

EU-JAMRAI 2nd Annual Meeting & Stakeholder Forum

16th-17th September 2019, Rome

Brief Summary

By Riccardo Schwarz, ACN staff

As an official partner, Active Citizenship Network participated in the EU-JAMRAI 2nd Annual Meeting & Stakeholder Forum. The EU-JAMRAI (European Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections) has the goal to keep antibiotics working. The conference, which took place on September 16th and 17th in Rome, brought together leaders from the national public health ministries and industry, healthcare workers, researchers and civil society organizations. Active Citizenship Network, which is officially recognized as a stakeholder by EU-JAMRAI, was involved in the conference to confirm its commitment on the topic at national and EU level.

During the conference, an array of challenges and opportunities concerning AMR (Antimicriobial Resistance) were discussed. One very important step which was taken by EU-JAMRAI is the institution of Peer reviews. The "Peer reviews" consist of country-to-country visits, during which experts of one European country visit another European country to assess their National Plan against AMR. Another fundamental aspect of the EU-JAMRAI strategy is the "One Health" approach, which consists of seeing human and animal health not as two separate sectors, but as integral. A key pillar of the EU-JAMRAI action is to ensure sustainability based on each Member states priorities. Many of the expert panelists invited agreed on the need for further research, and more funding.

The fight against AMR is impossible without stewardship; the ethical use of resources — only with prudent use of antibiotics we can ensure their effectiveness in the future. The second day started with a roundtable of industry leaders to discuss how to stimulate innovations; the consensus was that public-private partnerships and cooperation between industry and national governments in general play a central role in the fight against AMR. The roundtable on antimicrobial stewardship in animal health discussed various ideas and best practices on how to reduce the use of antibiotics in animals. The final roundtable revolved on how to sustainably integrate the One Health approach in National Actions plans — a topic of utmost importance, considering that only an integral and continent-wide effort can yield results.