

How to strengthen the One Health education in the Veterinary Higher Education context – the approach implemented at Egas Moniz

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Introduction

As the human population continues to grow and our relationships with animals continue to strengthen, understanding the interdependencies of humans, animals, and the environment becomes more critical.

The **education for One Health** – namely, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration – demands an **educated workforce** trained in its principles and application if it is to be successful.

Methodology

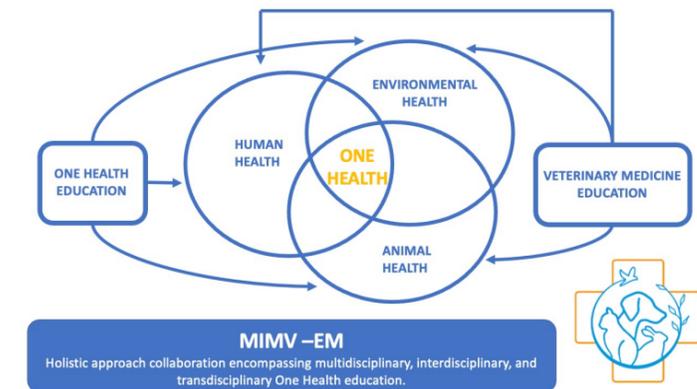
To ensure that One Health is well implemented and understood throughout teaching and research, IMVM-EM is developing and implementing a quantitative survey to map how interdisciplinary teaching and research is well understood and implemented for the One Health approach:

- Questionnaire-based approach, comprising both multiple-choice and open questions to collect data on the integration of interdisciplinary collaboration in undergraduate and post-graduate education and research projects.

The focus will consider: the interaction with other educational establishments and professions; learning more about the way of integration of One Health concepts in the different curricula; an understanding of the difficulties and challenges faced with the implementation of this novel teaching model; and the academics' perception of the value of such a teaching model, by collecting views on the seen or expected benefits for the students, the profession, and society.

Results

IMVM-EM is involved on the education of its students, at the service of improving health conditions for the global society and aims to contribute to the expected multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives desired in the education of One Health. Here, transversal issues that in traditional curricula are covered in silos, here they are transversally approached, supported by educational strategies as problem-based learning activities. Integrated approaches and selection of case studies that properly cover the One Health contents are carefully selected by a team of professors, having a multidisciplinary and complementary background.



Conclusions

Several indicators show that One Health is an integral part of the curriculum in most of the Veterinary Degrees in Europe. However, Veterinarians and other professions are still being educated mainly in isolation, with minimal interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary interaction.

At Egas Moniz we strongly believe that One Health approach in Veterinary Education has to be more than a good knowledge of prevention and control of diseases, epidemiology, use of medicines, food safety, ethical responsibilities, animal health and welfare, and sustainable farming. The Integrated Master in Veterinary Medicine has been structured and implemented, awarding the **responsibility for the education and preparation of 21st century veterinarians**, where One Health concept is imprinted on its "DNA". Thus, the concept of One Health has captured the enthusiasm of the IMVM-EM by seeking to improve animal and human health through stronger **interdisciplinary collaboration and a holistic approach that demands an open collaboration encompassing multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary education.**