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# Ensuring Health & Sustainability in Europe: Doctors and Veterinarians emphasize “prevention is better than cure”

*One Health debate*

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***Explain what ‘One Health’ means for your profession. Why is it so important to think through this approach?***

# *What doctors say*

- *Improve communication and exchange among health professionals*
- *‘Health in all policies’; opening up to a more holistic way of thinking about health and health care*
- *Creating opportunities for exchange*

# *What veterinarians say*

***Animal Health have a direct impact on Public Health***

***All organisms on earth***

- consist an interdependent ecosystem,***
- share the same microorganisms,***
- animals and humans are equally affected by their environment and the current life-style***

***The real understanding of that link is crucial for our profession that “strives to promote animal health, animal welfare and public health”***



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***Do you think your profession does enough in  
‘One Health’?  
If not which are the challenges?***

# *What doctors say*

- *'One Health' Bodies already exist in some countries*
- *More can be done*
  - *Communication and cooperation structures*
  - *Promotion of the patient-centered healthcare system*
  - *Interaction among professionals*

# *What veterinarians say*

- ❖ *Undergraduate veterinary training is focused on a more holistic approach, rather than specialisation, e.g. group examination, diagnosis and treatment, interaction between different species, etc.*
- ❖ *More can be done, e.g.*
  - *finding ways to strengthen the interaction of the two professions in practice*
  - *adapting veterinary education (pre and post graduated) in order to understand and work in a global environment*
  - *enforcing joint research*
  - *need to learn how to deal with risk communication to the other health professions and the society*



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***How the ‘other’ profession can assist you, so you together can achieve the desired goal of the ‘One Health’ concept?***



# *What doctors say*

- *Join forces on specific policies*
- *Use share messages in communication to multiply the outreach to the public*
- *Strengthen cooperation among health professionals at all levels, starting from the practitioner*

# *What veterinarians say*

- ❖ *Strengthen close collaboration of the health professions constantly*
- ❖ *Help change the way we educate all future health professionals*
- ❖ *Educate the society and set up appropriate legislation*
- ❖ *Help develop local, regional and global networks*
- ❖ *Need for enhanced communication and transparency between the professions*



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***“Prevention is better than cure”:  
What do you think would be the added value of  
‘One health’ initiatives in bringing the message  
around?***

# *What doctors say*

- *Bringing the message to the politicians and engaging them to invest more on prevention in both human and veterinary sector*
- *Engaging more doctors and veterinarians in monitoring of diseases*
- *Facilitating exchange of experience between health professionals*

# *What veterinarians say*

- ❖ *“Prevention is better than cure” can be equally applied to both sectors and have the same positive results*
- ❖ *Avoiding disease ensures the health and welfare of animals and people and the financial sustainability for animal keepers and healthcare systems.*
- ❖ *Health professions need to speak through one voice to make our message to come across. In particular we need to present strong cases, showing the socio-economic impact of prevention in practice, in order to engage the society and the policy makers.*
- ❖ *Policy makers and all stakeholders need to embrace any cooperative initiative in the concept of ‘One Health’ and support it by all means.*



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***What are the major fields we could start working collaboratively and investing on common public health campaigns through a ‘One Health’ approach?***

# *What doctors say*

- *Infectious diseases, e.g. pandemics, zoonoses, etc*
- *Antimicrobial resistance*

# *What veterinarians say*

- ❖ *Education of the all health professionals and education of the society.*
  - *Promotion of hygiene rules*
  - *Responsible use of medicines in animals and people*
  - *Strengthening of the relationship of the vet with animal keeper and med with patient*
  - *Etc.*
- ❖ *Prevention and monitoring of infectious and non-infectious diseases through Surveillance, Detection and Monitoring Systems*
- ❖ *Development of rules for trade and/or safe movement of animals, people and safe food.*
- ❖ *Preparation of contingency plans in order to be ready to respond immediately to any threat and at all levels.*
- ❖ *Tackling of environmental risks.*