



Collaboration for Success



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between animal and
human medicine there
are no dividing lines
- nor should there be"

*Rudolf Virchow (1821-1902)
German physician and pathologist*





HISTORY, IN THE MAKING...

The One Health European Joint Programme (One Health EJP) is a unique international, multidisciplinary collaboration between institutes across Europe. It was launched in January 2018 with the primary objective of working with the One Health concept to address current and future issues surrounding public health, animal health and environmental health.

The origins of One Health go as far back as 1855 when Rudolf Virchow founded comparative pathology, which could be seen as the origin of the One Health concept. Building upon this, Calvin W. Schwabe argued in the twentieth century against compartmentalisation in medical research, using the term 'One Medicine'. The term One Health was then popularised in 2004 by the Wildlife Conservation Society at a conference in New York, and its use has continued to evolve since then.

The One Health concept is a collaborative, transdisciplinary and multisectoral approach which works at a local, regional, national and international level. Its goal is to achieve optimal health outcomes while recognising that people, animals and the environment are interconnected.

In the European Union, collaborations between the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) highlight the value the One Health approach.

Public health, animal health, food safety, and environmental agencies, at regional and global levels, increasingly follow the One Health concept to tackle public health issues that require an interdisciplinary approach.

The One Health approach has also been adopted by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in order to tackle key global health issues. These global organisations are also represented in our stakeholders committee to ensure all One Health needs are aligned.





History of the One Health EJP

The One Health EJP arose after the successful outcome of the Med-Vet-Net 6th Framework Programme project. In 2009, Med-Vet-Net evolved into the Med-Vet-Net Association. In the coming years, several of the Associations' founding members recognised the need to continue collaborations. Subsequently, on receipt of funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme the One Health EJP was launched in January 2018.

Our Consortium

Our landmark partnership facilitates the alignment and integration of 37 acclaimed European public health, food and veterinary research institutes from across Europe and with the Med-Vet-Net Association as a partner. At the heart of the partnership is to deliver important multisectoral research to attain optimal health and wellbeing outcomes for humans, animals and the environment. We do this in close connection with the related European and national authorities responsible for public health and risk analysis.

As a consortium, we have established strong links to both national and international stakeholders and through the One Health EJP we have opened up opportunities to inform policy change.

To deliver on our ambitions, a governing and management structure identified seven key areas that would contribute to the successful delivery of the One Health EJP objectives. These include coordination, scientific strategy, research, integration, stakeholder relationships, training and sustainability.

While the One Health EJP is 5 years in length, we recognise that it is essential that our scientific outputs and dissemination activities are impactful and long-lasting for the advancement of One Health.





COORDINATING OUR ACTIVITIES

The One Health EJP had a clear vision from the start, and we needed a strong coordination team to enable us to realise our ambitions. Our consortium partners, Anses in France and Sciensano in Belgium lead the One Health EJP coordination and are responsible for all our overall contractual obligations and ensure that all of the reporting requirements from the European Commission are met.



The Coordination team bears the challenge to ensure an as-smooth-as-possible management of the project at the service of optimizing production of the science and for a greater impact on society."

Arnaud Callegari
Work Package 1 Leader
ANSES

The success of the One Health EJP depends on the way the project is organised and coordinated. Three main bodies manage the One Health EJP:

- **The Programme Managers Committee** is the overall governing body of the One Health EJP and consists of the directors of our partner institutes. They monitor the progress of our activities, propose ideas and make decisions in line with our consortium agreement.
- **The Scientific Steering Board** is responsible for offering scientific advice and monitoring the One Health EJP scientific activities. They also led the selection of our research projects.
- **The Project Management Team** is responsible for the day to day running of the consortium and coordination of activities.

We also have the Programme Owners Committee which is composed of representatives from national authorities (mainly ministries of health and agriculture) who gave mandate to each of our partners to participate in the One Health EJP. We actively keep this committee informed of our activities and outcomes.

