

Cross-agency One Health task force framework for action

2024-2026

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Executive summary

Following the [joint statement](#)¹ from the Executive Directors of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on how to deliver 'Cross-agency knowledge for One Health Action', the Cross-agency One Health task force has prepared this framework for action. The document outlines the common vision and objectives of the task force and lists a set of concrete actions to achieve them.

The vision of the task force is to enable EU agencies to successfully contribute to the implementation of the One Health approach in Europe, thereby making the EU and its Member States better able to prevent and respond to health threats. In order to achieve this vision, the task force aims to work towards a more permanent and established form of transdisciplinary cooperation between the EU agencies, upholding the four principles of coordination, collaboration, communication and capacity building.

The task force has identified the following five strategic objectives to guide its work:

- Facilitate **strategic coordination** in the implementation of the One Health approach
- Promote **research coordination** and One Health-driven agenda setting
- Enhance **capacity building** on One Health
- Strengthen One Health **communication and stakeholders'** engagement
- Support the development of partnerships through joint **One Health activities**

Through these strategic objectives, the task force will help to strengthen the scientific evidence base for One Health, ensure that scientific advice and risk assessment are increasingly integrated, support the establishment of intersectoral coordination mechanisms, and build One Health capacities and skills. The actions will be implemented over a period of three years (2024-2026). It is considered a living document and will be subject to adjustments to reflect progress and take on new challenges and initiatives.

¹ [Cross-agency knowledge for One Health action – Joint Statement by European Union Agencies. 13 November 2023.](#)

Introduction

Building on the commitment agreed at the [ONE Conference](#)² in 2022 (Bronzwaer et al., 2022), the EU agencies that are part of the EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice (EU-ANSA) and that have a technical and scientific mandate on topics falling under the One Health umbrella, comprising the ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA and EMA, have established a [Cross-agency One Health task force](#)³. The task force began its operations in 2023.

This framework for action has been developed by the task force in order to present a shared vision and a plan for action. The framework proposes a set of strategic objectives that the five agencies intend to pursue together to promote One Health implementation. Each objective is associated with a set of concrete actions and outcomes that will contribute to advance One Health implementation and help achieve the framework's vision. Implementing a One Health approach at the level of EU institutions and Member States is necessary to address the increasingly frequent health threats facing Europe, many of which illustrate the complex interlinkages between human, animal and plant health, the environment, food safety, and the climate crisis. Such an approach can reduce the incidence and societal costs of disease outbreaks and other health threats, or even prevent their emergence ([Zinsstag et al., 2023](#)). At the same time, it can help reduce human pressures on the environment, thereby safeguarding key societal needs such as food security and access to clean air and water ([Devos et al., 2022](#)).

Previous EU-funded research and innovation actions such as the [Med-Vet-Net Network of Excellence](#)⁴ and the [One Health European Joint Programme \(OHEJP\)](#)⁵ have made great progress enhancing transdisciplinary cooperation on One Health between research institutes, promoting integration of activities, improving the quality of information for decision-making, and supporting training. These efforts must be supported by a strong interface between science, policy and society, building on the key principles of collaboration, coordination, communication and capacity-building ([OHHLEP et al., 2022](#)).

Expanding the scientific evidence base for One Health will also rely on sharing of data, knowledge and information between disciplines, thus highlighting the need for interoperability, availability and accessibility of data across sectors.

In this context, strengthened collaboration between EU agencies can play a critical role by ensuring that scientific evidence is aligned with the One Health approach, making knowledge more accessible to all relevant stakeholders, providing strategic direction to EU research funding, and facilitating engagement with ongoing research and innovation projects ([Bronzwaer et al., 2022](#)).

The framework for action builds on existing cross-agency cooperation activities. It aims to add value and strengthen coordination initiatives to address multi-sectoral topics (see box 1), including by providing options and recommendations for the implementation of One Health within and between the agencies.

