

3 questions to Zeev Noga PREZODE Secretary General

Zoonoses are infectious diseases that spread between animals and humans. They account for more than 75% of human emerging diseases on Earth.

[PREZODE](#) (Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence) is an international One Health initiative that was launched in January 2021 during



the [One Planet Summit](#) and brings together more than 230 actors from governments, research institutions, academia, civil societies, health agencies, and other relevant entities from all over the world, to advance research, advocacy, and international collaborations to prevent, reduce and tackle the emergence of zoonotic diseases.

The PREZODE initiative is supported by the European Commission and the Quadripartite organisations (FAO, WHO, WOA, and UNEP) and was recognized and welcomed by the 2023's [G7 Health Ministers](#) as an International initiative which aims at preventing the emergence of zoonotic diseases.

As of May 2023, Dr. Zeev Noga is the Secretary General of the PREZODE Initiative. Zeev is well-known in the global veterinary profession for his work at the World Veterinary Association for more than 10 years, leading the Secretariat in strengthening the veterinary profession around the world. Between 2008 and 2012 he worked as Veterinary Advisor at the European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECVB), focusing on EU veterinary legislation and policies on Animal Health, Animal Welfare, and Public Health.

1) What are the main goals of PREZODE?

The overall ambition of the initiative is to prevent animal-borne pandemics through a multi-sectorial collaboration, working with countries, research centres, civil society organisations and all relevant



health professionals worldwide. The initiative aims to shift the paradigm to a bottom-up co-construction approach engaging both the private and public sectors to build solutions and surveillance systems with the involvement of communities that are on the frontline of risks. The PREZODE main goals are (1) to create a common framework to coordinate and implement research projects, surveillance systems, and operational projects; (2) to create a global platform for data sharing; and (3) to serve as an online resource centre for decision-makers, supporting evidence-based decisions and policies to reduce the risk of emerging zoonotic infectious diseases.

2) How can PREZODE reduce the risk of the emergence of zoonotic diseases?

PREZODE ambitions to develop a research framework to understand the macro processes and drivers leading to zoonosis emergence in the context of global changes. This implies studying the ecology and evolutionary history of pathogens and hosts, as well as the socio-environmental mechanisms that bring humans and animals together. By doing so, the initiative will enable the development of strategies that intend to minimize human populations' exposure to zoonotic pathogens and as a consequence, reduce possibilities for food systems disruptions and negative impacts on public health, including food security and nutrition.

3) What will you bring from your work experience into the PREZODE mission?

I bring to the PREZODE Initiative more than 14 years of experience in veterinary policies on both European and global levels with a focus on Animal Health and Public Health including the issue of zoonotic diseases. Having worked with Veterinary and other Health professionals from all over the world on numerous projects and initiatives, I am used to applying a collaborative, multidisciplinary, and cross-sectoral approach to develop effective interventions to address One Health concerns. Therefore, I'm excited to use my expertise and experience to collaborate with members and partners from different sectors, bridging professional, cultural and sectorial differences to work together on common goals to fulfil PREZODE ambition to prevent, reduce and tackle zoonotic disease emergence, thus improving the health of people, animals and the environment.

I take this opportunity to call the veterinary community at all levels to [join](#) the PREZODE global initiative, to provide their expertise and play a crucial role in finding solutions to reduce and tackle the emergences of zoonotic diseases.