

# *Solving the AMR pandemic: where do we stand?*

## *How to advocate with policymakers*



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## *AMR: The context in Italy*

- Before the pandemic, the phenomenon caused about 33,000 deaths in Europe each year from infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria: of these, one-third of the total, occur in Italy. This is the sad record held by my country;
- Italy tops the continental rankings for the number of deaths linked to antimicrobial resistance, according to a report published by the Italian National Health Institute (Istituto Superiore di Sanità) on the occasion of the annual 2019 World Antimicrobial Awareness Week.
- According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), in 2019 the risk - in Italy - of contracting infections during a hospitalization was about 6%. On an absolute level we are talking about 530 thousand cases each year, data that put Italy in last place among all countries in Europe.
- Antibiotic consumption in Italy is higher than the European average (both at the territorial and hospital level, especially in the age groups between 2 and 5 years old, and over 85 years old);
- In my country antibiotics are inappropriately prescribed in a quarter of cases, according to the 2020 National Report on Antibiotic Use in Italy, edited by the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA).

# *Fighting paradoxes on AMR from a citizen & patient' perspective*

One of the ten most urgent threats for Global Health but totally underestimated among the populations

More impactful than car accidents but not enough prioritized in the EU and National public health policies

Despite the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) requires policies focused on the prevention and extension of vaccinations, the health expenditure for prevention programmes is the “Cinderella” of the public health budget, and in several countries the National Plan on AMR is still missing or expired

Interlinked with Covid-19 pandemic but almost ignored by the media



The world is losing its most powerful tool in healthcare, antibiotics, and in the meantime, research is still waiting for EU incentive mechanisms as well as an overall strategy to integrate the development of - and access to - affordable and of quality antimicrobials

Patient engagement efforts on increasing awareness on AMR are not accompanied by more widespread initiatives targeted to citizens: how do we behave at the supermarket with regards to foods produced “without any use of antibiotics”?

# Active Citizenship Network long term commitment

Long-term  
strategy not a  
spot initiative

To bring the  
patients & citizens'  
perspectives

To raise awareness  
among patients'  
associations, advocacy  
groups and EU  
Institutions

To enlarge the constituency  
and move towards a citizen AMR  
alliance, in line with the One Health  
Approach

[Click here to know more](#)

To improve  
access to safer  
healthcare

*“Active EU citizens for AMR”*

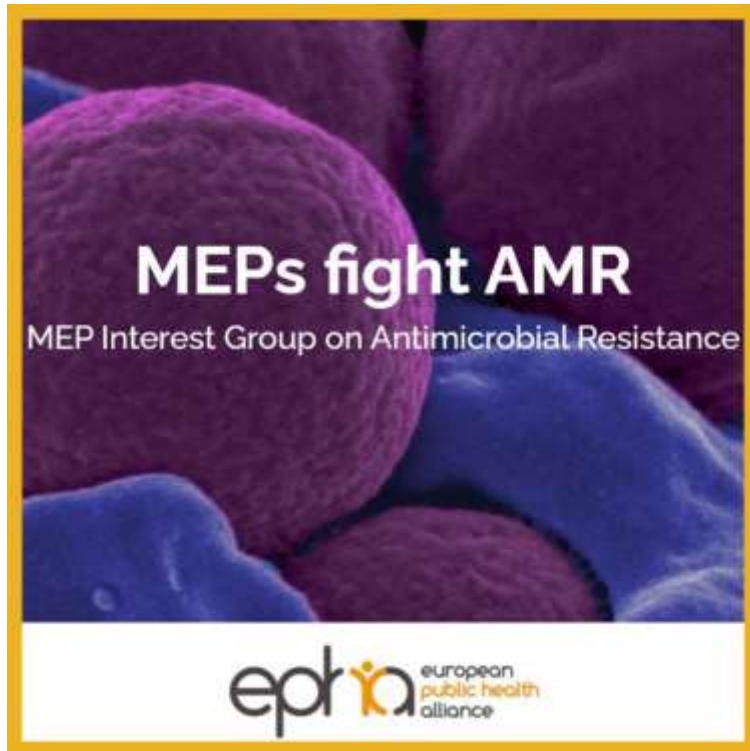


# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (1)



*On September 2019, just after the European election of the new EU Parliament, 17 organisations active in human and animal health have sent an open letter to the newly elected Members of the European Parliament, urging them to bring antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to the forefront of EU interinstitutional discussions and to support the establishment of a dedicated AMR parliamentary group*

# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (2)



To involve Members of the European Parliament from different countries and political groups with the support of non institutional actors



# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (3)



↑ Sharing best practices to promote the value of innovation at the EU level

Involve other MEPs & Interest groups at the EU Parliament dedicated to the protection of public health and the respect of patients' rights →

SAVE THE DATE

## Driving Collaboration in the Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance

Going Further, Aiming Higher

**ORGANIZED BY**  
Shionogi  
with the support of  
Active Citizenship Network

**DATE & TIME**  
15 November 2022  
11:00 – 12:30 CET

**LOCATION**  
European Parliament  
Room A3E-2

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has become a serious global health threat that places a significant burden on our healthcare systems, society and animal health. The planned revision of the pharmaceutical legislation and the special emphasis of the current Council Trio Presidency on AMR sets the right conditions to convene policymakers, industry and civil society to discuss solutions to address unmet needs and drive innovation in the fight against AMR.