² [One Conference 2022. 21-24 June 2022](#)

³ [One Health Cross-agency Task Force – Strengthening EU agencies' scientific advice on One Health](#)

⁴ [Med-Vet-Net Association](#)

⁵ [One Health European Joint Programme](#)

Box 1. Examples of multi-sectoral topics to which the cross-agency One Health task force framework for action can add value:



1. Climate change and degradation of ecosystems can create favourable conditions for the emergence and spread of infectious diseases such as vector-, food- and water-borne diseases, with a profound impact on animal and public health.

The framework for action will improve the ability of the agencies to better assess the impact of climate change on the occurrence of emerging and (re-)emerging infectious diseases by promoting joint scientific networks and partnerships, supporting information sharing between agencies, expanding research on the impact of climate change on the occurrence of disease, and facilitating the transition to more integrated scientific advice and risk assessment in this area.

2. Microplastics are an illustrative example of how emerging pollutants can not only contaminate waterways and soil but also enter the food chain, affecting animal and human health, and impacting food safety.

The framework for action will contribute to assess in a more integrated way the impact of microplastic and chemical pollution on human, animal and ecosystem health by further building capacity for joint risk assessments in this area, promoting transdisciplinary research on the impacts of microplastics and other emerging chemicals, making use of relevant research outcomes and facilitating the translation of research into actionable outputs.



3. The COVID-19 pandemic showed the need to coordinate across sectors to better understand the complex drivers of disease and other health threats and to inform effective and sustainable solutions.

The framework for action will strengthen collective prevention, preparedness and response capacities in the EU by making knowledge more accessible to relevant stakeholders through information sharing and aligned risk communication, contributing to build and enhance preparedness and response capacities; and supporting the implementation of the One Health approach in prevention, preparedness and response planning.



4. Surveillance systems do not sufficiently integrate data, information, knowledge and expertise from all relevant sectors and actors.

The framework for action will support the development of integrated surveillance and early warning systems by facilitating and promoting greater availability, accessibility and interoperability of data, improving the quality of information for risk assessment and working towards aligning surveillance and early warning systems in Europe with the One Health approach.



Background and context

The One Health approach is widely recognised at an international level, as attested by the ongoing negotiations on a [global pandemic instrument](#)⁶ and the efforts of the One Health Quadripartite consisting of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). These efforts have recently culminated in the adoption of a [One Health joint plan of action](#)⁷ for the period 2022-2026. This framework for action builds on the Quadripartite joint plan of action and is aligned with regional plans from WHO, FAO and WOAH for implementing One Health in the European region.

Having endorsed the One Health approach in the [One Health action plan against AMR](#)⁸ in 2017, the European Commission also recognised One Health as a building block of the [EU global health strategy](#)⁹ to prevent and combat health threats, including pandemics, applying a One Health approach.

The Commission further sought to apply a One Health framing to several policy strategies under the European Green Deal, including the [Biodiversity strategy to 2030](#)¹⁰, the [Zero pollution action plan](#)¹¹, the [Farm to fork strategy](#)¹², the [Chemical strategy for sustainability](#)¹³, and the [Pharmaceutical strategy for Europe](#)¹⁴. This recognition led to specific One Health actions directed at important areas including antimicrobial resistance¹⁵, pandemic prevention, biodiversity loss, chemical pollution, and food system sustainability.

Perhaps the most explicit reference to One Health in EU legislation is contained in the EU4Health Regulation ([European Commission, 2021](#)¹⁶), which includes a broad definition of the “One Health Approach” in article 2(5): “*One Health approach’ means a multisectoral approach which recognises that human health is connected to animal health and to the environment, and that actions to tackle threats to health must take into account those three dimensions*”.

