

Advocating with Policymakers and Other Stakeholders

*Pfizer AMR Patient Summit
Berlin 8-10 November 2022*



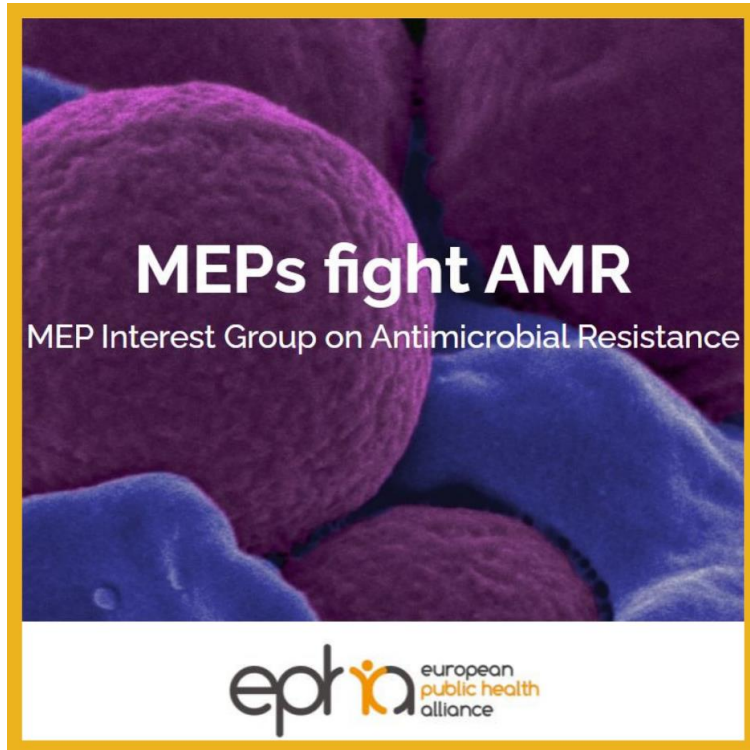
What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (1)

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 sanitation to reduce healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance

08 February 20



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 Nutrition, HEALTH EUROPA

Scientific support by: Active Citizenship Network, CITTADINANZA ATTIVA



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)...

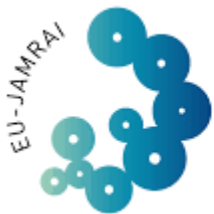
Our commitment on the topic Since its inception in 1978, Cittadinanzattiva Onlus has worked continuously to advocate for safer healthcare,...

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



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. (To be officially announced next 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



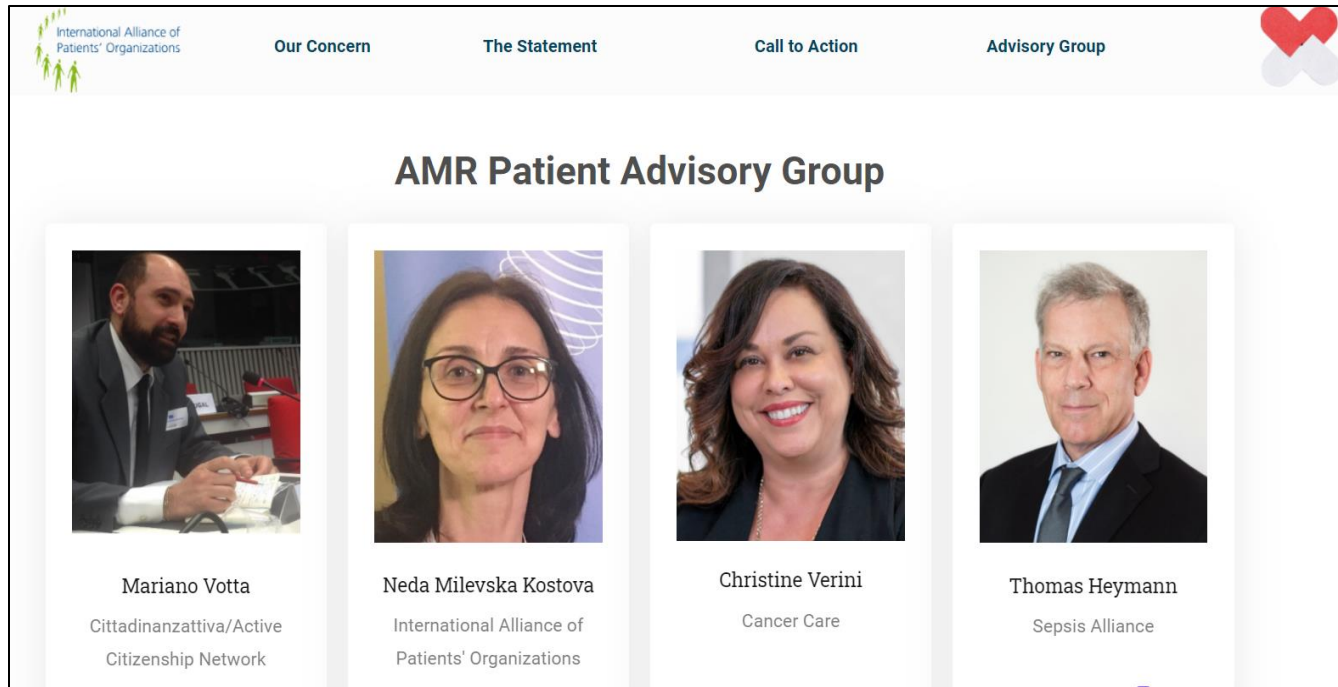
Towards higher patient safety in EU hospitals
Innovation in hygiene & sanification to reduce healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

