



Implementation of One Health in undergraduate education

*Doctors, dentists and veterinarians working together
from curricula to practice*

Paris, 5th December 2018

The European associations representing medical doctors, dentists, veterinarians and their students have organised an open debate on the implementation of One Health in undergraduate education.

The event was hosted by the French Conseil National de l'Ordre des Médecins and brought together around 45 participants from France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The objective was to encourage open discussion and an exchange of views on how to implement the One Health approach in undergraduate curricula and foster interdisciplinary education, as outlined in a [letter](#) co-signed by six organisations in 2018. Academics, policymakers, professionals and students from the medical, dental and veterinary fields participated in a lively discussion about what One Health is, and its implementation in practice.

Whereas:

- ✓ One Health recognises the interlinks between human health, animal health and the environment;
- ✓ The value of the One Health holistic approach is undisputed when it comes to tackling different challenges to public and animal health;
- ✓ Currently all professionals have been mostly educated and work in silos, disconnected from each other;
- ✓ One Health is a concept not an independent discipline; it should be integrated among all subjects
- ✓ Global challenges nowadays can have an important impact locally, mainly due to the fast movement of humans, animals, food and goods;

- ✓ Through interdisciplinary collaboration and joint research, One Health can facilitate an understanding of and response to many current challenges, such as antimicrobial resistance, climate change and chronic diseases;
- ✓ Europe is a region that has accumulated a lot of experience on the impact of intense industrialisation and development on the environment as well as the health and wellbeing of humans and animals, which we can share with other parts of the world;
- ✓ The education of doctors, dentists and veterinarians is largely hospital/practice centred and opportunities for One Health education are limited;
- ✓ One Health requires the sharing of knowledge and experiences through inter-professional collaboration between many different professions with different backgrounds and expertise, such as human health, animal health, biology, environmental sciences, pharmacy, chemistry, physics, social sciences and others;
- ✓ Quality assurance of education is important for ensuring future professionals acquire the proper entry level competences;
- ✓ There is a need for developing One Health Day One Competences that can enhance common understanding and implementation of One Health in practice, as well as interdisciplinary collaboration;
- ✓ Considering One Health inter-professional collaboration from an ethical point of view highlights the need to educate students to respect and seek for close collaboration with the other professionals in the interest of their patients;
- ✓ Educators should be encouraged to consider a different model of teaching that facilitates interdisciplinary education;
- ✓ Students should be informed about career opportunities in One Health field;
- ✓ Legislation can make an impact on One Health integration;
- ✓ Health professionals should continue bring this debate on the agenda of political discussions.

The professional and student organisations representing medical doctors, dentists and veterinarians of Europe

call on academics and policymakers at national and European level

- To work on the development of a clear definition to ensure a common understanding of the One Health concept;
- To foster exchanges between medical, dental and veterinary schools under the One Health approach;
- To work together on One Health Competences;
- To support and ensure the continuation of this open debate;
- To support the further investigation of implementation of One Health interdisciplinary education of doctors, dentists and veterinarians.

