the MEPs' Interest Group on European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare



What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (4)

The European Patients' Rights Day is an annual appointment to be celebrated each year across Europe as a common occasion to inform, discuss and commit to improving patients' rights in Europe and in each member State.

14th European Patients' Rights Day

ONE health approach MULTIPLE answers:
Citizens' engagement & stakeholders' actions to tackle antimicrobial resistance and sustain EU progress

DIGITAL CONFERENCE
Wednesday, 18th November 2020 - 17:00-19:00
Thursday, 19th November 2020 - 15:30-17:30

Hosted by MEP Brando Benifei, S&D group

The conference is realized thanks to the support of
MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Copma, Teva

Media partners: Advances in Health and Research, HEALTH EUROPA
Scientific support by: European Commission, Active Citizenship Network



To use fixed appointments on the European agenda, such as the European Patients' Rights Day, to reinforce messages on AMR



Active citizenship Network

Pubblicato da Luana Scialanca · 13 novembre 2020

Grazie

Eurodeputati PD per ospitare il 14° #EuropeanPatientsRightsDay e per sostenere il nostro lavoro per combattere #AMR e promuovere la #sicurezzapaziente.

Per saperne di più visita <https://bit.ly/3p2KtQA>

#EPRD2020... Altro...

⚙️ · Vedi l'originale · Valuta questa traduzione

ACTIVECITIZENSHIP.NET

Our policy on patient safety: focus on Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)...

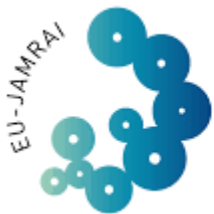
Our commitment on the topic Since its inception in 1978, Cittadinanzattiva Onlus has worked continuously to advocate for safer healthcare,...

Action
microbial Re
thcare-Asso

What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (5)



As a Member of the [EU-JAMRAI Stakeholder Forum](#), in November 2019, Active Citizenship Network (ACN) was invited to join the EU-JAMRAI contest jury for a symbol representing the global threat of antibiotic resistance. The EU-JAMRAI Antibiotic Resistance Symbol Contest was officially launched on November 18th 2019, in the framework of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day.



Joint Action
Antimicrobial Resistance and
Healthcare-Associated Infections

Support EU-JAMRAI activities, dissemination & follow up (Sept 2017/ Feb 2021).



EU-JAMRAI Publications and Results



Evaluation & Sustainability

What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (6)

Support to EU4Health programme for a healthier and safer Union linked to AMR

In 2022, ACN was officially appointed by the EU Commission as a member of the [HERA Civil Society Forum](#), the expert group of the HERA Advisory Forum, led by the European Health Emergency preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). The Civil Society Forum makes the interactions between interested parties easier and acts as a contact point between HERA and stakeholders representing patients, consumers and healthcare professionals.



The [Health Emergency Preparedness and Response \(HERA\)](#) department's mission is to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to health emergencies. HERA was launched as a new European Commission Directorate-General on 16 September 2021.

Strategic Orientation for HERA's 2023 Annual Workplan: About **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, HERA will further work on the priority list of resistant pathogens and a pipeline analysis for AMR medical countermeasures. Working closely with Member States, HERA will aim to improve the continuity of supply by stockpiling and early identification of demand surges or supply issues. HERA will work on establishing an EU strategy tailored to this need and incentivising the development and availability of countermeasures, both at regional and international levels, in line with the initiatives on AMR under the Pharmaceutical strategy for Europe. Funding will also be available through Horizon Europe to develop improved medical countermeasures (officially announced last December 8th, 2022).

What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (7)



Resistenza antimicrobica: una minaccia globale.
Cosa sapere per meglio affrontarla a livello locale

Seminario di formazione online
4 luglio 2022 | 16:30 - 18:30

Per maggiori informazioni, si prega di contattare: staff.rome@activecitizenship.net

Il seminario si terrà nel quadro del progetto AMR Patient Alliance - developing educational repository for patient and caregiver awareness of drug resistant infections promosso da

In collaborazione con

Con il supporto non condizionato di



Investing in training sessions (at the national & at the EU level) because each one of us, when well-informed, represents a good antidote to the spreading of fake news.



