EOHA
European One Health Association

PEITHO, a Thematic Network on One Health in the EU Health Policy Platform



Anouk Meijs, RIVM

WOHC side event: Connecting European One Health initiatives,

3 September 2026

EOHA

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European One Health Association





34 affiliated scientific institutes from 20 European countries



The story of Peitho so far…

EU Health Policy Platform is a collaborative online tool that makes it easy for European Commission services, health-related interest groups and stakeholders to communicate with each other.

Thematic Networks boost collaboration with stakeholder organisations and produce a Joint Statement expressing their position and proposing actions on a specific public health area of the EU policy agenda.

August 2025:
EU HPP call for Thematic Network on One Health

November 2025:
voting in EU HPP

December 2025:
Launch PEITHO

October 2026:
End PEITHO



The scope

Scope: Strengthen a transdisciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to One Health challenges in Europe, with the ultimate goal to support the **operationalisation** and **institutionalisation** of sustainable One Health solutions.

Regional scope: Europe

Format: EU HPP virtual space and webinars.

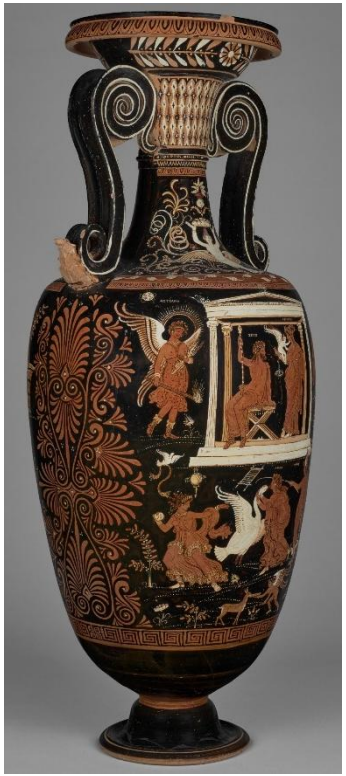
Final output: **Joint Statement**



Why PEITHO?

ΠΕΙΘΩ :

Platform for
European
Interdisciplinary
Transdisciplinary
Holistic
One Health





Museum Collection: The J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu
Catalogue No.: Malibu 86.AE.680
Date: ca. 350 - 340 B.C.

Joint statement

- Collaborative position document based on discussion on EU HPP and outcomes of webinars, with the support of DG SANTE.
- Roadmap, focused on **operationalisation** of One Health in Europe in relation to the EU health policy agenda: describing **how the stakeholders can improve efficacy of One Health initiatives** in line with the recommendations of the **Scientific Advisory Mechanism** (SAM) “One Health Governance in the EU” (practical advices on how to follow the SAM’s recommendations!).
- Published in October 2026 and endorsed by the One Health network and other stakeholders.



Joint statement: the target

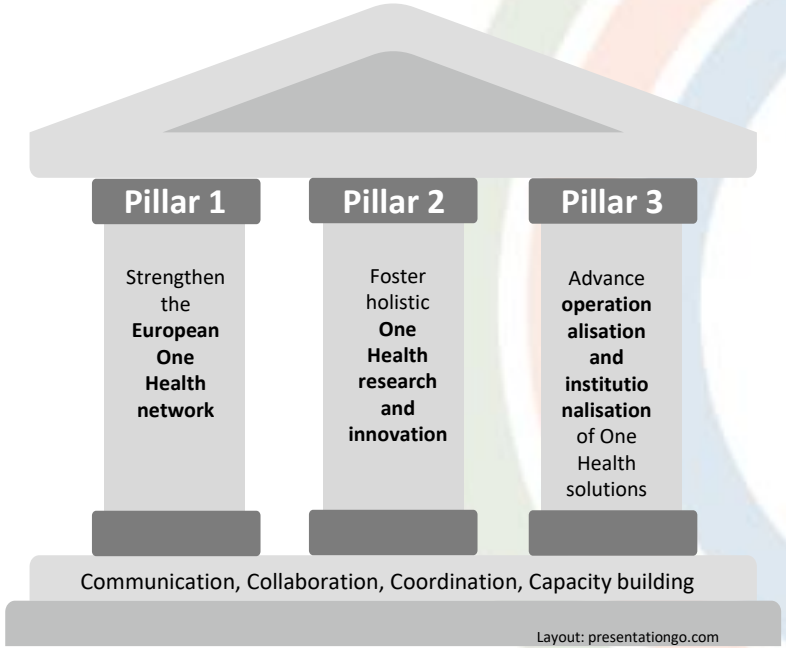
- Main target are **stakeholders** relevant to One Health in Europe: research-performing organisations, EURLs, national institutes with official surveillance/risk assessment tasks, scientific institutions (academia) and consortia, NGOs, private sector (industry and professional associations), etc.
- Secondary target: national and EU **decision/policy makers**.

A bottom-up approach to stimulate and support top-down initiatives



Joint statement: the structure

- **Three pillars**, each the main focus of a webinar.
- Each pillar addresses specific recommendations of the **Scientific Advisory Mechanism** (SAM) “One Health Governance in the EU”.
- Not all SAM recommendations addressed (more pillars needed).



