

# AMR STAKEHOLDER NETWORK



TACKLING AMR TOGETHER

## The AMR Stakeholder Network within the EU Health Policy Platform<sup>1</sup>

### Terms of Reference

Agreed May 2020

Updated June 2021

These Terms of Reference (ToR) have been developed by the members of the AMR Stakeholder Network and define the network's objectives, activities, membership criteria and internal governance rules.

### About the AMR Stakeholder Network (AMR SN) within the EU Health Policy Platform

The AMR Stakeholder Network (AMR SN) within the EU Health Policy Platform brings together organisations and individuals committed to tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) at national, regional European and global level, covering all dimensions of the 'One Health' approach in the context of the wider Planetary Health aspects.

Established in 2017, within the [European Commission's Health Policy Platform](#) as a thematic network, the AMR SN, led by the European Public Health Alliance, aims to ensure that AMR remains high on the EU agenda during the European Commission's mandate 2019-2024. The AMR SN advocates for well-coordinated and resourced actions at EU level and in the Member States, aligned with the global work led by the World Health Organization, UN agencies and other actors.

**Stakeholder Networks** within the Health Policy Platform are networks approved by the Commission on a specific key health policy area and operate within the Health Policy Platform. The AMR SN was set up to follow up on the **Joint Statement<sup>2</sup> and Call to Action<sup>3</sup> on AMR**, which urges EU policy-makers to effectively implement the [EU One Health Action Plan against AMR](#).

### The Network's goals - Roadmap for Action

The Network is based on 5 key strategies and targets to tackle AMR, as defined by the [Roadmap for action on antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\)](#) developed in the 2019-2024 mandate.

The AMR SN Members call for the implementation of 5 key strategies and targets to tackle AMR:

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<sup>1</sup> The EU Health Policy Platform is a collaborative initiative to ease communication between European Commission services and health stakeholders. Its objectives are, among others, to provide a framework for dialogue and facilitate targeted discussions between the European Commission and stakeholders, ensure transparency in the health policy dialogue and contribute to building knowledge and expertise on public health issues. **For more information:** [EU Health Policy Platform](#)

<sup>2</sup> [https://epha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/antimicrobial-resistance-joint-statement\\_final.pdf](https://epha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/antimicrobial-resistance-joint-statement_final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://epha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/antimicrobial-resistance-call-to-action\\_final.pdf](https://epha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/antimicrobial-resistance-call-to-action_final.pdf)

1. Set targets and performance indicators
2. Put prevention at the heart of AMR policy-making
3. Help countries mobilise resources for better implementation of national AMR policies
4. Close the existing collaboration gap between civil society and EU policy-makers
5. Tackle the environmental dimension of AMR in the framework of the European Green Deal

## **The Network's objectives**

The AMR SN is a platform for sharing information and knowledge between different organisations committed to promote responsible use of medicines in humans, animals and plants through a One Health approach.

The network is not a lobbying entity, but a communication initiative including various organisations, institutions from many disciplines. It aims at facilitating connections and information-sharing to assist different members to align their advocacy.

### **The network's activities comprise:**

Widening the support for a One Health approach for fighting AMR by engaging the various stakeholders in Europe

- Ensuring that One Health and the fight against AMR remain high on European Union agenda and is considered in a wide range of decision making, following the principle of Health In All Policies.
- Supporting the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) of Member States by promoting and building consensus on the key EU priorities for tackling AMR in order to ensure financially well resourced, planned and implemented NAPs, with meaningful engagement of civil society.
- Supporting the EU to be a strong leader in Europe and globally in the fight against AMR.

## **Governance and Structure**

### **AMR SN Secretariat**

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) provides the Secretariat for the AMR SN. EPHA is responsible for

- **Hosting the Coordinator of the AMR SN.** The coordinator acts in an independent and transparent way to ensure implementation of these terms of reference and smooth coordination of all activities agreed by the network
- **Acting as the administrator of the thematic AMR Stakeholder Network within the EU Health Policy Platform (EU HPP) by:**
  - managing membership requests by redirecting EU HPP applications to complete the

- application form<sup>4</sup>
- updating the membership by adding/removing members reflecting the AMR SN decisions,
- making regular updates
- facilitating exchange of views on the EU HPP (This facilitation will include accepting European Commission civil servant users accessing the EU HPP who could also attend the AMR SN meetings, if they wish)
- **Hosting the external website** of the AMR SN<sup>5</sup>
- **Registering the membership** of institutional and individual members, following the AMR SN decisions<sup>6</sup>
- **Maintaining the internal database** of the AMR SN, including regular e-mail updates while fully complying with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- **Complying with the rules of this ToR** and making sure that the ToR are properly implemented in AMR SN communications and activities.

## Roles and responsibilities

*The AMR SN coordinator is responsible for:*

- the smooth functioning of the Network, including organisation of internal and external Network meetings; facilitating members' active participation in the network's activities
- the Governance of the Network, including processing the approval of new membership applications
- Liaising with AMR Stakeholder Network members in a transparent and independent way to ensure representation of all opinions and to facilitate consensus on positions and planning.
- Formulating and implementing proposals for advocacy actions, joint initiatives, statements, open letters, campaigns and follow up, according to the decisions made by the Network in full transparency
- Co-hosting the Secretariat of the MEP Interest group on AMR together with Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe
- Ensuring an open and fair dialogue with interested external organisations by organising *AMR Dialogue Platform* events (see below).