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 shows 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 "Advisory Group" tab is selected. Below the navigation is a red heart icon. The main heading is "AMR Patient Advisory Group". Below this, there are four member profiles, each with a photo and text:

- 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 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



AMR
PATIENT GROUP



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



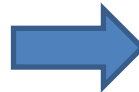
FIGHTING THE AMR PARADOXES IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

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



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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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.

Keywords: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Health Threat, Vaccination, European Union, Immunization, Patients' Rights, Civic Participation, Patients' Advocacy Groups (PAGs)

AMR in Italy & at the EU level: introductory overview
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious threat to global public health, economic well-being, and security. If no action is taken, it is estimated that antimicrobial resistance will result in a loss of \$100 trillion in economic output each year by 2050 and most importantly in the loss of 10 million lives worldwide [5, 6].

Before the pandemic, the phenomenon caused about 33,000 deaths in Europe each year from infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria: of these, more than 10,000, or one-third of the total, occur in Italy [7]. This is the sad record held by Italy, which tops the continental rankings for the number of deaths linked to antimicrobial resistance, according to a report published by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità on the occasion of the 2019 World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) [8]. Among the causes is certainly an inappropriate use of antibiotics, not only in the human but also in the veterinary field, and

still today the epicenter of this drama is the hospital, where a series of incorrect behaviors, such as infrequent hand washing by healthcare workers, also affect it. According to a study by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), in 2019 the risk - in Italy - of contracting infections during a hospitalization was about 6%. On an absolute level we are talking about 530 thousand cases each year, data that put Italy in last place among all countries in Europe [9].

To all this should be added that antibiotic consumption in Italy is higher than the European average (both at the territorial and hospital level, especially in the age groups between 2 and 5 years old and over 85 years old) and that, above all, in our country antibiotics are inappropriately prescribed in a quarter of cases, according to the 2020 National Report on Antibiotic Use in Italy, edited by the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA) [10].

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

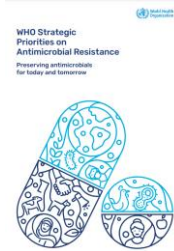


In Italy, the [new National Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance \(PNCAR\) 2022-2025](#) was transmitted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to the Ministry of Health and the Economy and to the Regions last [September 2022](#).

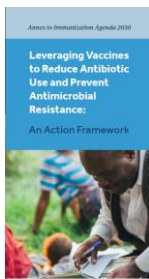
EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY

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).



Active Citizenship Network long term commitment at the EU level

Long-term
strategy not a
spot initiative

To bring the
patients & citizens'
perspectives

To raise awareness
among patients'
associations, advocacy
groups and EU
Institutions

To enlarge the constituency
and move towards a citizen AMR
alliance, in line with the One Health
Approach

To improve
access to safer
healthcare

[Click here to know more](#)

“Active EU citizens for AMR”

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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