⁶ [Global pandemic instrument - Zero draft of the WHO CA+ for the consideration of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body at its fourth meeting WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response \(“WHO CA+”\)](#)

⁷ [One Health Joint Plan of Action \(2022-2029\): working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment](#)

⁸ [A European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

⁹ [EU global health strategy: better health for all in a changing world](#)

¹⁰ [Biodiversity Strategy to 2030: bringing nature back into our lives](#)

¹¹ [EU Action Plan: Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil](#)

¹² [A farm to fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system](#)

¹³ [Chemicals strategy: The EU's chemicals strategy for sustainability towards a toxic-free environment](#)

¹⁴ [Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe](#)

¹⁵ [Council Recommendation on stepping up EU actions to combat antimicrobial resistance in a One Health approach 2023/C 220/01.](#)

¹⁶ [REGULATION \(EU\) 2021/522 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 March 2021 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health \('EU4Health Programme'\) for the period 2021-2027, and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 282/2014](#)

Another important reference showcasing the EU's commitment to One Health is in the Regulation on serious cross-border threats to health ([European Commission, 2022](#)¹⁷), which explicitly recommends following the One Health approach to address current and emerging health crises. Article 5 of this regulation stipulates that the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the relevant Union agencies and bodies, shall establish a *'Union health crisis and pandemic plan'* to promote an effective and coordinated response to cross-border threats to health at Union level, following the One Health approach for zoonotic, food and waterborne diseases and relevant other diseases and related special health issues. In addition, article 20 of the same regulation stipulates that EU agencies (including the five agencies

represented in this task force) shall carry out public health risk assessments and collaborate in cases of serious cross-border threats to health.

Greater One Health collaboration between EU agencies has also been called for by the European Parliament in its recent resolution on the COVID-19 pandemic: [lessons learned and recommendations for the future \(2022/2076\(INI\)\)](#)¹⁸ where item 251: *Calls for the establishment of a European cross-agency task force dedicated to the One Health approach to advance transdisciplinary research and cross-sectoral scientific advice.*

¹⁷ [Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 1082/2013/EU](#)

¹⁸ [European Parliament resolution of 12 July 2023 on the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future \(2022/2076\(INI\)\)](#)

Vision

The vision of the task force is to enable EU agencies to successfully contribute to the implementation of the One Health approach in Europe, with the ultimate goal of strengthening the ability of the EU and its Member States to respond to health crisis.

The task force aims to complement on-going interagency activities, and work towards a more permanent and established form of transdisciplinary cooperation among EU agencies. In its efforts, the task force will particularly seek to uphold the '4Cs' principles of communication, coordination, collaboration and capacity building, which are central to the definition of One Health as well as to its implementation ([OHHLEP et al., 2022](#)).

The task force will work in the coming three years around the five strategic objectives that are presented in this framework for action. These objectives should support the establishment of a structured and continuous One Health cooperation across the agencies, in close collaboration with the European Commission and other stakeholders.

Mode of operation

The task force consists of **senior officers** operating under the auspices of the Executive Directors of each agency. The task force aims to add value by building on existing mechanisms of cooperation, maximising synergies and avoiding duplication. The task force primarily focuses on cross-sectoral issues that can benefit from a One Health approach. The composition and the mode of operation of the task force will be as follows:

- **A focal point has been appointed within each agency** to coordinate the respective inputs to joint activities and convey the position of the agency on strategic matters. Each focal point keeps their own colleagues and interagency mechanisms informed of relevant developments under the task force.
- The task force members may seek to **engage other representatives** from within each of the agencies for input and advice to support the implementation of the actions, as needed.
- **External ad hoc members and observers** may attend the task force meetings as and when required, in agreement by the task force members.
- In order to ensure close One Health cooperation between the agencies and the European Commission, **a representative from the Commission will be invited** to participate in the meetings of the cross-agency One Health task force.
- The task force liaises with on-going inter-agency groups (e.g. European Climate and Health Observatory) and activities and may establish **dedicated working groups** to support the activities of the task force.
- **The coordination of the task force will rotate among the agencies**, as is practice for similar task forces, normally every year. The agency that acts as the rotating chair will lead the coordination of the task force meetings and activities.
- The task force **will not act as a decision-making** body but may propose recommendations for action to the senior management of the Agencies.
- The task force will have an **advisory role** to the Executive Directors and senior management of its member agencies and will engage with the European Commission and other stakeholders for input and advice, as required.
- Each of the agencies' representatives will **report to their respective Executive Directors** on progress. The task force **will meet at least six times a year**, with at least one annual physical meeting of a more strategic nature, possibly coinciding with the meeting of the EU-ANSA network representatives. Ad hoc meetings may be organised, as needed.

