EU HEALTH AWARD for NGOs fighting Antimicrobial Resistance
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Foreword

by Vytenis Andriukaitis
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Antimicrobial resistance is a slow moving global train presenting a huge threat to health, health systems and our economy. It remains my priority to take action to avert it both at the EU level and globally, with the help and commitment of NGOs.

As a trained medical doctor, I am well aware of the huge overuse of antibiotics – nearly half of all the prescriptions of antibiotics are unnecessary. If this trend is not reversed, one day soon even the smallest infections might become life-threatening – which for most of us have become a thing of the past. We thus need to act urgently on this!

AMR is the quintessential One Health issue, with its effects originating at the interface between humans, animals and their environment. This is the reason why, given the cross-border nature of AMR, a strong EU voice globally remains vital. I would like to see the EU as the best practice region in the field of antimicrobial resistance, supporting and encouraging other countries to develop their own national action plans on AMR. I want antibiotics to be used properly and responsibly, both when treating human illnesses and when rearing livestock. I want a greater attention for the research and development of new antibiotics, as well as alternatives to antimicrobials. And to help achieve these objectives I expect a greater involvement from the EU NGO’s.

Therefore, the European Commission’s EU Health Award for 2016 puts the spotlight on the best NGO initiatives that address this looming threat. In total, there were 23 candidate NGOs from across the EU that were considered for the prize. I would like to thank the Jury who had a challenging task of selecting only three winning initiatives.

It is not winning that matters. What matters is that we all work together to address this important threat. Every effort counts. It is therefore my pleasure to showcase in this booklet all the shortlisted initiatives. All of them have provided us with valuable examples of the best practices that will undoubtedly contribute to a more prudent use of antibiotics.

My warmest regards,

Vytenis Andriukaitis
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Introduction

Within the general context of the EU Health Policy Platform, the EU Health Award aims to recognise non-governmental bodies which are achieving a positive change in their community. It celebrates their commitment and raises awareness of their vital role in strengthening active citizenship in public health.

The award was set up to identify initiatives of international, European, national and regional non-governmental bodies which have made a significant contribution to promoting a healthier EU and higher levels of public health. The specific themes of the award differ every year.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is one of the most challenging threats to human health. Our figures point to 25,000 deaths as the result of drug resistant infections result in an estimated 25,000 deaths and 1.5 billion euros in healthcare costs and productivity losses in the EU each year. The problem of AMR is increasing worldwide with an estimated 700,000 deaths per year globally due to resistant infections. Challenges exist in hospitals but also in the community or on farms. A ‘one health’ approach is therefore required to effectively tackle this growing challenge.

In 2016, the second edition of the EU Health Award highlights and rewards the efforts and achievements of NGOs and their outstanding initiatives which have significantly reduced the threat to human health from antimicrobial resistance within the European Union.

This award was designed not only to reward past engagement but also to encourage the pursuit of their work.

The European Commission awards the prize on the basis of a proposal from an EU Jury consisting of public health specialists and representatives of EU non-governmental bodies chaired by the Commission. Shortlisted initiatives were announced at the annual European Antibiotics Awareness Day on 18th November 2016, in Brussels, which has developed into a platform of global reach, in line with the Commission’s «One-Health» approach to AMR.

The three winners were announced together with the winners of the Horizon Prize from DG Research and Innovation, on 6th February 2017.

Applications from across the European Union were examined against strict eligibility and selection criteria, and reflect the considerable interest of NGOs in European cooperation on health issues.
This booklet compiles statements of the three winning organisations on their mission and objectives, together with descriptions of their initiatives. The shortlisted initiatives are also presented.

The European Commission has selected the three winning initiatives as notable models for the future, while recognising and commending the efforts of them all. These NGOs have provided us with best practice examples that will certainly help to protect Europeans against the clear and present dangers resulting from AMR.

**First Prize: BEUC/The European Consumer Organisation**  
**Antibiotic Resistance "From Farm to You"**

BEUC has advocated for better rules regulating the use of antimicrobials to ensure they remain effective when needed, in both animal and human medicine. It raised awareness about the underlying causes of AMR to reverse the trend by e.g. a position paper on antimicrobials use in livestock, discussions around the revision of the EU veterinary medicines and medicated feed laws as well as a series of tests showing a high prevalence of antibiotic resistant bacteria in raw meat products.

