

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

## Terms of Reference

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This Terms of Reference (ToR) document defines the objectives, activities, membership criteria and internal governance rules of the AMR SN Network.

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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](#)

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

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

Established in 2017, within the EU Health Policy Platform (EU HPP) as a thematic network, the AMR SN, hosted by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), aims to ensure that AMR remains high on the EU agenda, advocating 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 EU HPP are networks that are approved by the European Commission (EC) on a specific key health policy area and operate within the EU HPP. The AMR SN was established to support the implementation of the EU One Health Action Plan against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to follow up on EU-level commitments, including the Joint Statement and Call to Action on AMR, which asks for coordinated and effective action across sectors.

This framework is further informed by the five-year review of [Member States' One Health National Action Plans](#), which identified inconsistencies in implementation and areas requiring further action, and by subsequent [Council Recommendations](#) setting out strengthened governance and coordinated action across human, animal and environmental health sectors.

The AMR SN contributes to the implementation and follow-up of these commitments, including efforts to support their translation into operational measures and to facilitate monitoring of progress, according to the EC's [Monitoring Framework](#).

A comprehensive evaluation of the EU One Health Action Plan on AMR is expected in 2027, providing a key reference point for assessing progress and reinforcing alignment with EU strategic objectives.

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## The Network's objectives

The AMR SN is a platform for information and knowledge exchange among organisations committed to promoting the responsible, evidence-based use of medicines in humans, animals and plants, in line with a One Health approach. It brings together diverse stakeholders across sectors and disciplines to support coordination and alignment, while not acting as a lobbying entity.

The Network pursues the following objectives:

- **Strengthen collaboration and alignment across stakeholders** by facilitating regular exchange, sharing knowledge and good practices, and creating opportunities for members to coordinate positions and approaches.
- **Promote the One Health approach in AMR policy and practice** by engaging stakeholders across sectors and governance levels, and by supporting the integration of AMR and One Health considerations into EU decision-making processes, in line with the Health in All Policies principle.
- **Contribute to EU leadership on AMR in Europe and globally** by facilitating exchange on strategic priorities, amplifying shared messages, and supporting coordinated input from members into relevant European and international processes.

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## Governance and Structure

### AMR SN Secretariat

EPHA, as the Secretariat for the AMR SN, is responsible for:

- **Coordinating the AMR SN**, ensuring the smooth functioning of the Network, including organisation of internal and external Network meetings and facilitating members' active participation in the Network's activities. Internal meetings are held on quarterly bases.
- **Liaising with the AMR SN members** in a transparent and independent way to ensure representation of all opinions and to facilitate consensus on positions and planning.
- **Formulating proposals for advocacy actions, joint initiatives, statements, open letters and campaigns** and following up with their implementation according to the decisions made by the Network in full transparency.
- Administering the AMR SN within the EU HPP by:
  - managing membership requests and redirecting applications to the appropriate AMR SN application form;
  - sharing regular updates; and
  - facilitating exchanges on the platform, including granting access to relevant European Commission staff and enabling their participation in AMR SN meetings where appropriate.
- **Hosting and maintaining the AMR SN external website.**
- **Managing membership records**, including the handling of new membership applications, the approval of new members, and the removal of members where appropriate.
- **Maintaining the internal database**, including regular email updates, in full compliance with GDPR.
- **Ensuring compliance with these Terms of Reference** and supporting their regular review and update every three years.

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## **Coordination of activities**

Regular quarterly meetings will be scheduled at least 10 working days in advance. Draft agendas, consultation documents, call for proposals will be circulated at least 5 working days in advance of meetings.

Joint messages will be agreed in advance. Members will have at least 10 working days to provide input on draft documents, followed by 5 working days for final approval. If any concerns are raised in writing to the Network Secretariat during this period, the document will not be shared until the issue is resolved. If no concerns are raised, it will be considered approved and can be communicated externally.

EPHA, as host and coordinator of the AMR SN Secretariat, serves as the default representative for communicating the Network's agreed positions, including at events and in engagements with EU institutions. Where specific expertise exists within the Network's membership, members may be invited to contribute to or represent the Network in relevant meetings and activities.