These interactions at multiple levels allow us to keep various stakeholders up to date with the progress of the One Health EJP, while ensuring optimal internal communication, thus enabling us to be reactive and dynamic.

The emergence of zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance across Europe and globally has led to continuous adjustments to the way policymakers and authorities address such threats. Our consortium is unique and aims to use its multidisciplinary partners from animal health, public health and food safety to advance One Health research, cross-sector integration and collaboration to improve preparedness in line with the "Prevent-Detect-Respond" concept.

Effective communication throughout the project is crucial to achieving our goals and fulfilling our potential. We communicate our news to the triad of human health, animal health and environmental health to a diverse global audience. Our dissemination activities highlight our impact and successes.



OUR SCIENTIFIC STRATEGY

The direction, purpose and scope of our scientific strategy are determined by our Strategic Research Agenda.



The SRA provides the basis for the OHEJP scientific activities and is the starting point for both forging strategic interactions with other EU projects and initiatives and for developing a sustainable One Health strategy for the future.”

*Arjen van de Giessen
Work Package 2 Leader
RIVM*

We set out to address the needs of the European agencies European Centre for Disease Prevention (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). ECDC and EFSA are independent agencies established by the European Union which are committed to strengthening the EU's response to infectious disease and foodborne illness, both in humans and (production) animals. These European agencies were established to be a source of scientific advice and communication for infectious disease and food safety issues.

We consulted with them during the creation of our Scientific Research Agenda ensuring that research aims were aligned, research was not duplicated and gaps in existing knowledge and methodologies were addressed sustainably.

The Scientific Research Agenda dictates our key research areas: foodborne zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and emerging threats. Each is addressed using a cross-disciplinary One Health approach which considers human, animal and environmental health.

During the process of defining the Strategic Research Agenda, five key priority scientific topics were identified, including analytical methods, host-microbe interactions, epidemiology, risk assessment, intervention, in addition to the need of integrative activities to develop multi-disciplinary resources across Europe.



RESEARCH ALIGNMENT

At the heart of the One Health EJP are the 29 scientific research projects which are aligned with our Scientific Research Agenda.



The joint Research Projects are an excellent means of bringing young and experienced scientists together and thus creating a solid basis for collaboration, also beyond the One Health EJP."

***Hein Imberechts
Work Package 3 Leader
SCIENSANO***

The research needs of our stakeholders are at the forefront of the consortium's focus and all projects address the gaps in scientific knowledge in accordance with key priority research topics.

Each of the projects also creates a unique network of institutes across the EU with wide-ranging expertise to achieve objectives using a cohesive One Health approach. We bring together expertise in public health, animal health and environmental health and use integrated approaches to solve complex global issues.

The Joint Research Projects began in 2018 and 2020. Project proposals needed to demonstrate that they addressed at least one of our key research areas, encompassed at least one of the key priority topics and demonstrated a strong collaborative effort across our European partner institutes.

This collaboration also strengthened our aims for enhancing transdisciplinary cooperation and integration of activities, building capacities, sharing methodologies, surveillance data, and the harmonisation of procedures. By harmonising approaches and building trust across partners, we aim to improve cross-sector collaboration across borders.

Our Joint Research Projects also offer our PhD students a unique extended support network of experts. We aim to ensure that all of our PhD students have the best opportunities and One Health training to facilitate better and more sustainable research



INTEGRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Our Strategic Research Agenda specifically identified integrative activities as a priority topic for addressing foodborne zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and emerging threats.

A key aim of the One Health EJP Joint Integrative Projects is to develop joint resources across the three health domains to encourage a solid One Health approach to tackling foodborne zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and emerging threats.

Joint Integrative Projects serve as a foundation to increase knowledge for better outcomes and to foster strong collaborative relationships. This creates an environment to potentially have a worldwide impact and can inform policy change nationally and internationally.