**Second Prize: Alliance to Save our Antibiotics – Compassion in world Farming – Soil Association**  
"Alliance to Save our Antibiotics"

The Alliance’s over-arching objective is to achieve a reduction in use of antibiotics in livestock farming in the EU, by 50% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050. It is calling for an end to the routine prophylactic mass-medication of herds of animals before any disease has been diagnosed. It also calls for bans on all preventative use of ‘Critically Important Antibiotics’, and all group treatment with these antibiotics. The success of the campaign includes a shift in farming systems to practices which build animals’ natural immunity through higher welfare practices, rather than routine antibiotic use.

**Third Prize: World Alliance Against Antibiotic Resistance WAAAR**  
"Acting to Preserve Antibiotics"

The WAAAR has focused on intense lobbying and provoking awareness among all stakeholders as well as applying pressure on authorities to engage in appropriate action to limit the surge and spread of multi-drug resistant pathogens. While its primary focus was on antibiotic resistance its initiative also expanded to cover the prevention of Ebola as well as protection from AMR in the context of HIV/AIDS.
Chair - Dr. Isabel de la Mata

Dr. Isabel de la Mata is the Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis Management in the European Commission. Previously, she worked as Counsellor for Health and Consumers at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU, as Deputy Director General for Health Planning at the Spanish Ministry of Health, as Advisor to the Vice-Minister of Health, and other posts at national and regional level.

In addition, she has been a member of the Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee, and has worked with WHO, the Pan-American Health Organisation, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

Dr. de la Mata graduated in Medicine and Surgery at the University of the Basque Country in 1983 and holds post-graduate degrees from the University of Leuven and Paris VI. She is a specialist in Preventive Medicine and Public Health.

Dr. Andrea Ammon

Dr. Andrea Ammon, MD, MPH, took over as Acting Director on May 1st and will continue until a new director takes office. Andrea joined ECDC as the Head of the Surveillance Unit in 2005. From April 2011 to April 2015, Andrea Ammon was Deputy to the Director and Head of Unit for Resource Management and Coordination.

Prior to joining the ECDC, Dr. Ammon served in several roles at the Robert Koch-Institute, in Berlin, Germany, notably as Head of Department for Infectious Disease Epidemiology. In this capacity, she maintained and further developed the German national surveillance system; directed the national Field Epidemiology Training Programme; coordinated epidemiological research programmes in infectious diseases, and provided scientific advice for government Ministries, Members of Parliament, and the public.

Dr. Draghia-Akli

Dr. Draghia-Akli is Deputy Director-General for Research & Innovation at the European Commission, responsible for the Research Programmes. She serves as the Commission representative in the Governing Boards of most Joint Technology Initiatives of the EU with different industrial sectors. Dr. Draghia-Akli joined the European Commission in 2009 as Director for Health Research in DG RTD in 2009. She has contributed considerably during these past years to the successes of the ‘Health’ Programme. She holds a MD degree and a PhD degree in human genetics from the University Carol Davilla, Romania. Before joining the Commission, Ruxandra worked in biotechnology companies, as Vice-President managing research programmes in the area of gene therapy and DNA vaccination.
Ms Outi Kuivasniemi

Ms Outi Kuivasniemi is the Deputy Director for International Affairs at the Ministry for Social Affairs and Health in Finland. Her focus is on global health and social policy, and she is an expert in global governance and financing. Ms. Kuivasniemi has been a member in a number of WHO Working Groups, especially ones relating to financing, governance and NCDs. She has previously worked on the coordination of EU affairs in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Lately, Ms Kuivasniemi has been actively working on improving global health security, including AMR, through the Global Health Security Agenda (which Finland chaired in 2015), acting as Finland’s focal point, and leading the work on establishing the Alliance for the Country Assessments for Global Health Security and IHR Implementation.