TRAINING SEMINAR



Towards higher patient safety in EU hospitals
Innovation in hygiene & sanification to reduce healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

4th February 2019 - 15:00-18:00
Thon Hotel EU, Brussels

The event is realized thanks to the unconditional support of



What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (8)

The screenshot displays the website for the AMR Patient Advisory Group. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "Our Concern", "The Statement", "Call to Action", and "Advisory Group". The main heading is "AMR Patient Advisory Group". Below this, four members are listed with their photos and affiliations:

- Mariano Votta**: Cittadinanzattiva/Active Citizenship Network
- Neda Milevska Kostova**: International Alliance of Patients' Organizations
- Christine Verini**: Cancer Care
- Thomas Heymann**: Sepsis Alliance

The AMR Patient Alliance logo is also visible on the right side of the screenshot.

The AMR Patient Group was officially launched on November 18th 2020, to coincide with European Antibiotic Awareness Day 2020; it is an initiative by Health First Europe and is comprised of national patient associations from across Europe.

Strengthen the alliance & enlarge the AMR constituency



About AMR Patient Group



The key objectives of the AMR Patient Group are:

- Raising patient awareness about AMR and healthcare-associated infections to help reduce antibiotic misuse.
- Building a consistent patient voice across Europe to advocate for national policies to tackle AMR and healthcare-associated infections.
- Broadening the AMR debate to include infection prevention and control measures.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

A Global Patient Consensus Statement and Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance



50+ organisations from 22 Countries

What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (9)

Interviews on generalist newspapers at the national level (i.e. [A](#) – [B](#) – [C](#), etc.) & publications on EU specialized health magazine

Section



FIGHTING THE AMR PARADOXES IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

Mariano Votta, Director of the Active Citizenship Network/ Cittadinanzattiva, and Neda Milevska-Kostova, Vice Chair of the International Alliance of Patients Organisations, discuss the threat of antimicrobial resistance in the context of COVID-19 and the recent European Patients' Rights Day, explaining that a One Health approach is being planned and that multi-stakeholder actions are required

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the ten most urgent threats facing global health, and yet it remains totally underestimated by much of the population. AMR is more dangerous than car accidents and even cancer. but is still not being prioritised at either

European branch of the Italian NGO [Cittadinanzattiva](#) (and for which Health Europa acted as a Media Partner) during the [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#), when the world turns its attention to this silent killer which is threatening to revert a century of medical progress

Publications in peer reviewed international journals



European MPs call for urgent action against antimicrobial resistance

It is estimated that AMR could lead to as many as ten million deaths each year by 2050



Review Article

World Journal of Clinical & Medical Images

Civil Society Engagement in The Fight Against AMR: From the New National Plan in Italy To the AMR Patient Alliance at The European Level

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Submitted: 27 Aug 2022; Accepted: 02 Sep 2022 Published: 10 Sep 2022

Citation: Mariano Votta, Maira Cardillo, (2022). Civil Society Engagement In The Fight Against AMR: From The New National Plan In Italy To The AMR Patient Alliance At The European Level, World J Clin Med Ing, 1(1), 62-67.

Abstract

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as one of the top 10 public health threats worldwide, as it compromises the ability to treat even minor infections and puts surgical procedures and other advanced, life-saving medical interventions at serious risk [1]. The year 2025 will mark 10 years since the adoption of the WHO Global Action Plan against AMR [2], and despite the progress made to date, there is still a need to initiate concrete and effective actions to eradicate this phenomenon, which is still too little widespread in the collective consciousness: it is no coincidence that some experts label it with the name "silent tsunami" [3], while others speak of a "neglected pandemic" [4], and already this is a message that should not be overlooked, and a more than valid reason to engage in the fight against AMR. In this regard, how to raise awareness, and what contribution can be expected from civic organizations and patients' advocacy groups (PAGs) in support of initiatives – both institutional and non-institutional – to counter AMR? This article illustrates an experience of civic activism that has managed to cross national borders from Italy.

