

## All for One Health DAY -20 May 2021

### ***Istituto Superiore di Sanità confirms its effort towards One Health implementation to enhance prevention, preparedness and response to health threats***

Many of the upstream drivers of health occur outside the human health sector and are multifactorial, involving, e.g., animal health, climate change, anthropogenic pollution, land use, biodiversity loss, social inequalities, conflicts etc. This calls for a collaboration of all the relevant sectors in order to build-up integrated and effective strategies for prevention and preparedness to reduce the cumulative impact of current and emerging risks.

One Health is an interdisciplinary approach, which looks at the multi-faceted connections between human, animal and environmental health in order to assess and manage the complexity of health risks. Therefore, the One Health conceptual framework has to be considered as a major support in the implementation of public health actions.

ISS, thanks to its plurality of competences, skills and expertise, has started since long multidisciplinary collaborations and joint actions, transversal to its relevant research sectors, to promote the One Health approach needed to cope with present and future challenges.

To support this commitment, ISS researchers are involved in many interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral One Health initiatives in critical domains:

#### Governance and policies

- An inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach to estimate and prevent climate change-related public health impacts. The First Scientific Symposium “Health and Climate Change” and its declaration to promote actions “***The Rome International Charter on Health and Climate Change*** (2018)”;
- ***One Health 5-year Italian National Plan on arboviruses*** (2020);
- Integrated human/animal health approach to the implementation of ***the Italian Pandemic Plan*** (2021);

- The ***One Health-based Conceptual Framework for comprehensive and coordinated prevention and preparedness plans to global health threats*** (T20 Policy Brief April 2021);

### Research, networking and data sharing

- Memorandum of understanding to promote and enhance collaboration ***between OIE and ISS*** at the international level on the One Health approach (2018);
- The ***European One Health Joint Programme (OH-EJP)***, a landmark partnership between 44 partners, including acclaimed food, veterinary and medical laboratories and institutes across Europe and the Med-Vet-Net Association (2019-2022);
- The European project ***SeaFoodTomorrow*** a transdisciplinary action (expertise in animal health, nutrition, toxicology, microbiology and environment) in order to improve the sustainability and safety of aquaculture and seafood (*H2020, 2018-21*);
- The ***Med-Vet-Net Association***, that includes 21 scientific partners from 14 European countries and promotes the One Health approach to combat zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and supports a healthy and sustainable food supply chain across Europe;
- Coordination for the drafting of the ***EU One Health 2020 EFSA-ECDC Zoonoses Report*** (2021);
- Coordination of One Health public health research-actions in the framework of the ***MediLabSecure Initiative***, to prevent vector-borne diseases by reinforcing an international network of laboratories and public health institutions in 22 beneficiary countries in integrated surveillance of emerging arboviruses (EU DG DEVCO 2014-2022);

### Training and capacity building

- Organisation and implementation of the ***OH-EJP Summer school on Environmental Issues in One Health: from risk assessment to surveillance***, the

first European training dedicated to the environmental “pillar” of One Health (26 July -6 August 2021);

- Organisation and implementation of **One Health Risk Assessment Exercises on Arbovirus Infections in the Mediterranean Basin** (MediLabSecure 2015-2020);
- **Activation of PhDs** on Infectious Diseases, Microbiology and Public Health (Sapienza University) thematic: "**One Health**: integrated surveillance (human, animal and entomological), risk assessment and strengthening of health systems in Mediterranean countries and sub-Saharan Africa”(2018)

### The way forward

In its Strategic Plan 2021-2023, **ISS intends to foster the growth of multidisciplinary capacity** needed for complex health challenges at national and international level by addressing relevant gaps in research, networking, integration and capacity building, in line with whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

Special attention will be paid to the promotion of **strong collaborations** with all the relevant entities at national and international level needed to address the pressing aspects that are still hampering the operationalisation of One Health Strategies.

It is urgent to **increase scientific knowledge** to reduce the uncertainty burden in many One Health-relevant issues; to create **concrete instruments and policies for integrated data access, sharing analysis and dissemination**; to enhance the role of all sectors involved, in particular **the environment and the socio-economic sectors**; **to include citizens and communities among the stakeholders** which are critical in guaranteeing full impact of OH strategies.

**Training and communication** need to be updated, harmonised and consistent with the final aims to be achieved with the adoption of One Health strategies.

This will ensure the contribution of One Health to the **prevention, preparedness and response** efforts against health risks.

The “**ISS One Health Manifesto**” will be launched soon to share vision, aims and strategies and promote collaborations.