

Minutes of the General Assembly meeting

8 Nov. 2018 - Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection - Vienna

Embedded in the programme of the Austrian Presidency of the European Union, the EU-JAMRAI General Assembly meeting was organised on November 8, 2018 at the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection in Vienna.



Around 140 participants, including health policymakers, EU-JAMRAI Chafea/DG Sante officers, EU-JAMRAI partners and representatives from the advisory committee and stakeholders, attended the annual event. Participants were from 24 European Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland) plus Norway, United Kingdom, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine.



Prof. Marie-Cécile Ploy (EU-JAMRAI coordinator, Inserm-France) and Ms. Reinhild Strauss welcomed the participants and introduced the keynote speaker Mrs. Helena Guggenbichler, Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection.

In her introductory remarks, Mrs. Guggenbichler recalled the audience that AMR has to be tackled at international and European levels and that initiatives such as EU-JAMRAI are key to foster synergies and achieve concrete progress.

The next session was dedicated to the work packages leaders to present the progress of their work giving partners, international organisations and stakeholders the opportunity to examine the preliminary results and discuss the challenges still ahead.



Main achievements of the Joint Action are highlighted below:

- WP1 “Coordination”: The first pre-financing was distributed; the Consortium Agreement was signed; Management and financial handbooks were implemented; the first amendment request is ongoing; an internal financial status for the 1st year was launched; Rules of procedures were shared with the advisory committee and a Memorandum of Understanding was sent to

Stakeholder Forum representatives of civil society, health professionals, animal sector and companies.

During the 1st period WP1 organized: (i) the Kick-off meeting (13/11/2017, French Ministry of Health, Paris), (ii) the 1st advisory committee meeting (13/11/2017, Paris) (iii) 3 TCs with the executive board members (15/01/2018; 23/05/2018; 18/09/2018), (iv) monthly TCs and (v) 1 face-to-face meeting with WP2,3,8,7 leaders (23-24/04/2018, Madrid).

The Stakeholder Forum was held on 9 Nov. 2018, where key international organizations such as WHO Europe and ECDC, as well as representatives from health professionals, patients and industry provided recommendations based upon their experience. It was structured in three roundtables. The first one was focused on evidence informed public health policies and practices related to combating AMR and HCAI. The second roundtable, about “Training and Education”, strengthens the importance of translating evidence into awareness and education messages. To finish the forum, EU-JAMRAI communication team presented the JA “Awareness raising and communication strategy”.

- WP3 “Evaluation of the project”: Development of an evaluation plan and progress monitoring and quality assessment of JA documentation and deliverables

- WP4 “Integration in National Policies and sustainability”: In the frame of the task of “Integration plan and sustainability strategy”, a survey for “prioritization of action to prevent and control AMR and HCAI” was launched with the aim to identify priority actions which are viewed by Advisory Committee members and stakeholders as most relevant to tackle AMR and to control HCAI. The WP leaders conducted an analysis of deliverables planned by the other WPs, to identify a priori their type and category and their potential for entering the sustainability process. This analysis submitted to the WP leaders in order to have their point of view on their own deliverables.

- WP5 “Implementation of One Health national strategies and National Action Plans for AMR”: MS mapping of the National Action Plans (NAPs) for AMR was carried out. The results were discussed during a workshop held in The Hague on 22-23 Jan. 2018 and presented at the EU One Health Network on AMR meeting in Brussels on 5 Feb. 2018. A self-assessment tool of national strategies and NAPs for AMR, including the One Health approach was developed and sent to all Member States. The results were discussed during the workshop in Warsaw on 3-4 Sept. 2018. Three pilot country to country visits took place in order to evaluate each other’s NAPs and One Health strategies and to discuss future policy options, and plans: Germany to France; Slovenia to Czech Republic and Netherlands to Spain. The feedbacks were presented during the workshop in Vienna on 7 Nov. 2018.

- WP6.1 deals with Policies for prevention of Health Care Associated Infections and their implementation. Two surveys were developed in the frame of the task “Promoting a top-down approach for preventing HCAs through the implementation of agreed infection control programs (ICP) and institutional behavior change”:

- Survey A: for the key components of ICP based on the ECDC and WHO guidelines and the requirements of the updated EU Action Plan for AMR regarding the hospital sector;
- Survey B: related to barriers for an effective ICP implementation, linked to institutional policy & organizational behavior.