Prof. Guido Rasi

Professor Guido Rasi began his second term as Executive Director of EMA on 16 November 2015. From November 2014 to mid-November 2015, Professor Guido Rasi served as EMA's Principal Adviser in Charge of Strategy. From November 2011 to November 2014 he was the Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency. He was Director-General of the Italian Medicines Agency from 2008 to 2011 and member of the Management Board from 2004 and 2008. He was made professor of microbiology at the University of Rome ‘Tor Vergata’ in 2008. From 1990 to 2005 Professor Rasi worked at the Institute for Experimental Medicine of the National Research Council, Italy. Professor Rasi holds a degree in medicine and surgery, with specialisations in internal medicine, allergology and clinical immunology, from the University of Rome.

Dr. Marc Sprenger

Dr. Marc Sprenger is a medical doctor and expert in infectious diseases, epidemiology and global health. He has been Director of the antimicrobial resistance secretariat at the World Health Organization in Geneva since 2015. From 2010 till 2015, Sprenger was Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). From 2003 till 2010, he was Director General of the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). As Director of Health (1999-2003) of the Dutch National Healthcare Insurance Board, he was tasked with advice on health care system and insurance issues. Dr Sprenger studied General Medicine at University of Maastricht, and specialised at Erasmus Medical Center (Rotterdam). He obtained a PhD in Epidemiology at Erasmus University.

Dr. Anna Zorzet

Dr. Anna Zorzet is the head of the European office of ReAct - Action on Antibiotic Resistance, hosted by Uppsala University. She also coordinates ReAct’s program on “Gathering and Translating Evidence” - translating scientific evidence into policy action on national, regional and global levels. Dr. Zorzet completed her PhD in medical microbiology with a focus on antibiotic resistance at Uppsala University in 2010. She then moved into the policy field when she joined ReAct, in January 2011. Recent publications include work on how to overcome scientific and structural bottlenecks in antibacterial discovery and development and antibiotic use worldwide. She is also working with many regional and international networks on ABR, the WHO and is on the Stakeholder Advisory Board for the EU Joint Programming Initiative on AMR.
The WINNERS
1st PRIZE

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)

WEBSITE: www.beuc.eu/

Antibiotic Resistance: “From Farm to You”

CAN WE TRUST OUR MEAT?
BEUC (The European Consumer Organisation) defends the interests of all European consumers and represents 43 independent national consumer organisations from 31 European countries. BEUC acts as their umbrella group in Brussels.

This NGO was a pioneer and one of the first lobbying organisations to set up base in Brussels in a bid to influence the decision-making process. The intense pressure on decision-makers from the multitude of lobbyists working on behalf of commercial interests, regional representations, trade unions and many others highlights the need for BEUC to have a strong presence in Brussels.

BEUC is acknowledged as a trustworthy representative. Furthermore, policymakers and stakeholders dealing with BEUC can be sure that the position they present has received the backing of the most influential national consumer organisations. Through BEUC, these organisations are able to speak with one voice. This NGO supports the empowerment of consumers through competitive markets, but only if complemented by health and safety safeguards. In addition, BEUC aims for regulatory measures to protect consumers’ economic and legal interests.
BEUC and its members campaigned to increase awareness about antimicrobial resistance. With 25,000 people in the EU dying from antimicrobial resistance every year, it is urgent to act. If nothing changes, life-saving antibiotics might no longer be effective. In the last few years, public health authorities have warned consumers against immediately taking antibiotics as soon as they fall ill. BEUC believes this attitude should be expanded to farming practices too, as antibiotics are often overused or misused in livestock.

With this aim in mind, BEUC developed two tools. Firstly, BEUC created an infographic which illustrates how bacteria can become antibiotic-resistant and spread from farms to humans through the environment. This infographic was novel in that it did not emphasise numbers and percentages but rather focused on the process itself. The tool also highlights practical tips for consumers.

Secondly, BEUC linked the infographic to a set of concrete policy demands in the shape of a medical prescription. This visual aimed to remind legislators that the health of consumers is in their hands and they have the power to help fight anti-microbial resistance.

Finally, BEUC drew attention to the issue of overuse and misuse of antibiotics in livestock on European Antibiotic Awareness Day, held every November 18. The NGO urged European institutions to restrict the use of antibiotics in livestock in order to curb resistance and protect human health.

