

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): a global health threat. What to know to better address it at the local level

Italian training seminar

4 July 2022



The poster features a red heart icon above two white pills. The main title is in a blue banner: **Resistenza antimicrobica: una minaccia globale. Cosa sapere per meglio affrontarla a livello locale**. Below this, it states: **Seminario di formazione online** and **4 luglio 2022 | 16:30 - 18:30**. At the bottom, it provides contact information: *Per maggiori informazioni, si prega di contattare: staff.rome@activecitizenship.net*. Logos for IAPO P4PS Observatory, ALICER, and Pfizer are also present.

Curated by Active Citizenship Network Director Mariano Votta and Project Manager Maira

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Framework of the AMR training seminar

The online training seminar on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) realized on 4 July, 2022, from 16:30 to 18:30 CEST, and entitled *“Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): a global health threat. What to know to better address it at the local level”*, was realized by Active Citizenship Network in Italian language, without any translation. The event, attended by 41 interlocutors, was targeted to Italian leaders of civic and patient associations, citizens, relevant stakeholders interested in the issue.

The event, which consisted of a 2-hour training seminar on the topic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), was realized in the framework of the EU project [AMR Patient Alliance – developing educational repository for patient and caregiver awareness of drug resistant infections](#) promoted by [IAPO P4PS Observatory](#) and of which [Cittadinanzattiva](#) is a part through its European branch Active Citizenship Network, together with the [International Alliance of Patients’ Organization \(IAPO\)](#) and the Spanish patient association [ALICER](#).

The main objective of the seminar was to combat disinformation on the abuse of antibiotics, which represents one of the main global health threats according to WHO and to increase the empowerment and awareness of citizens and patients on the phenomenon of antimicrobial resistance and advocate for an increased activism of citizens’ and patients’ associations to the issue.

The first part of the seminar explored the topic of antimicrobial resistance as a major threat to global health according to the World Health Organization. Topics covered the European approach to a "One Health" strategy and the key role infection prevention plays in combating AMR. The second part focuses

on the national (Italian) context, emphasizing in particular the importance of a good doctor-patient relationship for an appropriate use of antibiotics. During its second half, the seminar also discussed the relationship between antimicrobial resistance and vaccination policies and analyzed the new National Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (PNCAR) being drafted in Italy. To know more about the programme, please click here ([EN](#) - [IT](#) language).

Arguments discussed and interest emerged during the Q&A session:

- How much do global phenomena such as climate change or globalization (thus referring to the continuous movement of people, goods, etc.), negatively affect antibiotic resistance or antibiotic consumption?
- Do the national plans and documents on the fight against AMR that have been mentioned, such as the Italian PNCAR, recognize the need to involve civil society and civic and patient associations in actions countering AMR? If yes, which are the actions and recommendations they refer to?
- In vaccination policies and actions related to their support, is the reference to AMR stressed enough as it is done the other way around for actions against AMR?
- Much has been said about the behavior healthcare professionals should adopt towards their patients, but what can patients do instead to facilitate their doctor's work and diagnosis?
- Are there good practices in the fight against AMR that can be applied not only in Italy, but also in other European countries and different national healthcare systems?

Potential next steps and follow up:

- The relationship between AMR and nutrition: the topic of antimicrobial resistance related to the area of food and agriculture, the use of antibiotics in the breeding of the animals we then eat, and what the message often found on food package labels stating "treated without antibiotics" means. These particular aspects, all linked with one another, could be adequately addressed in a subsequent follow-up event, also to broaden the audience of citizens aware of the impact of antimicrobial resistance to the audience of those with greater consumerist awareness, and thus reflecting on the meaning and value that certain messages have: what is behind the label "antibiotic-free supply chain?" What differences between products from animals "from birth" or "in the last 4 months" away from antibiotics? What lies behind these labels and why should they be considered for informed choices in the purchasing decisions of all of us?
- The strict relationship between AMR and vaccination: vaccination and vaccination policies are an extremely significant tool in the fight against AMR as vaccines manage to lower the risks of acquiring and transmitting resistant microbes and reduce sickness and the use of antibiotics. Despite the evident connection between the two, the benefit of vaccines to the fight against AMR still seems poorly recognized and awareness of the link between the two still seems to be lacking among many of us. Moreover, while AMR-focused initiatives often discuss about the role of vaccines, the same cannot be said for vaccine-related initiatives. An innovative next step could concern a vaccine-dedicated initiative with a focus on how vaccination policies help in reducing the major health threat of antimicrobial resistance.

- Looking at AMR in a global perspective: a relevant next step could concern the impact of global phenomena such as climate change and globalization in global health threats, with a particular focus on antimicrobial resistance.

PROJECT LEADER



PARTNERS



SUPPORT

The project has been realized thanks to the unconditional support of Pfizer



To know more about the commitment of Cittadinanzattiva-Active Citizenship Network on the topic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), please click [here](#).

To know more please contact the Project Manager Maira Cardillo at staff.rome@activecitizenship.net