Both Surveys had large participation (more than 2600 responders from 8 countries), resulting in having a useful and essential insight into the clinical reality of hospitals regarding ICP

implementation from 4 different perspectives: ICCs, HAs, HCWs and PHAs. Results depict not only the necessary institutional structures and resources for an effective ICP implementation, but also the barriers to implementation as well as the behavioral change needed.

Within WP6.2, the topic - Catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) - was selected for the task “Promoting a bottom-up approach from clinical practice to policy level by implementing evidence- based guidelines and existing policies using a structured implementation model and working in country teams”. Identification and comparison with national/local guidelines were done. The preparation phase and prework is achieved

- WP7 “Appropriate use of antimicrobials in human and animals”: Guidelines, tools and implementation methods for antibiotic stewardship for both human and animal health were developed and discussed during the workshop in Vienna on 7 Nov. 2018. To assess the facilitating tools for the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship and surveillance programs in human & animal, a questionnaire for associations, vets, farmers and other professionals related to Animal Health, and a survey for clinicians in primary care, long term care and hospitals were set up (522 responders from 26 countries and 95 responders from 28 countries, respectively). The results were discussed during the workshop in Vienna on 7 Nov. 2018.

- WP2 “Dissemination” and 8 “Awareness raising and Communication”: A communication Plan entitled “A Social Behaviour Change Communication strategy to tackle AMR and reduce HCAIs in Europe” as well as an awareness campaign were developed and discussed around a dedicated roundtable at the Stakeholder Forum in Vienna on 9 Nov. 2018.

EU-JAMRAI activities were presented at 16 conferences and events including the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in Madrid on 21-24 April 2018 where a EU-JAMRAI stand funded by CHAFEA was present. Furthermore, participation in Pint of Science and FameLab was tested in Spain with big success.

An article on EU-JAMRAI was published in the prestigious “AMR Control” 2018 book

- WP9 “Prioritizing and implementing research and innovation for public health needs”: In the frame of the prioritization of research in EU and identification of potential gaps, a mapping of research priorities was developed. Main common priorities include basic research on mechanisms of resistance, surveillance and implementation of IPC measures. Furthermore, gaps were identified including a lack of research in the environmental field, in the food safety area and a lack of fundamental research regarding ICP measures.

Upcoming activities:

- The next ExB meeting will be a physical one organized on 29 Jan. 2019 in France.
- The next General Assembly, Stakeholder Forum and Advisory committee will be announced soon.
- Preparation of the Interim reporting and monitoring the interim payment.
- Draft of the Integration and sustainability plan.
- Integrating preventive strategies within national policies: Analysis of the gaps within WP4, 5, 6 and 7, assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of National Action Plan and elaborating concrete recommendations /policy briefs targeting those gaps.
- Organisation of workshops for the WP5 participants devoted to the Country to Country visits (Jan. 2019)

- Country visits for WP9 activities (Jan 2019 - Dec 2019)
- Based on the results of the surveys for the key components of ICP and barriers for an effective ICP implementation, a universal IC framework will be developed with appropriate training tools for all the stakeholders.
- Report on experience from country teams about the implementation model for WP 6.2
- Analysis of the results of the HCAs and surveillance surveys
- Publication of IPC/HCAI research gaps
- Coordination of the participation of the partners in the next edition of Famelab and Pint of Science (2019)
- Design and dissemination of the videogame
- Plan of the AMR symbol competition
- European webinar for journalists will be organized next Feb.2019 in order to provide to journalists from across Europe clear and accurate scientific information about AMR and HCAI so they can correctly inform the audience about these major health threats and to create a database and network of journalists and international media agencies at EU level.

The presentations were followed by two “panel discussions” to review the first results of the JA and to exchange insights on how to bridge the gap between declarations and concrete actions for a greater coherence in the global movement against AMR and HCAs. The discussion also highlighted the need for the EU-JAMRAI website to become a “hotspot” and unique portal for all people involved in the fight against AMR and HCAs.



At the end of the session, Danilo LO FO WONG from WHO emphasized that the EU-JAMRAI is a really unique and valuable place where all MS are working together, side by side with stakeholders to tackle a common objective.

Closing: Prof. Christian BRUN-BUISSON, Ministerial delegate on AMR from the French Ministry of Health concluded the meeting by an overview and a SWOT analysis of the different work packages, and by highlighting a few key messages for the sustainability of the Joint Action and for building on positive outcomes, maximizing the impact of results. He acknowledged all participants and expressed his best wishes for the success of the project.



All presentations are available on the EU-JAMRAI website:

<https://eu-jamrai.eu/eu-jamrai-first-annual-meeting/>