BEUC’s campaign to this end has demonstrated that consumer organisations from all across the EU can speak with a single voice and put together a set of crucial policy demands to be applied at the European level. BEUC members’ strong coordinated action has also been instrumental in fighting the cause at national level.

Furthermore, this campaign has attracted interest and support from a wide range of organisations (including international food safety authorities). This has given BEUC the opportunity to build strong connections with organisations working in the fields of human, animal, and environmental health.
ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE - FROM FARM TO YOU

We all need antibiotics that work – for both humans and animals. But overuse and misuse has spurred resistance, meaning the efficacy of antibiotics has severely diminished.

We know we should go easy on antibiotics, but did you know this should apply to animals too?

HOW RESISTANCE DEVELOPS AT FARM LEVEL

Like humans, farm animals carry bacteria.

They are often given antibiotics - even when they’re not sick.

But the more antibiotics are used, the higher the risk bacteria become resistant.

HOW RESISTANCE SPREADS

Resistant bacteria get passed on by meat, but non-meat eaters are also exposed. Bacteria can spread via contaminated animal manure or water used to grow food crops, via air into the environment, or via farm workers exposed to animals.

IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH AND SOLUTIONS NEEDED

Antibiotics might not cure you when you need them.

What you can do at home:
- Cook meat thoroughly
- Wash your hands after handling raw meat, especially before you touch foods to be eaten raw
- Always defrost meat in the fridge

But that’s just a drop in the ocean. The biggest task is at farm level.

We need tough political action. Here’s our prescription.
Alliance to Save our Antibiotics

WEBSITE: www.saveourantibiotics.org/

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND AGRICULTURE
STEPPING BACK FROM THE BRINK
Established in 2009 by 3 NGOS – Compassion in World Farming, the Soil Association and Sustain – the Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics is campaigning to end the overuse of antibiotics and related drugs in farming across Europe, in order to safeguard their efficacy for human health.

Today, the Alliance comprises 63 organisations from across the EU, which span health, medical, environmental, animal welfare and civil society sectors.

The Alliance’s primary focus is on ending the routine, purely preventive mass medication of group of livestock. They are also calling for dramatic curbs to farm use of antibiotics classified as ‘critically important’ for humans. The Alliance holds that routine antibiotic use is not necessary for the successful rearing of livestock, and promotes the adoption of animal welfare-related measures that can reduce the requirement for antibiotics in the first place.
The Alliance’s work is underpinned by a campaign strategy which is based on a five-point methodology. Firstly, the Alliance provides evidence and scientific analysis on the association between the veterinary use of antibiotics and resistance in human bacterial infections. The work of the Alliance in this area has contributed a great deal to the emergence of a broad consensus on the scale of this problem and the need for greater action from the veterinary sector.

Secondly, the Alliance seeks to expand its membership within the medical and health sector, who can provide real weight to the farm antibiotics debate. The Alliance has secured unprecedented support from health and medical actors, many of whom now undertake advocacy on the Alliance’s behalf. This has been hugely instrumental in driving forward this agenda within the human health sector.

The Alliance will continue to bring its lobbying influence to bear on policy progress – with particular regard to the current legislative reviews to the EU Veterinary Medicinal Products and Medicated Feed regulations. The Alliance has already played a key part in influencing European policy – with the European Parliament committee adopting the Alliance’s suggested phrasing on routine prophylaxis in early 2016.

Fourthly, the campaign continues to focus on raising public awareness of this issue. The Alliance has been very successful in bringing this issue to the fore. The results of our recent lab testing investigation (which examined retail meat for resistance to key antibiotics
for treating E.coli infections) were published across Europe, alongside an EU-wide public action and multi lingual animations encouraging concerned individuals to call for a ban to routine preventative mass medication of livestock.

Finally, the Alliance seeks to bring solutions to the table, to support industry leaders, and scrutinise those lagging behind. The campaign seeks to work with the farming and veterinary industries to provide well evidenced welfare-oriented solutions which can reduce the need for antibiotics which maintaining economically competitive production.

