

Anti-Infectives Global Patient Advocacy Advisory Summit

19th - 20th November 2019, Amsterdam

Brief summary

by Anna Rita Cosso, Vice President of Cittadinanzattiva

The “Global Patient Advocacy Advisory Summit” was a moment of dialogue on the importance of the Antimicrobial Resistance for patients’ organisations coming from different part of the world: The Netherlands, United States of America, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Brazil. Italy was represented by Cittadinanzattiva and AIL-Associazione Italiana contro le leucemie, linfomi e mieloma ONLUS (Italian Association against leukaemia, lymphomas and myeloma).

The dialogue was extensive and focused on the following three issues: everyone’s first goal is to raise awareness on the topic of AMR which has lacked public attention lately; secondly, it is necessary to focus on prevention and to adopt correct procedures in terms of diagnosis and treatment. Last but not least, to enlarge the demands for R&D.

Two of Cittadinanzattiva’s activities have impressed all those present: first of all, our participation at the national level in the technical group of coordination of the Ministry of Health for the implementation of the National Plan against antimicrobial resistance. On a global scale, the involvement of a citizen organization in this policy phase appears to be quite rare.

Furthermore, the initiative taken at the European level by Cittadinanzattiva through its EU branch Active Citizenship Network in collaboration with sixteen fellow citizens' organizations impressed the participants: an open letter to the Members of the European Parliament, urging them to bring antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to the forefront of EU inter-institutional discussions and to support the establishment of a dedicated AMR parliamentary group.

Our request to the pharmaceutical industry to invest in the marketing of new antibiotics, new drugs and new treatment methods was also appreciated. Moreover, it one of the requests is to improve the access to care in low and middle income countries.

From the Sepsis Alliance came the request to simplify the language to make it universally accessible. Campaigns against abuse and misuse of antibiotics must be within the scope of our commitment, but this is also why funding is needed.

The commitment ([historical for Cittadinanzattiva](#)) against hospital infections remains fundamental, as they constitute the birthplace of antibiotic resistance phenomena in 75% of cases.

A special focus is on Italy, which holds the negative record of hospital infections and antibiotic resistance.

Not only do patient organizations need to be alerted on this issue, but a great commitment is also needed from consumer associations on critical consumption: if intensive animal farming is one of the major causes of the development of super resistant bacteria, then citizens-consumers are required to become more selective in their purchasing behavior, for example by not buying meat from intensive farming.

In the final session of the working groups, we asked ourselves whether we should act locally or globally? We must accept the global challenge and try to build a common commitment with a ONE HEALTH approach against the antibiotic resistance.