Strategic objectives

This framework for action describes a plan for the joint One Health work of the EU agencies that is consistent with their respective mandates and will not hinder their statutory activities. It also recognises that not all agencies will be equally involved in the different actions. The framework is built around five strategic objectives that will guide the activities of the task force over the period 2024-2026 and support the achievement of its vision and aims:

1. Facilitate **strategic coordination** in the implementation of the One Health approach;
2. Promote **research coordination** and One Health-driven agenda setting;
3. Enhance capacity building on One Health;
4. Strengthen One Health **communication and stakeholders'** engagement;
5. Support the development of partnerships through joint **One Health activities**.

These strategic objectives are in line with the EU agencies' dual role as sources and users of knowledge. They reflect the agencies' ambition

to streamline joint activities, develop coherent outputs and messaging, avoid duplication of work in their engagement with external stakeholders, and establish greater coordination and cooperation on knowledge development, a key recommendation offered by the Special Report 22/2020 of the European Court of Auditors on the future of EU agencies ([ECA, 2020](#)¹⁹). The framework and the proposed actions will not duplicate specific One Health actions already carried out, in particular in the framework of AMR (e.g. the work of the interagency AMR working group).

The five strategic objectives of the task force are discussed in greater detail in the following sub-sections. A short explanation is provided for each strategic objective, followed by a table listing the more specific operational objectives to be pursued by the task force, concrete actions and outcomes to achieve them, and an approximate timeline for the implementation of such actions.

¹⁹ [Special Report 22/2020: Future of EU agencies – Potential for more flexibility and cooperation. European Court of Auditors Report. 22 October 2022.](#)

Figure 1: Strategic objectives of the cross-agency One Health task force framework for action



Strategic objective 1: Strategic coordination

Facilitate strategic coordination in the implementation of the One Health approach by jointly contributing to the One Health agenda in Europe and strengthening One Health cooperation within and across-agencies.

The need to strengthen multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary cooperation between EU agencies was one of the main recommendations emerging from the ONE Conference ([Bronzwaer et al., 2022](#)), as well as a key driver for the establishment of the cross-agency One Health task force. Actions to promote and consolidate transdisciplinary cooperation were also mentioned as important elements in the EU global health strategy and in the [One Health theory of change](#)²⁰ developed by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) set up by the WHO/FAO/UNEP/WOAH Quadripartite.

In order for existing inter-agency activities to evolve towards a more permanent form of cooperation, it will be necessary to invest in greater strategic coordination for the implementation of the One Health approach, both within and across our respective agencies. In turn, this will enable the agencies to proactively identify future opportunities for joint work as well as to respond more effectively to a rapidly expanding policy context for One Health, which may lead to growing demands for the provision of integrated scientific advice and policy support (e.g. joint mandates, new policy initiatives).

²⁰ [One Health Theory of Change – One Health High-level Expert Panel](#)