The Alliance will continue to analyse, research and document the available evidence, to scrutinise, to advocate and lobby, to bring public awareness to bear, to harness political support, to point to welfare-oriented solutions, to celebrate success and to shine the spotlight on those who fail to act. Over the next few years, the campaign will work closely with allies on policy interventions to drive progress, and continue to remind policy makers that the loss of antibiotics is happening on their watch.
3rd PRIZE

World Alliance Against Antibiotic Resistance

WEBSITE: www.waaar.org

Acting to Preserve Antibiotics
The ACdeBMR / WAAAR (World Alliance Against Antibiotic Resistance), a not-for-profit NGO, was founded on December 2nd, 2011 in Paris, France. In 2016, WAAAR has 730 individual members from 55 different countries representing all the key stakeholders of the health sector (physicians, veterinarians, microbiologists, pharmacists, nurses, evolutionary biologists, ecologists, environmentalists, and patient advocacy groups).

This NGO has several aims and activities. It campaigns for antibiotics to be considered a «special», unique class of medicines in need of active protection, and encourages an extremely prudent and regulated use in human and animal health, and notably agriculture. Secondly, it proposes to intensify research as well as to accelerate and facilitate the development of new antibiotics. Thirdly, it aims to provide rapid diagnostic tests, which may show that antibiotic treatment is inappropriate, or specify what the best course of action is. Other aims include preventing cross-transmission of resistant bacteria in hospitals (as well as community settings), and developing vaccination programs, and encouraging research for new vaccines.
The WAAAR's initiative focused its efforts on lobbying and on creating a wide network to raise awareness among stakeholders on the need to undertake appropriate action in order to limit the overuse of antibiotics, and by extension - the development of multi-drug resistant pathogens.

In order to achieve this, WAAAR outlined four key priorities. Firstly, it demanded that UNESCO include the "concept of antibiotics" in the list of intangible cultural heritage, and called for a cautious, controlled, and surveyed approach to the use of antibiotics in some of the following places and fields: hospitals, animal husbandry, and long term care facilities. Furthermore, it encourages the tracking of antimicrobial use and resistance at both institution and country level (CDCs) with comparative statistics published every 12 months at least, and the development of a user fee for antibiotic prescription in veterinary practice, among others.

Secondly, it conducted an informational and educational campaign which aimed at educating the general public and training health care professionals on the proper use of antibiotics.

Next, the campaign places a clear emphasis on prevention, by attempting to improve sanitary conditions around the world and working to prevent cross-contamination of MDR (Multi-Drug Resistant) organisms, in particular via the improvement of hand hygiene, for example.

Finally, this initiative considers basic and applied research, as well as drug development, to be a key priority.

The WAAAR Alliance is currently in the process of launching an E-Journal in order to facilitate the dissemination and exchange of information and good practices, both in and outside the EU. This E-Journal will facilitate networking, activities and advocacy, as well as increase feedback and participation from stakeholders.

Other recent actions by WAAAR include: the monthly publication of a newsletter in both French and English,
and the yearly publication of a book (AMR Control) with chapters written by top researchers or politicians on the topic of AMR. This book has been widely distributed, in particular to international agencies (such as the WHO).

Finally, a solemn, international declaration was made in 2014 which was signed by all members and 145 medical societies which support WAAAR. This declaration was distributed worldwide, and papers have been published in many international peer reviewed journals. WAAAR also plans to hold several seminars in the near future.
Mission & objectives
The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) represents around 235,000 European veterinarians. Many of them have direct links to the use of antimicrobials and the fight against antimicrobial resistance. FVE’s main missions are to enhance animal health, animal welfare, public health, and the protection of the environment. FVE has five main objectives, including improving the veterinary profession by promoting the responsible use of antimicrobials.

> More information: www.fve.org/

Summary report
For several years already, the fight against antimicrobial resistance has been part of FVE’s multi-annual strategy plans. In delivering its strategy, FVE has taken numerous actions. These actions include raising awareness amongst animal owners, veterinarians and other stakeholders, for example through the organisation of international conferences, and the development and dissemination of Responsible Use leaflets. On top of this, FVE produced a number of articles, policy statements, and position papers on the importance of fighting AMR. In collaboration with the Heads of Medicines Agency (HMA), FVE conducted a survey identifying the “Factors influencing antibiotic prescribing habits and use of sensitivity testing” and the “Antibiotics used most commonly to treat animals in Europe”.
These various activities have contributed to a better understanding of the use of antimicrobials in animals and the possibilities to reduce their use, improved awareness about the risks associated with AMR in animals, and enhanced collaboration between veterinary and other health professions in the fight against AMR.
Mission & objectives
Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)’s mission is to transform healthcare worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. HCWH’s overarching goals are to protect public health from climate change, to transform the supply chain, and to build leadership for environmental health.