## Coordination of activities

Common communication and messages shall be agreed in advance. At least 15 working days must be provided to enable comments to be made for any suggested joint document. Members will be provided with at least another 15 working days to approve any final draft. If a concern is raised with the Coordinator of the Network in writing within this time frame, the document cannot be communicated. If

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<sup>4</sup>

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSconAjYfeDiHS2LL24t\\_u7nckIM6fZUuXZTAGsB8RTyaZURyw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSconAjYfeDiHS2LL24t_u7nckIM6fZUuXZTAGsB8RTyaZURyw/viewform)

<sup>5</sup> <https://epha.org/amr-stakeholder-network/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://epha.org/members-of-the-amr-stakeholder-network/>

no concern is raised within this timeframe, the document shall be considered to be approved by the AMR SN and can be communicated outside of the network.

Only agreed messages can be communicated on behalf of the AMR SN for example during events. Liaison with EU institutions, meetings in preparation of events and agendas and supporting the work of the MEP Interest Group on AMR is open to all members interested in contributing.

Regular meetings shall be scheduled at least 20 working days in advance. Draft agendas, consultation documents, calls for proposals, etc shall be circulated at least 10 working days in advance of meetings.

## **Membership**

The Network welcomes both public and private institutional members and individual members who wish to join efforts and work together to reduce AMR across Europe. Institutional members shall contribute to reaching the goals, objectives and targets of the Network, support the further development of the Network and actively contribute to the work/activities of the Network.

Institutional members are represented directly and shall communicate their contact person(s) with their contact data in writing to the Coordinator.<sup>7</sup>

If a contact person cannot participate in an AMR SN meeting, the institutional member representative shall communicate in writing to the Coordinator the individual who will participate in the meeting on their behalf in advance of the meeting.

While the Network is based on institutional membership, it also allows for individuals with expertise in the area of AMR, to contribute to the work of Network in their personal capacity, as individual members.

The Network is open to follow a dialogue with external organisations by organising AMR Dialogue Platform events.

*Institutional AMR Stakeholder Network members:*

- Form and decide the agenda and priorities of the Network
- Decide on messages to be used for communication
- Have the right to participate in internal and external Network meetings and events
- Have the right to vote, including in the election of new members and selection procedures
- Actively and constructively participate in the work of the Network
- Communicate and disseminate Network activities: joint statements, open letters, policy briefings etc.

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<sup>7</sup> By completing contact data for example here:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSconAjYfeDiHS2LL24t\\_u7nckIM6fZUuXZTAGsB8RTyaZURyw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSconAjYfeDiHS2LL24t_u7nckIM6fZUuXZTAGsB8RTyaZURyw/viewform)

### *Individual AMR Stakeholder Network members:*

- May participate in the regular SN meetings
- Have the right to participate in events
- May actively and constructively participate in the work of the Network following an invitation agreed by the voting members
- May communicate and disseminate Network activities: joint statements, open letters, policy briefings etc

### **Selection criteria**

- Institutional members, especially non-governmental organisations, international organisations, representatives of the private sector shall be registered in the EU transparency register. This criterion shall not prohibit national or regional authorities, universities and research organisations with a European focus to become members of the AMR SN, as long as the transparency criteria are met on their representation goals
- Members of the Network shall be represented directly and not by external persons or organisations. Exceptionally, if unable to attend an AMR SN meeting, members can only be represented by other members of the AMR SN
- Members should have relevant expertise and knowledge in the area of AMR
- Institutional members must officially endorse the [Roadmap for Action on Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#)

### **Selection process**

- Each application is subject to the following selection process.
- Applicants shall submit their application to EPHA by completing the application form, which will include basic information about the applicant (type of organisation, country and website, transparency register number, short presentation of their expertise and knowledge in the area of AMR, motivation to join the Network).
- The AMR Stakeholder Network Coordinator will verify that applicants fulfil the membership criteria.
- Only applicants approved by existing AMR Stakeholder Network members can become members. Applicants will be invited to attend an AMR Stakeholder Network meeting to present their application and answer questions from existing members.

### **Voting procedure**

The Coordinator will present the application to the Network in writing. The application and related information will be circulated to Network members at least 15 days before the next AMR SN meeting. Applying organisations are invited to present their organisation at a AMR SN meeting and discuss their application with the members. After the presentation and discussion with the applying organisation(s), the AMR SN will discuss the application and make a decision, organising an electronic vote if necessary. Institutional member representatives present at the meeting shall have the right to cast the vote on behalf of their organisations.

If voting is not possible during an AMR SN meeting, an electronic vote can take place as an alternative. Institutional members shall have at least 10 working days to cast their votes. The application is successful if 2/3 majority of the votes cast approve the application.

The Coordinator shall inform the applicant about the outcomes of the selection process.

### **AMR Dialogue Platform events**

AMR Dialogue Platform events are open to any stakeholder interested in the topic(s) and should aim to facilitate an open and fair dialogue between Stakeholder Network members and other interested organisations having relevant knowledge and expertise on AMR.

### **Background information**

Key documents endorsed by Network member organisations:

- EU Health Policy Platform - [Joint Statement on Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#) February 2018
- EU Health Policy Platform - [Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#) February 2018
- [Roadmap for action on antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\)](#)
- Website: <https://epha.org/amr-stakeholder-network/>

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