Strategic objective 1: Table with operational objectives, actions and timeline

Objectives	Actions	Timeline		
		2024	2025	2026
1.1. Provide strategic support to the One Health agenda in Europe	1.1.a. Engage with relevant stakeholders to raise awareness and advocate for the recommendations of the joint statement 'Cross-agency knowledge for One Health action'.	●		
	1.1.b. Draft a short communication for a peer-reviewed journal, building on the joint statement.	●		
	1.1.c. Identify opportunities to support the One Health agenda through publications and joint events.	●	●	●
	1.1.d. Support the European Commission on One Health policy needs.	●	●	●
1.2. Strengthen the implementation of One Health within and across agencies	1.2.a. Map and support opportunities for strategic exchange on One Health between the agencies and consider incorporating One Health in the agencies' strategies.	●	●	●
	1.2.b. Periodically update each other about, and mutually seek inputs on, internal planning and prioritisation processes on One Health.	●	●	●
	1.2.c. Develop a proposal to consolidate structural arrangements for cross-agency collaboration on One Health.			●
1.3. Align the agencies' involvement in key One Health topics	1.3.a. Establish a dedicated working group to develop selected guidance for harmonisation of methodologies and working practices across agencies (e.g. develop common guidelines for selected risk assessment practices; joint literature reviews; use of expert knowledge elicitation; communicating uncertainty).	●	●	●
	1.3.b. Work with colleagues to prevent scientific divergences (e.g. aligning approval processes and external consultations; supporting establishment of joint working groups; sharing experts and promoting coordination of scientific networks of respective agencies).	●	●	●
	1.3.c. Support the development of processes to facilitate early interaction between agencies, anticipate new areas of cooperation and the establishment of practical arrangements for producing, adopting and publishing interagency documents.	●	●	●

OUTCOMES OF STRATEGIC COORDINATION

- Publications and resources to contribute to One Health agenda setting.
- Guidelines to establish joint working groups and promote alignment on key One Health topics.
- Strategic exchange on One Health across agencies and their management.
- Recommendations on structural arrangements for cross-agency collaboration on One Health.

Strategic objective 2: Research coordination

Identify common research needs and knowledge gaps in the work of the agencies, promote research coordination and engagement with EU research funders and support One Health-driven Research & Innovation agenda-setting.

At the level of EU agencies, the need for One Health R&I was already identified in the EFSA's Food safety regulatory research needs 2030 ([EFSA, 2019](#)). Since then, the ONE Conference and the Risk Assessment Research Assemblies (RARA) have brought together EU agencies and key actors at the science-policy interface across Europe to identify One Health challenges and solutions, resulting in a number of One Health-related research recommendations. These match well with recommendations from the public consultation on the future of the European R&I framework programmes 2014-2027, which were presented in the [Synopsis report – Looking into the R&I future priorities 2025-2027](#)²¹. Research coordination will enhance the evidence base for the scientific assessments and advice of the agencies and may support the research activities of the European Commission's Directorates-General for Research and Innovation (RTD) and Agricultural and Rural Development (AGRI).

The European Parliament in its recent resolution on the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future (2022/2076(INI))²² *'highlights the need to further expand knowledge in this field and promote public scientific research in order to better understand and reflect the interdependencies between human, animal, plant and environmental health using a multi-sectoral, transdisciplinary and integrated approach'*.

It seems timely for Europe's next Research Framework Programme (FP10) to include and prioritise One Health research needs. The cross-agency One Health task force is committed to assist the European Commission in developing a One Health R&I agenda. Not only does research help to generate scientific knowledge, but at the same time builds current and future risk assessment capacity.

²¹ [European Commission, Directorate-General for Research, and Innovation. Synopsis Report – Looking into the R&I future priorities 2025-2027](#)

²² [European Parliament resolution of 12 July 2023 on the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future \(2022/2076\(INI\)\)](#)