The AMR SN and its Secretariat contribute to and engage in a range of formalised dialogue and coordination initiatives relevant to antimicrobial resistance and One Health, including:

- co-hosting the Secretariat of the MEP Interest Group on AMR in collaboration with Health Care Without Harm Europe;
- participating in the Steering Committee of the WHO Civil Society Task Force on AMR;
- chairing the Stakeholder Forum of the European Partnership on One Health AMR (EUP OH AMR);
- contributing to the EC AMR One Health Network biannual meetings;
- engaging with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), including activities linked to World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW); and
- participating in the European Board for Agriculture and Food (EBAF)

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and other stakeholder processes hosted by the EC.

## Membership

The Network brings together members who are evidence-driven and committed to advancing the health of people, animals and the environment. It aims to reflect a broad range of expertise across sectors (such as human health, food, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals) and across stakeholder groups (including public institutions, governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector) as well as different geographic levels (local, national, regional, and European).

Membership is open to organisations only. Each organisation may nominate up to three individual representatives, whose details must be provided in the application form, together with signed Conflict of Interest (CoI) forms for each representative.

For large organisations (such as national or regional authorities, agencies, research institutes, or universities), the maximum of three representatives shall apply per department, research group, or organisational unit. Each such unit must be clearly identified in the application form.

Any changes to the nominated representatives shall be communicated promptly to the Secretariat, including a CoI form for any newly designated individual.

Each organisation will also designate one of its representatives as the main contact point, who will exercise voting rights on behalf of the organisation.

AMR Stakeholder Network members:

- Form and decide the agenda and priorities of the Network
- Decide on messages to be used for communication
- Actively participate in Network meetings and events
- Have the right to vote, including in the selection procedure
- Shall actively and constructively participate in the work of the Network
- Shall communicate and disseminate Network activities: joint statements, open letters, policy briefings etc.

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## **Selection criteria**

- **Relevant expertise and knowledge in AMR:** Member organisations must demonstrate substantial and demonstrable expertise in the field of AMR or closely related areas. This includes a proven track record of research, policy development, implementation of programmes, advocacy, or technical contributions relevant to AMR and/or the One Health approach.
- **Commitment to evidence-based practice:** Applicant organisations must demonstrate a clear commitment to evidence-based approaches in their work on AMR. For the purpose of the AMR SN, “evidence-based” refers to the systematic, transparent and reproducible use of the best available evidence, prioritised according to recognised standards of scientific quality and hierarchy (e.g. systematic reviews, meta-analyses and high-quality primary studies). Evidence must be derived from independently verifiable sources, including peer-reviewed literature, validated datasets and assessments from recognised public or scientific authorities.
- **Transparency standards:** Member organisations are expected to be registered in the EU Transparency Register. This requirement does not preclude national or regional authorities, universities or research organisations with a European focus from becoming members, provided they meet equivalent transparency standards in their representation.
- **Direct representation:** Member organisations must participate in the Network in their own capacity and may not be represented by, or act through, other organisations. Each member organisation is responsible for appointing its own designated representatives, who act on its behalf and are accountable for representing its views and positions within the AMR SN. Members of the Network shall be represented directly and not by other organisations.

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## ***Selection process***

Organisations interested in joining the AMR SN must submit an [application form](#) to the Secretariat (EPHA), including relevant organisational details and expertise in the area of AMR.

The Secretariat reviews all applications to assess eligibility against the membership criteria. Eligible applications are shared with members at least 10 working days before the next AMR SN meeting. During this period, members may raise any comments or concerns with the Secretariat.

Following the vote, the Secretariat informs both the applicant and the Network of the outcome. Successful applicants are invited to join the subsequent AMR SN meeting.

Approved membership remains valid until the next revision of these Terms of Reference, which takes place every three years. As a result, the duration of membership for newly admitted organisations will vary depending on when their application is approved within this three-year cycle.

## **Funding**

The work of the Secretariat of the AMR SN, hosted by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), is supported through the EC-funded EUP OH AMR project, and the Oak Foundation-funded NodeConnect project.

## **Secretariat of the AMR Stakeholder Network:**

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