

26 October 2023, Astana, Kazakhstan

Civil Society Joint Statement on the Roadmap on antimicrobial resistance for the WHO European Region 2023–2030

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) causes 35.000 deaths every year in the WHO European Region alone, posing one of the greatest threats to global health, food security, biodiversity, and development.

The Roadmap for Action on Antimicrobial Resistance for the WHO European Region represents an important step towards strengthening Europe's collective response to AMR, with One Health Approach as a guiding principle.

The European Public Health Alliance, on behalf of its members and other civil society organisations, welcomes the Roadmap for Action on Antimicrobial Resistance, and fully embraces its vision of people and animals safer from resistant infections by 2030.

As a complex health challenge, AMR requires the engagement and coordination of all stakeholders committed to improving human and animal health through ambitious policymaking. The participation of civil society is indispensable to achieve progress on the main pillars of the Roadmap, including the successful prevention, control, and surveillance of AMR, as well as the effective implementation of the AMR compass.

The undersigned European civil society organisations commit to the effective implementation of this roadmap by contributing to four key areas:

1. raising awareness among (and in collaboration with) citizens and healthcare professionals, patient organisations and policymakers, fostering their education on the prudent use of antimicrobials; this, among others, includes topics of infection prevention, surveillance and control, health literacy, correct disposal.
2. improving antimicrobial stewardship by sharing best practices in the healthcare sector and beyond, taking the inter-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder approach.
3. advocating for AMR prioritisation on the global agenda.
4. promoting transparent evidence-based policymaking through translating research into policy recommendations.

Furthermore, we call upon the WHO European Region Member States to promote the prudent use of antibiotics in all sectors by:

- investing into independent public research on the development of new antibiotics, and into innovative solutions for prevention, diagnostic and treatment strategies.
- supporting cooperation between public and private actors by providing incentives for innovation and by setting fair, goal-driven conditions for collaboration.

We call upon governments, international organisations, and the private sector to keep the One Health Approach to AMR a priority on their agendas. The health of humans, animals, and the environment are interlinked, and addressing AMR requires collective action that encompasses these three dimensions. Policymakers and citizens must cooperate to ensure accountability, transparency and equity in the design, implementation, and evaluation of such policies. AMR knows no borders. It affects us all, and only by working together, we can ensure that our collective efforts are effective, sustainable, and inclusive. We must leave no-one behind!

Furthermore, we call for the financing of new evidence to provide harmonised solutions at local, national, and international levels, to address the market's inability to meet patients' needs concerning the availability of essential antibiotics.

We also call for increased support and renovated investments in civil society organisations, recognising the pivotal role they have in raising awareness, bringing expertise and innovative solutions, advocating for policy change, as well as in monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.

The Roadmap is one big invitation to collaborate. Only by committing to taking comprehensive and decisive actions across sectors can we prevent future health crises and ensure the healthy living environments and well-being of our communities, our families, and future generations. Inaction is not an option.

On behalf of EPHA, its members, and other civil society organisations signing this statement, we pledge to continue working together with the WHO European Regional Office and reinstate the importance of involving the people in tackling AMR, with health equity as guiding principle.

Signatories:

1. EUROCAM
2. EuroHealthNet
3. European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations
4. European Federation of Nurses Associations
5. European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations
6. European Medical Students' Association
7. European Patients' Forum
8. European Public Health Alliance
9. World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists
10. International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation



European Forum of National
Nursing and Midwifery Associations
Европейский форум национальных
сестринских и акушерских ассоциаций



european public health alliance

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