With the endorsement of the MEPs' Interest Group on European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare



# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (4)

The [European Patients' Rights Day](#) is an annual appointment to be [celebrated each year across Europe](#) as a common occasion to inform, discuss and commit to improving patients' rights in Europe and in each member State.

14<sup>th</sup> European Patients' Rights Day

**ONE health approach MULTIPLE answers:**  
Citizens' engagement & stakeholders' actions to tackle antimicrobial resistance and sustain EU progress

**DIGITAL CONFERENCE**  
Wednesday, 18th November 2020 - 17:00-19:00  
Thursday, 19th November 2020 - 15:30-17:30

Hosted by MEP Brando Benifei, S&D group

The conference is realized thanks to the support of: MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Copma, Teva

Media partners: Alliance for Health and Nutrition, HEALTH EUROPE

Scientific support by: Active Citizenship Network



To use fixed appointments on the European agenda, such as the [European Patients' Rights Day](#), to reinforce messages on AMR

Active citizenship Network  
Pubblicato da Luana Scialanca · 13 novembre 2020

Grazie Eurodeputati PD per ospitare il 14° #EuropeanPatientsRightsDay e per sostenere il nostro lavoro per combattere #AMR e promuovere la #sicurezzapaziente. Per saperne di più visita <https://bit.ly/3p2KtQA> #EPRD2020... Altro...

ACTIVECITIZENSHIP.NET  
Our policy on patient safety: focus on Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)... Our commitment on the topic Since its inception in 1978, Cittadinanzattiva Onlus has worked continuously to advocate for safer healthcare,...



# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (5)

Support to EU4Health programme for a healthier  
and safer Union linked to AMR

In 2022, ACN was officially appointed by the EU Commission as a member of the [HERA Civil Society Forum](#), the expert group of the HERA Advisory Forum, led by the European Health Emergency preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). The Civil Society Forum makes the interactions between interested parties easier and acts as a contact point between HERA and stakeholders representing patients, consumers and healthcare professionals.



The [Health Emergency Preparedness and Response \(HERA\)](#) department's mission is to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to health emergencies. HERA was launched as a new European Commission Directorate-General on 16 September 2021.

***Strategic Orientation for HERA's 2023 Annual Workplan:*** About **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, HERA will further work on the priority list of resistant pathogens and a pipeline analysis for AMR medical countermeasures. Working closely with Member States, HERA will aim to improve the continuity of supply by stockpiling and early identification of demand surges or supply issues. HERA will work on establishing an EU strategy tailored to this need and incentivising the development and availability of countermeasures, both at regional and international levels, in line with the initiatives on AMR under the Pharmaceutical strategy for Europe. Funding will also be available through Horizon Europe to develop improved medical countermeasures (officially announced last December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (6)



**Resistenza antimicrobica: una minaccia globale.**  
Cosa sapere per meglio affrontarla a livello locale

Seminario di formazione online  
**4 luglio 2022 | 16:30 - 18:30**

Per maggiori informazioni, si prega di contattare: [staff.rem@activecitizenship.net](mailto:staff.rem@activecitizenship.net)

Logos: IAPD PEPIS Observatory, Ministero della Sanità, Pfizer, Cittadinanzattiva



**MHN**  
MIND HEALTH NETWORK

**Patient Empowerment Training**  
What we need to know about antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance

24/7

Date: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
Time: 18:00 - 20:00 hrs  
Venue: Life Sciences Park, San Gwann

Speakers:  
**Mr. Mariano Votta** (Director of Active Citizenship Network ACN & Board member of ANP Patient Alliance)  
**Prof. Michael Borg** (Chair of the National Antibiotic Committee, Malta)

Take care of your Health for a better life



**ANTIBIOTICI:  
GUIDA A UN USO  
CORRETTO**

Cittadinanzattiva  
Emilia-Romagna

Investing in training sessions (at the national & at the EU level) because each one of us, when well-informed, represents a good antidote to the spreading of fake news.