> More information: noharm-europe.org/

Summary report
HCWH Europe aims to strengthen and help implement the European Union’s pharmaceuticals legislation, as well as safeguard EU citizens from environmental related pressures and risks to health and well-being. Over 200 people registered for HCWH Europe’s two webinars: “Safer Pharma: How healthcare can reduce pharmaceutical pollution”, and “Antimicrobial resistance: The environmental impact”, with additional interest in the subsequent recording of the events. Collaborating with other health organisations such as the International Society of Doctors for the Environment and the International Federation of Medical Students’ Association enables HCWH Europe to influence and connect with the next generation of doctors who will face the problems we have failed to solve, such as climate change and AMR proliferation. HCWH Europe successfully outlined the challenges of pharmaceuticals in the environment and AMR, and with this in mind it adapted its advocacy work to target policy makers and healthcare professionals, in the interest of protecting the health of all European citizens. HCWH Europe’s Safer Pharma campaign and website educates the public, highlights scientific research papers linked to the challenge of pharmaceutical pollution and provides solutions that can be applied locally, nationally, nationally, and globally.
Mission & objectives
The French Veterinary Council (FVC) is composed of a National council and Regional councils. The FVC has three types of responsibilities: administrative (such as maintaining the board of the order, providing legal and ethical advice to veterinarians), regulatory (for example assisting in the writing of legal and statutory texts concerning the profession), disciplinary (such as enforcing the Code of Ethics). The FVC is also responsible for representing the profession, and finally, it has a social mission.

> More information: www.veterinaire.fr/

Summary report
The Ecoantibio Plan was initiated in 2011 by the French Ministry of Agriculture with the full involvement of the FVC and the all veterinary profession. The Ecoantibio Plan was composed of a double reduction target: a quantitative target of a 25% reduction in the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine over 5 years (2012-2016), and a qualitative objective of reducing the use of critical antibiotics. To achieve this, the guiding principle was the prudent and rational use of antibiotics, and 40 actions grouped around five strategic axis were defined and carried out. These five axis were: promoting good practice and raising awareness of the risks associated with antimicrobial resistance and the need to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics; developing alternatives to avoid the use of antibiotics; strengthening regulatory rules and reducing risky practices; strengthening the monitoring system of consumption of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance, and promoting European approaches and international initiatives.
Patient’s Organisation “With You”

A NATIONAL ROUND TABLE WITH THE BULGARIAN PARLIAMENT “RATIONAL ANTIBIOTIC USE IN CHILDREN; COMMON MISSION OF DOCTORS, PATIENTS AND INSTITUTIONS”

Mission & objectives
Patients’ Organisations With You (POWY) is an ambitious Bulgarian NGO with several goals. Among others, POWY aims to initiate and participate in public debates and dialogue between the institutions and citizens, to implement and promote ethical norms and rules in the work of the patient organisations, and to support the dialogue between health professionals and patients to improve access to timely medical care, and promotion of disease prevention.

> More information: patients.e-zdravey.com/

Summary report
POWY considers the improper use of antibiotics in children to be a great concern for society. This, coupled with the problem of “self-prescription” of antibiotics led POWY to develop a project with a National Round Table (NRT) as its central tool. In early 2016, a media campaign designed to gather information on public opinion regarding the prescription of antibiotics was launched. This resulted in several experts in the field of AMR contacting POWY to express their alarm at the excessive use of antibiotics.

As a follow-up, POWY proposed the organisation of the NRT. The main conclusion from this event was that is it crucial to raise awareness and to extend the training of doctors, nurses, and pharmacists on issues related to AMR.

