



EARS-Vet Newsletter #1 (9 January 2020)

Dear all,

As you know, our approach to build EARS-Vet is highly participative and inclusive. EARS-Vet is designed by you, it is your system. To manage this, we have already organized 11 country visits and discussed with AMR experts from many organizations such as EFSA, EMA, ECDC, FVE (Federation of Veterinarians in Europe), EUCAST/VetCAST, the European Commission, FAO, WHO and WHO collaborating centers, OIE, the EU reference laboratory for AMR etc.

To facilitate the dissemination of information on our advancements, maintain our momentum and provide you with timely feedback, I would like to announce the establishment of this EARS-Vet newsletter! At this stage, it won't be published at a defined frequency, but when deemed relevant.

So here is a summary of our activities in 2019 and next work steps for 2020!

Country visits

We prioritized visits to countries that have a monitoring system for AMR in diseased animals. We have visited almost all them, i.e. Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Ireland (+ France). We have also started visits to countries that don't have a system yet, i.e. Italy and Greece, as well as to Spain, a country which is about to launch its system. We wish them plenty of success in their initiative!

During these country visits, we presented the EU-JAMRAI One Health objectives, the current design of EARS-Vet and collected feedback. We discussed possible concerns (e.g. on possible animal trade impacts) and conditions for participation in EARS-Vet. We also made a thorough description and analysis of their system or, when there is





none, we discussed collectively a strategy to build a national monitoring system of AMR in veterinary medicine.

In 2020, we hope, if possible, to organize another 14 country visits, including the UK and Eastern European countries.

EARS-Vet standards and EARS-Vet manual

All the information collected during country visits will be the basis of the EARS-Vet manual which will summarize EARS-Vet standards and provide experience-based recommendations to set up national monitoring systems, compatible with EARS-Vet. The standards will be defined following the analysis of existing monitoring systems, discussions within the core contributing countries of Task 7.4.2 (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Czech Republic, Belgium, Greece, Spain, Italy and France) and then be reviewed by many experts from the animal and human sectors as part of our One Health approach.

EARS-Vet surveillance scope

The EARS-Vet surveillance scope is being defined in a bottom-up approach, by first asking countries what is relevant and feasible to monitor in their countries, thanks to a consultation of national experts. Twelve national surveillance scopes were received and we are preparing the data analysis. Once a first draft of EARS-Vet scope will be produced, it will then be reviewed by many experts from the animal and human sectors as part of the EU-JAMRAI One Health approach.

EARS-Vet sustainability

The objective is that EARS-Vet survive after the end of EU-JAMRAI. The new Animal Health Law opens for the possibility to regulate AMR surveillance in animal pathogens in the EU and EFSA was just mandated to define what bacteria (if any) should be monitored mandatorily in the EU (“Mandate on listing and categorisation of



transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials, in the framework of the Animal Health Law”). We hope to become a key partner in those discussions.

We will do our best to define a strategy to sustain EARS-Vet and it will be center of many of our discussions in 2020.

ARCH-Net collaboration

In 2019, a collaboration was developed between EU-JAMRAI and ARCH-Net (VRI JPIAMR network). We participated in a workshop in Verona last October and plan to produce a series of white papers on what kind of surveillance data are needed to improve antimicrobial stewardship in four different sectors (hospital, community, long-term care facilities and veterinary).

I wish you a very happy new year! Stay healthy in 2020 and keep away from resistant bugs 😊.

Rodolphe



Group picture of our EARS-Vet country visit in Greece last December