**TRAINING SEMINAR**

**Towards higher patient safety in EU hospitals**  
Innovation in hygiene & sanification to reduce healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

4th February 2019 - 15:00-18:00  
Thon Hotel EU, Brussels

The event is realized thanks to the unconditional support of **copma**

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK  
CITTADINANZATTIVA

# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (7)

## ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

### A Global Patient Consensus Statement and Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance

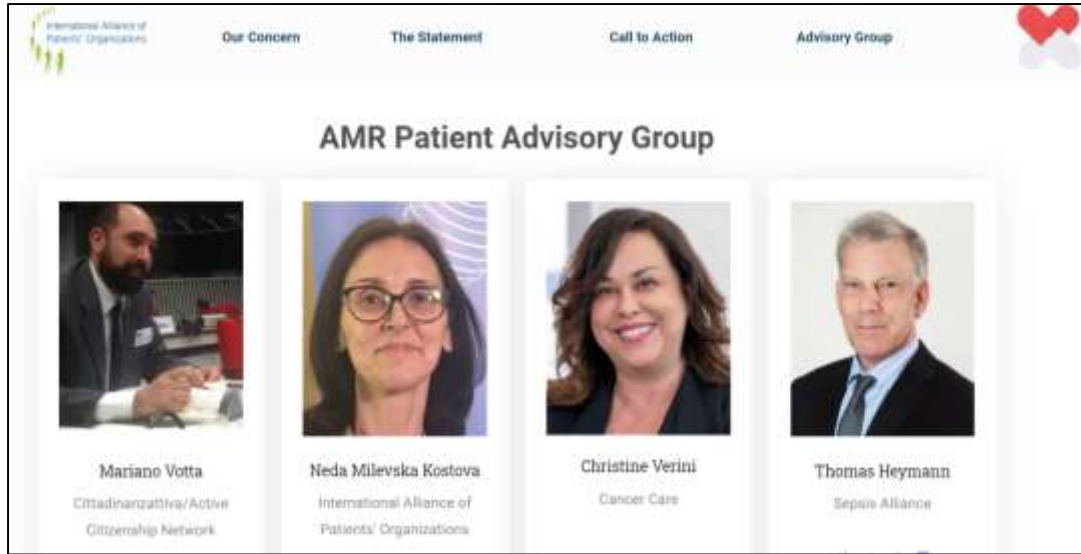


50+ organisations from 22 Countries

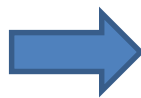




# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (8)



Strengthen the alliance & enlarge the AMR constituency



## Active Citizenship Network

One of the most widespread and flexible European citizens' networks.

Established in 2001, it is the European branch of the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva, founded in 1978 to promote citizens' activism for the protection of rights, the care of common goods, the support for people in conditions of weakness. ACN is deeply involved in health issues at the EU level, and it is strongly committed to improving the protection of patients' rights across Europe, as shown by its long-lasting commitment on the topic.

ACN's Director has been a longstanding Member of Health First Europe's Executive Committee.

Headquartered in Rome (Italy), with the representative office to the EU in Brussels (Belgium).

[www.amrpolicygroup.eu](http://www.amrpolicygroup.eu)  
[www.cittadinanzattiva.it](http://www.cittadinanzattiva.it)  
[www.amrpolicygroup.eu](http://www.amrpolicygroup.eu)



The fight against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) requires policies focused on prevention and extension of vaccinations. Health expenditure for prevention programmes is the "Cinderella" of the public health budget, and in several countries Nationals Plan on AMR are still missing or expired.

Patient engagement efforts on increasing awareness of AMR must be accompanied by more widespread initiatives targeted towards citizens.

# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (9)



In Italy, the National Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (PNCAR) represents the tool to translate the national strategy into practice, providing a coordinated and sustainable direction to combat the phenomenon of AMR at national, regional and local level, through a "one health" multisectoral approach. Approved in November 2017, expired in 2020 and extended for 2021

On November 3, 2017, the PNCAR Technical Coordination Group (GTC) was established, with the task of coordinating, monitoring and updating the AMR National Countering Plan and Strategy, to harmonize the strategies already in place and facilitate the achievement of short and medium-long term goals. In addition to the stakeholders who drafted the Plan (Ministry of Health, Italian Medicines Agency, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, AIFA, ISS and Scientific Societies & Regions), the following took part:

- The Ministry of Economy and Finance
- The Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies
- The Ministry of the Environment
- Cittadinanzattiva

# What actions can be taken to help policymakers and other stakeholders? A collection of concrete examples (10)



In Italy, Farindustria has promoted the AMR multidisciplinary Task Force, involving representatives of the academic-scientific world, civic & patients associations, and pharmaceutical industry, to provide recommendations on combating AMR:

- Role of vaccine prevention as a tool to combat antimicrobial resistance;
- Value, access and innovation of new antibiotics against bacterial resistance;
- Appropriateness of use of antibiotics.



In Italy, the [new National Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance \(PNCAR\) 2022-2025](#) was transmitted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to the Ministry of Health and the Economy and to the Regions last [September 2022](#).





# THANK YOU!

**Mariano Votta**

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