A National Dialogue in partnership with the Committee on Agriculture and Food with the Bulgarian Parliament and the WHO to help better inform the public and fight against the improper use of antibiotics in livestock farming is currently being envisaged.
Mission & objectives
Stichting Huize Aarde (SHA)’s main mission is to strengthen social responsibility in research, policy, management, production, and consumption. SHA has elaborated a number of activities centred around the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development’s goals (Agenda 21). Some of these objectives include: the design and application of new concepts such as Green Healthcare, Green Pharmacy and Green Chemistry, and the development and introduction of new methods for an integrated approach to these issues.

> More information: www.groenegezondheid.nl/

Summary report
In order to address the issues mentioned in the Mission & Objectives, SHA designed the Green Healthcare Programme, which included three complementary hand-on approaches: Hospitales Verdes (Green Hospitals), MEDUWA (MEDicines Unwanted in WAter), and SOSPharmaH (Source Oriented Solutions for Pharma-pollution by Hospitals). In these projects cross disciplinary, cross sectoral and cross border consortiums are formed to develop complementary measures in the whole product chain (development, prescription, use, and discard) to avoid or stop the spreading of pharmaceuticals and multi antibiotic resistant bacteria through water, soil, food and air. The Green Healthcare Program was praised by the Province of Overijssel in the Netherlands because of its interdisciplinary approach and the impact this had on policy-making. The sectors involved in this initiative realised they need to cooperate if they wish to achieve their goals. The importance of small NGOs for the dissemination, scheduling, and handling of the issue was noted, as was the importance of SHA’s flexibility and independence in bringing people together from various organisations of different sectors. This enabled them to share their knowledge, experience, responsibility, influence, and power of decision making with a common goal, the solution to the threat of the environmental cycle of harmful substances and multi-resistance.
The general public, interest groups and organisations play an active part in the EU's health-related activities through structures set up by the European Commission. The EU Health Policy Platform provides a basis for long-standing and fruitful cooperation.

The EU Health Policy Platform is the main channel for communication and cooperation between health interest groups and organisations and the Commission. It also improves communication among these organisations. It is composed of three axes: the Web Platform, regular meetings and the EU Health Award for NGOs.

The Platform replaces the EU Health Policy Forum, which was active until 2013. It aims to:

- provide a framework for dialogue between the European Commission & health-related interest groups or organisations
- facilitate targeted discussions between Commission departments & these groups
- make health policy dialogue transparent
- build knowledge of public health issues & relevant expertise
- spread information about DG Health & Food Safety's projects (e.g. co-funded Health Programme projects...)
- identify, share & encourage replication of good health policy practices
- gather & circulate research outcomes
- make results & outcomes more easily available to interest groups & organisations with specialist interests
- provide information on other health-related policy areas, taking the ‘Health in All Policies’ approach.

The Platform is open to all these health-related interest groups and organisations legally registered in the EU. For more information, please read the working methods of the Platform.
The Web Platform hosts 3 kinds of networks:

- **Agora** - an open discussion area accessible to all interest groups or organisations registered on the Web Platform
- **Thematic networks** – open to groups or organisations wishing to discuss specific health topics & produce Joint Statements
- **Network(s) of EU experts & stakeholder groups** - only open to members of existing groups associated with DG Health & Food Safety.

Health-related interest groups meet twice a year to put in common the work done on the Web Platform for the joint statements. During meetings, health-related interest groups and organisations meet the Commission, that gives feedback on the joint statement and presents its new initiatives. The last EU Health Policy Platform meeting took place on the 5th December 2016 when the draft joint statements initiated in the previous meeting in April 2016 were presented. Health-related interest groups had also an opportunity to present proposals for the next joint statements in the Thematic Networks of the Web Platform.

The four statements prepared in the cycle from April 2016 to December 2016 focused on Mental Health (led by MHE and EUFAMI), Health Inequalities (led by EuroHealthNet), Public Health Workforce (led by ASPHER) and Patient Safety (led by CPME). These joint statements can be endorsed by further health-related interest groups via the Web Platform. From January 2017, health-related interest groups will work on new joint statements proposed until the next meeting, planned for June 2017.

> more information: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/
European Commission

EU Health Award for NGOs fighting Antimicrobial Resistance

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EU HEALTH AWARD
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