



Science-to-policy translation in the One Health EJP: from gap-driven research to dissemination and impact

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INTRODUCTION

The One Health European Joint Programme (One Health EJP) is a partnership between 43 public health, animal health, and food safety institutes and the Med-Vet-Net Association, that focuses on foodborne zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, and emerging threats. The One Health EJP aims to improve preparedness, detection, and response to One Health issues by enhancing collaboration, integration of activities and harmonisation of approaches. While conducting gap-driven research is a central activity within the One Health EJP, efficient science to policy translation mechanisms are in place to ensure the produced outcomes are used and have an impact. A dedicated Work Package (WP) of the One Health EJP focuses on science-to-policy translation.

METHODOLOGY

One Health EJP partner institutions have mandates from their national or regional authorities. Activities of the consortium follow a prioritised Strategic Research Agenda that addresses identified needs of both national and international stakeholders, and the scientific work aims at closing prioritised knowledge gaps. Tools of formal interaction with relevant EU and international stakeholders are consolidated and constantly adapted. An important component of the dialogue with the stakeholders is targeted dissemination of outputs of the consortium to national, European, and international decision/policy makers via reports and meetings. The targeted dissemination to stakeholders complements the general dissemination and communication activities of the consortium, responds to efficient identification of stakeholders' needs, and is tailored in terms of content and language to appeal to the specific audiences. Additional support is provided by an accessible Outcome Inventory and published following the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) principle.

RESULTS

The Stakeholders Committee of One Health EJP is one of the main exchange fora. It covers international organisations across the field of One Health (ECDC, EFSA, EEA, EMA, FAO, OIE and WHO-EURO). Dedicated links to point of contacts are established within each organisation, allowing productive dialogue both in regular meetings and at other times. Given particular interest in themes of the meeting, additional representatives of the stakeholders' organisations are welcome to join. This combination of flexibility together with having dedicated contacts, ensures that the dialogue and dissemination activities reach the right persons in the stakeholders' organisations. Dialogue with the stakeholders and identification of their needs guides targeted dissemination, including thematic reports and dissemination workshops. Impact is also achieved by providing ad hoc support.

DISCUSSION

The One Health EJP contributes to the prevention, detection, and response to One Health issues including foodborne zoonotic threats at the national and European level by supporting 1) evidence-based policy decisions by contributing to risk assessments, and 2) practical and sustainable implementation of the consortium's outcomes. Engagement with stakeholders is crucial to gain perceived and measurable impact. The One Health EJP also gathers policy intelligence, which will shape post-One Health EJP initiatives in the field of One Health. In parallel, the solutions developed and the lessons learned from the international, multidisciplinary One Health EJP will support stakeholders' future initiatives in light of the increasingly important One Health paradigm. Science-to-policy is at best a dialogue.