



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Bulgarian Food Safety Agency



THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) IN BULGARIA

Veterinary sector



Bulgarian Food Safety Agency



DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO COMBAT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

- A working group was set up by order РД 11-2287/21.11.2016 of the Executive Director of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) to draw up a plan for the fight against antimicrobial resistance in the veterinary field;
- The draft of the plan covering the period up to 2021 was prepared in June 2017 in accordance with the principles of the One Health approach, providing joint measures and actions with other state institutions, research institutes, universities and branch organizations;
- Draft of the NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE – Veterinary and Food Sector (1.10.2018) - accepted by the Executive Director of the BFSA and published on the BFSA website www.bfsa.bg.



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- The latest revisions of the NATIONAL ACTION PLAN were done following the conclusions and advice after a visit by representatives of the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and of the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) under the One Health Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) from 15 to 19 October 2018.
- This visit is a catalyst for improving communication between the responsible institutions in Bulgaria and the creation of an interagency Working Group for the preparation of a National Strategy to Combat AMR.



DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO COMBAT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

- Order of the Minister of Health RD-02-46 / 03.04.2019 to form a working group to develop a NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT AMR IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2020-2024;
- The working group consisted of policy makers and experts from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Ministry of environment and water, the Ministry of education and Science, the National Centre of Infectious and Parazitic Diseases, the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, the Bulgarian Drug Agency, the National Health Insurance Fund, the Risk Assessment Center on Food Chain, representatives of professional unions of physicians and pharmacists, general practitioners, microbiologists and other specialists.

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- The working group received the support and cooperation from the World Health Organization and the National Action Plan was developed on the basis of the template of the World Health Organization, presented to the working group by the – Dr. Danilo Lo Fo Wong - Programme Manager for Control of Antimicrobial Resistance, WHO;
- A Draft was prepared in June 2019 and currently is under internal discussion within the Ministry of Health units and experts since the human aspects of AMR were added to the veterinary and food sector part and the operational plan and budget need more work to achieve agreement in the field of human medicine.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN STRATEGIC GOALS

- **The plan sets out 6 strategic goals as follows:**
- 1. Raising public awareness and knowledge of the risks of developing antimicrobial resistance through effective communication, education and training.
- 2. Enhancing and strengthening the database, knowledge and evidence obtained through observation, monitoring and research.
- 3. Reducing infection cases through effective sanitary measures, good hygiene practices and preventive actions.
- 4. Optimizing the trade and use of antimicrobials.
- 5. Coordinating measures and actions and antimicrobial resistance monitoring and reporting system.
- 6. Achieving the primary objectives of the Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan through sustainable investment in various interventions.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

- Within the competence of the BFSA for the implementation of these strategic goals, the plan outlines the relevant strategic actions and specific operational activities related to animal health and welfare, feed control, control of VMPs and food control.
- An Expert Council was set up in BFSA to coordinate the implementation of the BFSA action plan in the veterinary and food sector since October 2018.
- More information on the BFSA website - www.bfsa.bg



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES

Information, education and training

- Preparation of information brochures for distribution by professional organizations;
- Publishing of educational videos on the BFSA website related to the fight against AMR;
- A seminar was held in June 2019 - training of inspectors responsible for the control of the VMPs from all 28 regional directorates of food safety on AMR issues concerning the control of the VMPs;
- A meeting is to be held between the BFSA and the management of the two faculties of veterinary medicine in Bulgaria to discuss the possibilities of supplementing the subject with AMR issues in student educational programs (by the end of October 2019).

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES

Laboratory capacity and research

- Improving and expanding laboratory capacity of the AMR National Reference Laboratory (AMR NRL) – MIC method accreditation, preparation for implementation of PCR and WGS of particular isolates;
- Training of the staff and quality control in AMR – EURL AR, Lyngby, Denmark – 2018 and 2019 – WGS of AMR isolates;
- Research – Participation in EFFORT project, sponsored by EC 2013-2018;
- Horizon 2020 – One Health EJP – 3 research projects – 2 of them related to AMR 2018 – 2023;
- National research projects – sponsored by own funds – BFSA, Faculties of Veterinary Medicine 2018 – 2020.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES

Database, knowledge and evidence

- Commission Implementing Decision (2013/652/EU) on the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria – collecting fecal and meat samples from broilers, pigs and bovines under one year of age.
- Testing *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter jejuni*, commensal *E.coli*, ESBL/AmpC/Carbapenemase producing *E.coli*.
- Reporting to EFSA from 2014 up to now;
- European Antibiotic Awareness Day – in November, starting from 2016 and organizing meetings of experts from medical and veterinary sectors.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES

Effective sanitary measures and preventive actions

- Stricter biosecurity requirements and stricter control on their implementation initiated with regard to the prevention and control of Avian Influenza and African Swine Fever – ongoing legislative amendments with effect also on AMR.

Optimizing the trade and use of antimicrobials in the veterinary field

- Priority sampling of antimicrobial VMPs for analysis under the VMPC Quality Control Program in veterinary pharmacies;
- Guidance for Prudent Use of VMPs;
- A draft amendment to the Veterinary Law - enabling stricter control by the BFSA in the wholesale, retail trade and the prescription of antimicrobial VMPs.

DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

- Lack of resources, including financial resources, needed to carry out the activities envisaged;



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