What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (10a)



In Italy, the National Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (PNCAR) represents the tool to translate the national strategy into practice, providing a coordinated and sustainable direction to combat the phenomenon of AMR at national, regional and local level, through a "one health" multisectoral approach. Approved in November 2017, expired in 2020 and extended for 2021

On November 3, 2017, the PNCAR Technical Coordination Group (GTC) was established, with the task of coordinating, monitoring and updating the AMR National Countering Plan and Strategy, to harmonize the strategies already in place and facilitate the achievement of short and medium-long term goals. In addition to the stakeholders who drafted the Plan (Ministry of Health, Italian Medicines Agency, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, AIFA, ISS and Scientific Societies & Regions), the following took part:

- The Ministry of Economy and Finance
- The Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies
- The Ministry of the Environment
- Cittadinanzattiva

What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (10b)



In Italy, Farindustria has promoted the AMR multidisciplinary Task Force, involving representatives of the academic-scientific world, civic & patients associations, and pharmaceutical industry, to provide recommendations on combating AMR:

- Role of vaccine prevention as a tool to combat antimicrobial resistance;
- Value, access and innovation of new antibiotics against bacterial resistance;
- Appropriateness of use of antibiotics.

IL DOCUMENTO È STATO SOTTOSCRITTO DA:

AIPO - Associazione Italiana Pneumologi Ospedalieri
AMCLI - Associazione Microbiologi Clinici Italiani
CITTADINANZATTIVA
FADOI - Società Scientifica di Medicina Interna
FIMMG - Federazione Italiana Medici di Famiglia
FIMP - Federazione Italiana Medici Pediatri
FOFI - Federazione Ordini Farmacisti Italiani
GISA - Gruppo Italiano Stewardship Antimicrobica
SIAARTI - Società Italiana di Anestesia, Analgesia, Rianimazione e Terapia Intensiva
SIF - Società Italiana di Farmacologia
SIFO - Società Italiana di Farmacia Ospedaliera e dei Servizi Farmaceutici
SIHTA - Società Italiana di HTA
SIM - Società Italiana di Microbiologia
SIMG - Società Italiana di Medicina Generale e delle Cure Primarie
SIMIT - Società Italiana di Malattie Infettive e Tropicali
SIP - Società Italiana di Pediatria
SIP - Società Italiana di Pneumologia
SITA - Società Italiana di Terapia Antinfettiva, Antibatterica, Antivirale, Antifungina
SITI - Società Italiana di Igiene Medicina Preventiva e Sanità Pubblica



iniziativa promossa da

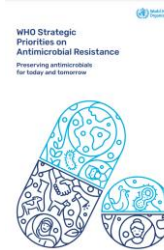


In Italy, the [new National Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance \(PNCAR\) 2022-2025](#) was transmitted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to the Ministry of Health and the Economy and to the Regions last [September 2022](#).

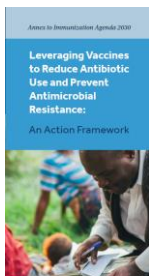
EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY

A EUROPEAN HEALTH INITIATIVE

Some pre-conditions



1. Mapping of the main institutional actors not yet engaged on the topic and, among these, the possible allies.
2. Knowledge of the main political programmes and documents and the commitments made by the institutions at national/European levels to monitor their implementation and urge compliance.
3. Witness your commitment and not only your interest in the topic.
- ✓ [What about your standing point & strategy on the topic? What about your CV on AMR?](#)
4. Knowing and exploiting civic participation spaces recognised by legislators and stakeholders to make your voices heard.
- ✓ [Conference on the Future of Europe](#) (2021/2022).
- ✓ EU Public consultation, i.e. on [“Global health – new EU strategy”](#) (27 June / 19 September 2022)
- ✓ October 4th, 2022: in Italy, [Action of Address](#) of the Ministry of Health that promotes associations or citizens and patients’ organisations’ participation in issues of health interest.
5. To know the fixed appointments already present in the calendar and in the political agenda as well as the promoters:
 - ✓ [European Antibiotics Awareness Day \(EAAD\)](#) is an annual event on November 18th. It was set up in 2008 by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.
 - ✓ It is linked to the [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#) promoted by World Health Organisation, which runs in 2022 from 18 to November 24th.
 - ✓ [Conscious use of antibiotics Day](#) (celebrated by the Ministry of Health in Italy during the EAAD).



A suggestion for 2023: to engage consumers' associations



To promote tailored actions to raise awareness on the issue of AMR also for all citizens as consumers:

- What is behind the "antibiotic-free supply chain" message?
- What about the difference between animal products being away from antibiotics "from birth" or "in the last 4 months"?
- What lies behind these labels, and why should they be considered for informed choices in all of our purchasing decisions?



THANK YOU!

Mariano Votta

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Director Active Citizenship Network

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