Strategic objective 2: Table with operational objectives, actions and timeline

Objectives	Actions	Timeline		
		2024	2025	2026
2.1. Coordinate cross-agency research engagement	2.1.a. Facilitate the consultation on research & work programme planning, in line with the ' <i>Guidance to Commission Directorates-General on the involvement of EU decentralised agencies in Horizon Europe</i> '.	●	●	●
	2.1.b. Coordinate the engagement of the agencies in relevant European Partnerships (e.g. OHAMR, AH&W, SFS, PARC).	●	●	
	2.1.c. Organise staff exchange / workshop of research coordinators across agencies and interact with DG RTD and partner DGs.	●		
	2.1.d. Coordinate the engagement in external research projects to foster uptake of research outputs into the work of the agencies.	●	●	●
2.2. Promote public scientific research on interdependencies between human, animal, plant and environmental health	2.2.a. Identify transdisciplinary knowledge gaps, formulate One Health research needs and contribute to develop a joint One Health R&I agenda.	●	●	
	2.2.b. Organise an (internal) cross-agency workshop to develop the methodology and the approach on how to define cross-agency One Health research needs.	●		
	2.2.c. Organise a conference (e.g. One Health Research Assembly) to collect stakeholders inputs on One Health research needs.		●	

OUTCOMES OF RESEARCH COORDINATION

- Common knowledge hub to inform Europe's One Health research agenda.
- Research to better understand the interdependencies between human, animal, plant and environmental health using a transdisciplinary and integrated approach.
- Efficient engagement of agencies in relevant One Health research projects and European Partnerships.

Strategic objective 3: Capacity building

Support in-service learning opportunities for staff within the agencies and One Health capacity building activities and training opportunities.

One of the barriers currently hindering operationalization of One Health is the lack of knowledge and awareness. One Health professionals need to be well familiarized with One Health theoretical concepts, frameworks and methodologies so that they can implement them within their area of expertise. The Network for Ecohealth and One Health (NEOH) has recently proposed an update to One Health core competencies in alignment with the advancement and evolution of the One Health thinking, focusing on three main areas of development: skills & values; attitudes & knowledge; and awareness ([Laing et al., 2023](#)). Similarly, FAO, WHO and WOAHP have developed a competency framework for [Competencies for one health field epidemiology \(COHFE\)](#)²³.

One Health learning may be complementary to already existing training programmes, or built

separately. It should address the three major components of One Health development through mindset change (e.g. system thinking, fieldwork and knowledge transmission). One Health training also needs to be adapted to the target audience and may be theoretical, such as courses and (e-)learning opportunities for One Health professionals, and/or practical, such as hands-on courses, field exposure, simulation exercises, crises exercises, practical work done by agencies, project-based approaches, and operational tools.

The actions under this objective will support action 6.4 of the One Health joint plan of action, which calls for the creation of ‘*an interoperable One Health academic and in-service training programmes for environmental, medical, agricultural and veterinary sector professionals*’.

Strategic objective 3: Table with operational objectives, actions and timeline

Objectives	Actions	Timeline		
		2024	2025	2026
3.1. Investigate learning One Health knowledge needs of staff in the agencies and provide in-service learning	3.1.a. Work with One Health knowledge providers to investigate learning needs and opportunities (e.g. UNA Europa ²⁴ alliance).	●	●	●
	3.1.b. Exchange best practices on raising One Health awareness within the agencies.	●	●	●

²³ [Competencies for one health field epidemiology \(COHFE\) framework](#)

²⁴ [UNA Europa - an Alliance of 11 European universities](#)

Objectives	Actions	Timeline		
		2024	2025	2026
	3.1.c. Identify and support the development of e-learning modules on One Health suitable for the staff of the agencies, considering available platforms, and enable cross-agency access (e.g. under the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) ²⁵ in cooperation with the European Commission).		●	●
3.2. Support One Health capacity building activities	3.2.a. Support and disseminate selected tools and outputs developed by OHEJP ²⁶ such as the OHEJP Glossary ²⁷ .	●	●	●
	3.2.b. Advocate funding opportunities for One Health capacity development (e.g. Erasmus ²⁸ , Marie-Curie, COST action programme, BTSF).	●	●	●
	3.2.c. Explore whether and how to support One Health awareness-raising tools for different stakeholders of the agencies.		●	●
	3.2.d. Work with the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) to support One Health workforce building in the African Union.	●	●	●
	3.2.e. Work with the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR) and relevant programmes (e.g. TAIEX, ENP) to support One Health capacity building related to enlargement and candidate countries.	●	●	●
3.3. Support action 6.4 of the Quadripartite joint plan of action ²⁹	3.3.a. Complement existing fellowship programmes (e.g. EPIET, EUFORA) with a joint One Health module.		●	●
	3.3.b. Explore whether One Health training could be provided to Alumni from the fellowship programmes and scientific networks of the agencies.			●
	3.3.c. Integrate the One Health approach in future crisis preparedness exercises and / or dedicate a crisis exercise to One Health.		●	

