



Priority 5.3: Addressing the anti-microbial resistance challenge

Secure the EU's capacity for resilience and robustness in an era of permacrisis. The EU faces a converging set of crises, ranging from pandemics and geopolitical conflicts to climate change and socio-economic instability. It is essential to implement a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to create a strong healthy environment. A key component of this environment should be the promotion of health-focused research for implementation and innovation, given the cross-cutting impact of health on all areas of life. An important element should be the promotion of research and innovation in health. Furthermore, to secure people's ability to adapt and thrive in such challenging circumstances, the EU must:

- 5.3. Lead in the global fight against anti-microbial resistance (AMR), and actively collaborate with all involved sectors (One Health approach). AMR has been identified by the WHO as one of the leading global public health threats. The EU and its Member States should allocate the necessary resources and take action to scale up prevention and address the increasing burden of AMR in the EU and globally.

Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) is a challenge affecting people's health, but also the environment and planetary health. Strong leadership and cooperation are needed to make the issue a priority at the global level.

The EU as a global leader on AMR

A strong EU regulatory framework on AMR is in place, based on a One Health approach.

- The [Recommendation adopted by the European Council](#) on 13 June 2023, signals the strong political will of the EU to implement recommended measures and to strengthen cooperation. The EU should therefore continue to work towards **harmonising AMR regulations and standards** across the Member States and at all governance levels to ensure consistent approaches to surveillance, prevention, and control. It is crucial that **all** Member States develop a National Action Plan on AMR, as outlined in the Roadmap for Action on AMR, developed by the AMR Stakeholder Network.
- The EU must tighten regulations governing the **use of antibiotics** in both healthcare and agriculture. This means implementing strict guidelines for the prescription and administration of antibiotics to humans and animals, promoting responsible use. In addition, infection prevention and control measures across healthcare settings, veterinary practices, and agricultural operations should be developed.
- A **One Health approach** should be implemented, with a consideration of the environmental impacts related to the production and use of medicines, thereby fostering a more prudent use of antimicrobials, as outlined in the AMR Council Recommendation and the proposal to revise the pharmaceutical legislation.

- **Funding** should be allocated to research initiatives focused on understanding the mechanisms of AMR, developing new antibiotics, diagnostics, and therapies, and finding innovative solutions to mitigate the impact of AMR. Civil society should be included in such projects, to ensure the research findings are validated and implemented by those on the ground.
- Stakeholders from human health, animal health, agriculture, and environmental sectors should be actively and meaningfully engaged through the **AMR One Health Network** to collectively address AMR in a One Health approach. The EU AMR One Health Network fosters regular communication, data sharing and joint decision-making to ensure a holistic approach to AMR and healthier environments.
- **Global partnerships** should be forged to collectively address AMR on an international scale, including collaboration with international organisations, governments and stakeholders to share best practices, coordinate efforts, and develop unified strategies against AMR. This also means keeping AMR at the centre of the EU's Global Health Strategy, advocating for more global cooperation and including AMR in the WHO international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, currently being negotiated.
- The adoption of **import rules** that support better health for the EU and the world should be accelerated. The way in which EU trade regulation on veterinary antibiotics use can encourage more responsible use globally should also be explored.

Addressing the dire challenge of AMR through improved knowledge and data

Increased data, knowledge and public awareness are needed to handle the global threat that is AMR:

- The EU and its Member States should continue setting quantitative and **measurable targets** and make sure they are implemented. This is an effective way to achieve goals related to the prevention and reduction of AMR at all levels of governance. The key targets for 2030, laid out in the [EU Council Recommendation on AMR](#), from June 2023, are paving the way, with the aim of achieving a 50% reduction in EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and for use in aquaculture, as already set out in the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#).
- The EU should establish and strengthen a sophisticated **surveillance system** for tracking the emergence and spread of AMR. This includes implementing rapid diagnostics and tracking antibiotic usage and resistance patterns in both human and animal populations.
- Comprehensive **public awareness campaigns** should be launched to inform citizens, healthcare professionals, veterinarians, and the agricultural sector about the implications of AMR, emphasising the importance and value of responsible antibiotic use, the risks of overuse, and the need for collective action. The threat from AMR should also be included in medical and veterinary curricula, as well as training programmes for healthcare professionals.
- Secure **data sharing platforms** that allow real-time information exchange on AMR trends, treatment outcomes, and resistance mechanisms across different sectors and countries should be established.



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