The harmonisation and creation of tools that can be used across different health sectors will promote the use of a One Health approach to contribute to the prevention, preparedness, detection and response of threats to public health.

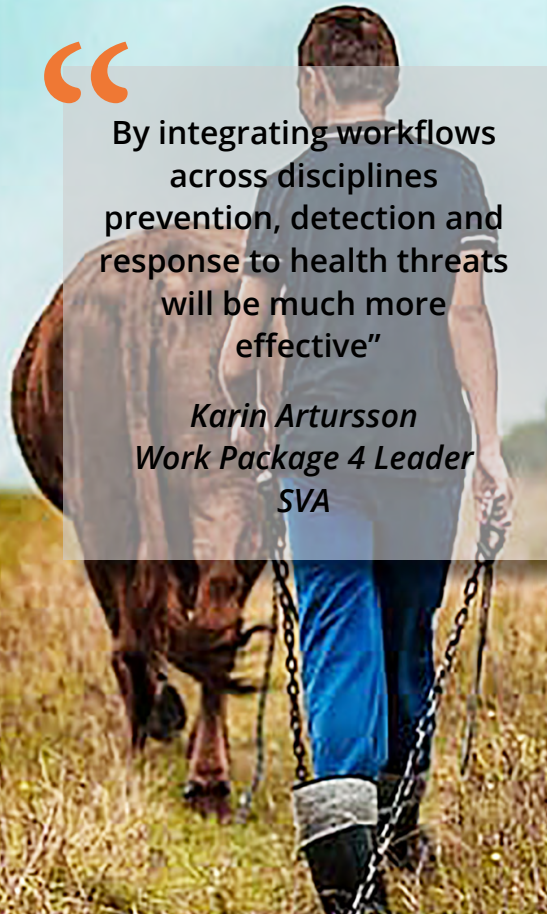
Five Joint Integrative Projects have been funded by the One Health EJP each with the same overriding aims and objectives.

We also recognise that data management plans are also a key aspect for the integration of research and the data it generates. Successful data management plans ensure that all data generated by the One Health EJP are open access and adhere to the FAIR principles: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable. Combined with communication, having a data management plan improves data dissemination and impact.



By integrating workflows across disciplines prevention, detection and response to health threats will be much more effective”

Karin Artursson
Work Package 4 Leader
SVA





TRAINING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ONE HEALTH SCIENTISTS

Education and Training is a fundamental component of the One Health EJP. To ensure our approach is sustainable we support young researchers with a multitude of learning and training opportunities. We recognise that the next generation has new, innovative ideas and should be both supported and encouraged.



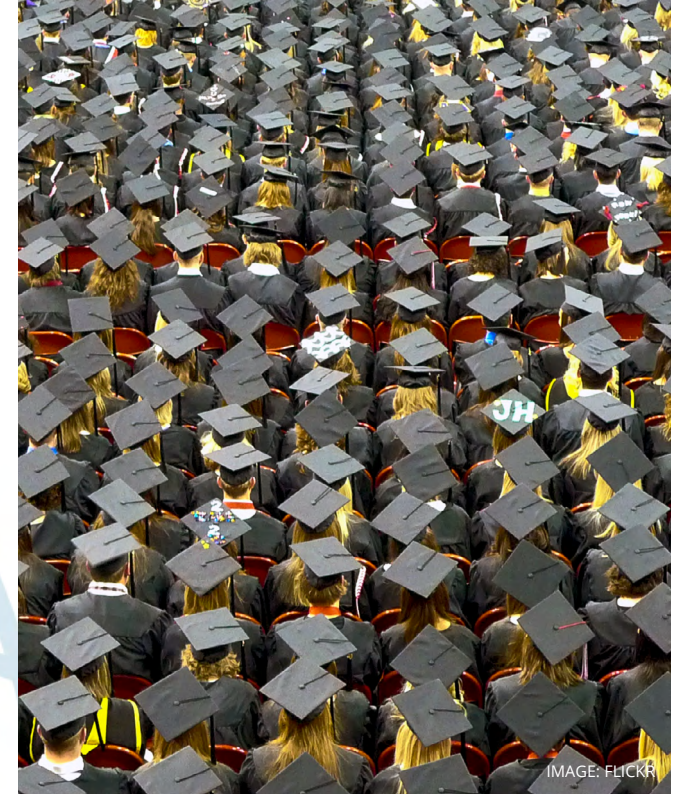
“The innovative OHEJP training and education programme aims to develop the One Health leaders of the future, in order to improve animal, human and environmental health.”