²⁵ [Better Training for Safer Food \(BTSF\)](#)

²⁶ [One Health European Joint Programme \(OHEJP\)](#)

²⁷ [OHEJP Glossary](#)

²⁸ [Erasmus - EU programme for education, training, youth and sport](#)

²⁹ Action 6.4 of the [Quadripartite One Health Joint Action Plan](#) calls for “interoperable One Health academic and in-service training programmes for environmental, medical, agricultural and veterinary sector professionals”.

OUTCOMES OF CAPACITY BUILDING

- Common understanding of One Health learning needs.
- Partnership with universities and research centres to support training and the development of One Health modules.
- One Health courses for in-service professionals.
- Coordinated One Health capacity building in Europe.

Strategic objective 4: Communication and stakeholder engagement

To coordinate the agencies' contributions to One Health vis-à-vis relevant stakeholders, including EU institutions, Member States, multilateral bodies, and other external key players and develop and implement coordinated communication activities.

The five agencies of the cross-agency One Health task force have well-established practices for interactions with stakeholders in their respective sectors. The One Health approach is being implemented in several EU/European Economic Area Member States, EU institutions and international organisations, as well as in the academic sector (i.e., research and education). However, the intensity of the implementation varies between sectors, countries and institutions.

This strategic objective intends to broaden and facilitate the activities through the involvement of relevant stakeholders. The central position of EU agencies in their respective sectors provides the cross-agency One Health task force with a hub function through which it can facilitate One Health implementation and

increase the information flow between sectors, to catalyse the further operationalisation of the One Health approach and to coordinate the One Health activities of the stakeholders, identifying synergies and avoiding duplications of efforts. The Regulation on serious cross border threats to health emphasises the importance of coordination among Union agencies, bodies and Commission services to ensure a swift and coordinated response to threats following the principles of the EU global health strategy. The active engagement of stakeholders will be instrumental in building One Health capacity in the Member States to enhance preparedness and response capabilities.

Strategic objective 4: Table with operational objectives, actions and timeline

Objectives	Actions	Timeline		
		2024	2025	2026
4.1. Improved consultation, information sharing and communication between stakeholders of the human-animal-environment health interfaces	4.1.a. Arrange regular contact of the cross-agency One Health task force with the heads of communication from the five agencies to ensure alignment of One Health messages and communication at EU level.	●	●	●
	4.1.b. Establish a common point of entry for external requests requiring One Health cooperation among agencies in the cross- agency One Health task force in collaboration with the respective communications groups.		●	●
	4.1.c. For each agency, appoint a liaison person for communications to ensure common framing and linking of EU-level projects, activities and outputs that have a One Health component.	●		
4.2. Provide forum for coordination and cooperation between stakeholders of the human-animal-environment health interfaces	4.2.a. Establish regular dialogues between EU agencies, the European Commission and One Health stakeholders, including industry, researchers, NGOs, and policymakers at Member State level to foster mutual understanding of the One Health principles and support the integration of One Health principles into relevant policies.	●	●	●
	4.2.b. Facilitate, through activities conducted under the cross-border threats to health regulation, the application of the One Health approach in EU/EEA countries to improve levels of preparedness for intersectoral emergency situations and the efficacy of ongoing intersectoral cooperations.	●	●	●
	4.2.c. Ensure regular contact between the cross-agency One Health task force, the European Commission, and the Quadripartite to strengthen collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.	●	●	●
OUTCOMES OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved collaboration and knowledge exchange between One Health stakeholders. Strengthened and improved communication and consultation across human-animal-environmental sectors within the EU. 				

