



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health and food audits and analysis
Health protection

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AMR ONE HEALTH NETWORK
SUB-GROUP ON NATIONAL ACTION PLANS meeting of 7 JULY 2021

MINUTES

1. Welcome and introduction

The chair of the AMR One Health network welcomed all those who could attend virtually and thanked Member States for their feedback on the [AMR One Health Network Virtual Meeting of 25 March 2021](#).

During this meeting, the Commission Services aims at presenting Member States with the next steps in the process of review of their AMR national action plans (NAPs) and provide an opportunity for discussion and sharing of experiences. This event was organised in a short space of time to avoid compromising the tight execution schedule of this project. Nevertheless, the high number of participants, from all relevant areas of work across the Member States is a very positive note that reflects the interest in the topic.

Various agencies, the Commission and Member States are currently exploring ways in which to be part of the initiative to revamp the One Health Network. The Directorate-General for Health and Food safety (DG SANTE) are working on the next Plenary One Health Network meeting, which will likely be scheduled for early 2022.

2. Establishing the Sub-group

The Commission launched the sub-group of the AMR One Health Network following the network meeting of 25 March 2021. Comments from Member States, in relation to establishing this sub-group, were taken into account. This subgroup, chaired by DG SANTE F5, will focus on the development of the NAPs and in particular on the review to be carried out by the Commission services. The sub-group will meet twice, i) today, to present the methodology for the review, and ii) before the summer of 2022 to discuss the main findings of the review process. It is key to ensure Member States' participation from a One Health perspective, either by being represented by national coordinators and/or by representatives of the main areas: human health, veterinary/food safety and environment.

The 2022 meeting is expected to be longer in duration (i.e., 1.5 to 2 days, dedicating more time to sharing Member States' experiences and to presentations on support mechanisms).

Some Member States asked for information on the next meeting to be sent well in advance (i.e., a *save the date* sent 6 months in advance was requested) as there are many conflicting meetings.

3. Introduction to the review

The Commission presented the review of NAPs, proposed at the AMR One Health Network meeting of 25/03/2021. Member States were invited to comment on this initiative and such comments were taken on board when preparing the methodology of the review. It was explained to the participants that the process will be a documentary review of Member States' NAPs, therefore it will not look at implementation issues, which would reduce considerably the involvement and burden on Member States. This review will take place over a short period of time, providing a snapshot of the state of development of the plans in all Member States.

The Commission stated that this exercise will comprise all Member States' NAPs, and not only a sample. On the added value of this review, the Commission indicated that it is part of the overall exercise to identify gaps and to give indications on how better to support Member States.

An overview report will be produced in 2022 which, together with the next meeting of this subgroup, will provide an opportunity for Member States to discuss gaps, identify areas for further support, and also to enhance further their exchanges in the context of the AMR One Health network.

A note was sent to all participants, in advance of this meeting, to introduce the approach to this review including information on timelines of the process and the review criteria to be used. A list of publically available NAPS was also provided and Member States were informed that a formal invitation would be sent requesting an update on the information of their NAPs and national contact points (NCPs). These NCPs will be crucial for future communication and coordination.

4. EU support mechanisms for development and implementation of NAPs

The Commission presented the EU programmes and mechanisms that can support the development and implementation of NAPs, in particular: the EU4Health Programme, which includes several actions linked to AMR; some project examples financed under the EU structural funds in the period 2014-2020; the Cohesion Policy funds in the period 2021-2027; the Recovery and Resilience Facility; and the InvestEU programme. Additionally, the Technical support Instrument from DG REFORM has already covered support to the implementation of the One Health action plan on AMR in one MS.

Additional information on WHO's training will be distributed to participants.

5. The review process – scope of the review, timelines and consultations with Member States

The Commission presented the methodology for the review of NAPs, to be carried out between September 2021 and February 2022. This documentary review will focus on the

documents that integrate Member States' NAPs (e.g., strategic plans, operational plans etc.) applicable on the 1 September 2021.

It will not cover the implementation of the NAPs and no requests for self-assessments and bilateral meetings with Member States are foreseen in order to avoid burdening Member States. The expected contribution of Member States to this process is to verify the preliminary list of NAPs for review, provide updated information on documents that constitute the NAP and indicate the national contact point(s) by 31 August. The translation of NAPs will be done by Commission services (machine translation).

Member States will have the possibility to comment on the preliminary review and provide clarifications on any pending questions.

The Commission services will produce an overview report on the NAPs and present the preliminary conclusions of this report at the next meeting of this subgroup.

Member States will be formally invited to submit updates of their NAPS by 31 August.

6. Review tool

The Commission presented the review tool, to be used by Commission services. This tool aims to enable a common approach by Commission service reviewers to increase uniformity. It takes into account the WHO Global action plan (5 objectives), [TrACSS survey](#) and the ECDC self-assessment tool, and was developed in consultation with DG SANTE, DG ENV and ECDC services. The tool is divided into sections and, where relevant, these are divided by sectors to capture the One Health dimension (human health, veterinary/food safety and environment).

7. Belgian national action plan "One Health" to combat antimicrobial resistance

Belgium presented their NAP, focusing on coordination. The NAP "One Health" includes intersectoral coordination between human, animal and environmental sectors but also a framework of coordinated actions between Federal, regions and communities. The importance of policy and stakeholder dialogue was emphasised as well as the actions taken both in human/veterinary medicine, environmental sector and One Health actions.

8. Dutch AMR policy - A One Health Approach

The Netherlands presented their AMR policy, focusing on the one health approach. The scope of the approach was described as well as the involvement of the public health, agriculture and environment departments. For a One Health perspective, coordination is key. It also covered the challenges of maintaining commitment to the AMR response as a shared responsibility.