***Roberto La Ragione
Work Package 6 Leader
University of Surrey***

Our Education and Training activities bring together students, early-career researchers and key experts from our extended network of European consortium partners and our global stakeholders. All are leaders in the human, animal and environmental health fields and offer insight into their specialism openly and engagingly.

Activities are designed to reinforce collaboration and integration across multiple disciplines and some of our events are open to global audiences to increase our impact and promote learning and knowledge sharing from all corners of the globe. This not only improves the learning experiences associated with our events, but fosters strong working relationships and friendships. The most important ambition of the One Health EJP training strategy is to foster an interdisciplinary framework, which is a key aspect of One Health.

Through the various platforms and learning opportunities, we aim to train future One Health scientists.





SCIENCE TO POLICY TRANSLATION

Stakeholder engagement is a fundamental aspect of any large project such as the One Health EJP. When writing our Strategic Research Agenda, stakeholders were consulted to ensure that our outcomes add value and address the identified priority One Health challenges in the EU.



Building on plenty of important outcomes from our strong interdisciplinary collaboration within One Health EJP, it is our pleasure to contribute to short and long-term impact through efficient science-to-policy translation ”

***Annemarie Kaesbohrer
Work Package 5 Leader
BfR***

We ensure that all of the One Health EJP's scientific outcomes reach the right audiences through our targeted dissemination activities to help drive forward the translation of science to policy. We also want to ensure the sustainability of our outcomes beyond the lifetime of the project.

Dialogue with our stakeholders is a productive activity, and our stakeholders have developed strong collaborative relationships with many of our projects.

ECDC and EFSA have been involved since the start of the One Health EJP in 2018. Since then, other European and international stakeholders have joined our Stakeholders Committee, namely: The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO-EURO), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA). We also collaborate with other EU funded projects. We have also collaborated with EU funded projects which have ended, are collaborating with ongoing projects and looking forward to cooperation with newly funded projects.



SUSTAINABILITY AT OUR CORE

The One Health EJP continues to foster strong relationships and create a solid basis to continue, improve and consolidate integrative actions beyond the lifetime of the project in a sustainable way. Our focus on sustainability explores ways to sustain long-term One Health research and innovation.



OHEJP is the ongoing EU scientific action focussed on One Health; ensuring its long-term sustainability means to support the development of a cutting-edge One Health, able to tackle emerging issues and the complexity of human-animal-environment relationships.”

*Alberto Mantovani
Work Package 7 Leader
ISS*

Sustainability is at the core of all our activities to ensure ways to leave a legacy beyond the 5 year project. A One Health approach is widely recognised as good practice for sustainable research to tackle global health threats.

A key aim of all of our scientific activities is to foster relationships, create collaborations and facilitate integration to achieve a truly One Health approach to addressing foodborne zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and emerging threats. The integrated, cutting-edge model developed by the One Health EJP could also be applied to other global problems, such as risks driven by climate changes.

Our sustainability objectives, drivers and constraints regarding the successful implementation of the One Health concept will be investigated to ensure that it can be effectively and sustainably applied to fulfil the needs of the human, animal and environmental health sectors.

The collaborations we initiate and relationships that are formed throughout the project will have a long-lasting impact and continue to influence One Health research and policy beyond the project.