Strategic objective 5: Partnerships and joint activities

Develop joint activities on One Health, possibly supported by joint procurement, based on the identified thematic priorities, thus maximising synergies and avoiding duplication of work. This could include the adaptation of existing procurement actions and activities, whenever possible.

This strategic objective will be an opportunity for the agencies to map internal capacities on One Health in order to identify gaps in skills and resources, as well as to understand how to introduce a more explicit One Health framing to existing activities that may benefit from this holistic approach. The task force could also pool knowledge from among the agencies to provide integrated One Health or sustainability assessments as an input to EU policy makers.

As the cross-agency One Health task force work moves forward, it will seek to support the development of partnerships, gradually building on joint activities on One Health that

may come from joint mandates, joint procurement efforts and eventually the joint planning and implementation of One Health activities throughout the agencies.

It is important to build from already existing One Health collaboration practices and identify major obstacles and gaps that need to be addressed moving forward to ensure the timeliness and effectiveness of the collaboration and identify potential solutions. Those areas might benefit from including them in future One Health strategic planning and research coordination, as defined in strategic objectives 1-2 of this framework.

Strategic objective 5: Table with operational objectives, actions and timeline

Objectives	Actions	Timeline		
		2024	2025	2026
5.1. Map existing joint One Health activities in the agencies (e.g. joint mandates)	5.1.a. Define the scope and the parameters to identify joint One Health activities and develop a structure to collate and disseminate the information.	●		
	5.1.b. Organise a dedicated (online) workshop to map and discuss joint One Health activities.	●	●	
	5.1.c. Identify and list current One Health activities, and the corresponding interlinkages, interdependencies, and opportunities for enhanced collaboration.		●	●
5.2. Identify common One Health knowledge gaps, emerging topics and data requirements which can meet the agencies' needs	5.2.a. Conduct a gap analysis to identify new areas, emerging topics or new data needs that could benefit from a One Health approach.	●	●	●

Objectives	Actions	Timeline		
		2024	2025	2026
5.3. Identify opportunities where the cross-agency One Health approach could add value	5.3.a. Develop communication material that can be used to showcase the benefits of applying a more holistic and integrative approach to the topics.		●	●
	5.3.b. Organise staff exchanges (of One Health Task Force members) to identify One Health cooperation opportunities.	●	●	●
	5.3.c. Contribute to build One Health interoperability of staff as part of the EU-ANSA framework for interagency coordination and scientific cooperation in times of crisis.		●	●
	5.3.d. Propose priority areas where sustainable cross-agency One Health partnership is relevant, to effectively address identified gaps and opportunities, complementing action 1.2.c.			●

OUTCOMES OF JOINT ACTIVITIES

- Mapping of existing cross-agencies initiatives on One Health.
- Publication analysing existing synergies, gaps and barriers for cross-agency One Health implementation.
- Mechanisms and proposals for cross-agency joint funding to address knowledge gaps and promote One Health implementation.
- Business cases to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of the cross-agency One Health approach.

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Glossary

AH&W	European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
DG AGRI	Directorate-General for Agricultural and Rural Development
DG INTPA	Directorate-General for International Partnerships
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DG RTD	Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EEA	European Environment Agency
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EMA	European Medicines Agency
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EPIET	Fellowship Programme Field Epidemiology Path
EU	European Union
EU-ANSA	EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice
EUFORA	European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
NEOH	Network for Ecohealth and One Health
OHAMR	EU Partnership for One Health AMR
OHEJP	One Health European Joint Programme
OHHLEP	One Health High-level Expert Panel
PARC	Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals
RARA	Risk Assessment Research Assemblies
SFS	EU Partnership for Sustainability of Food Systems
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission
UNEP	The United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health



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