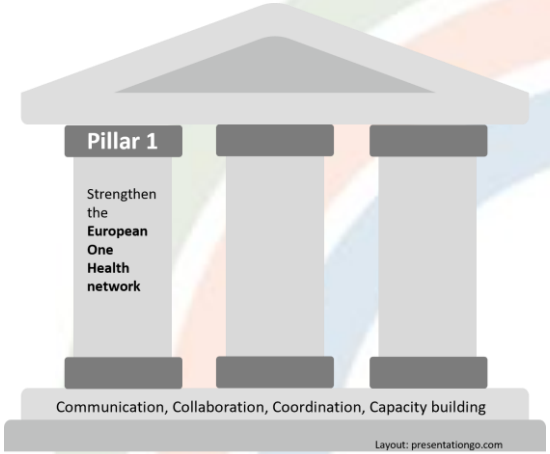
The webinars

- Focus on **case studies** and examples of One Health implementation, and reflection on what works and what is to improve.
- Topics selected based on One Health policy needs and on an internal PEITHO survey.

- 1st webinar: **One Health networks** (28th April) – integration of underrepresented sectors; and equity and inclusion.
- 2nd webinar: **R&I and research outcomes into practice** (28th May) – EU research landscape and use of One Health in real life scenario.
- 3rd webinar: **Operationalisation and governance** (10th June) – best examples of One Health actions implemented at the European level.

- **Recordings** available at www.youtube.com/@EuropeanOneHealthAssoc

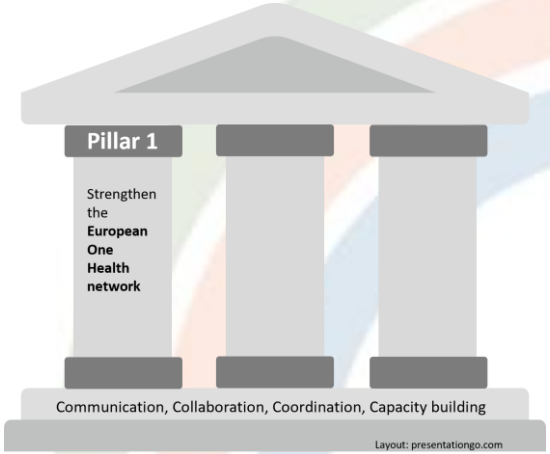
Joint statement: preliminary advice



Pillar 1

- Proactive **integration of underrepresented disciplines** (social sciences, economics, ecology) leads to more integral and effective interventions.
- Integration of socio-economic disciplines -> **Economic analyses** (e.g. cost–benefit, return on investment).
- Integration of social sciences –> **social determinants of health**.
- Learn from past examples of integration of sectors/disciplines (e.g. integration of environmental sector in AMR surveillance).

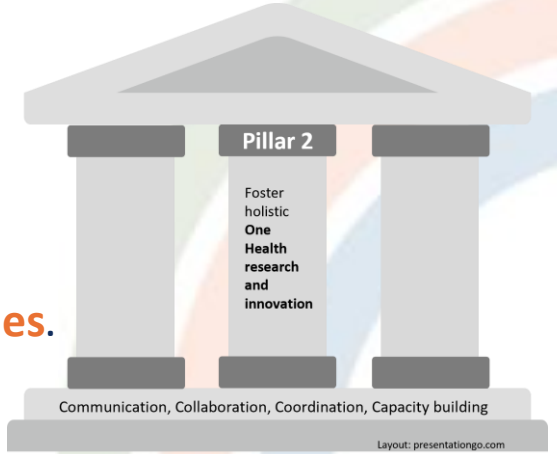
Joint statement: preliminary advice



Pillar 1

- Analysis of relevant social groups and focus on **equity and inclusion**.
- Added complexity and initial extra effort are compensated by increased effectiveness, **legitimacy, sustainability**.
- Stakeholder actions that enable **sustainable** solutions:
  - Inclusive governance, **fair representation**.
  - Build on and disseminate **good examples**.

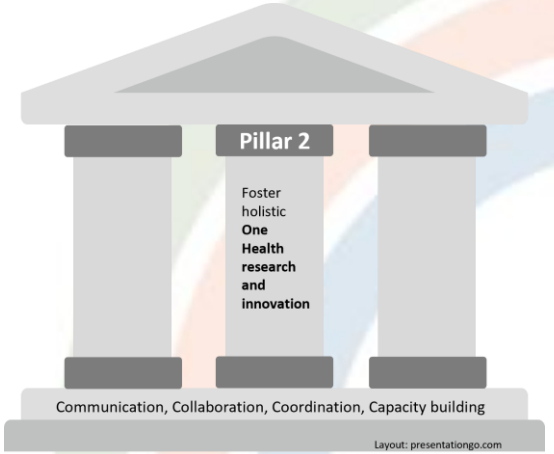
Joint statement: preliminary advice



Pillar 2

- A Holistic One Health approach should result in **benefit for** the health of **all participating disciplines**.
- Consider **One Health as an approach**, able to address issues beyond that of zoonotic diseases and AMR (e.g. NCD).
- Advocacy for:
  - **Coordinated calls** between funding agencies.
  - **Incentives for collaboration** between academia, public authorities, the private sector and civil society.
  - EU-level guidance or frameworks to enable **data interoperability** (while respecting ethical regulations).

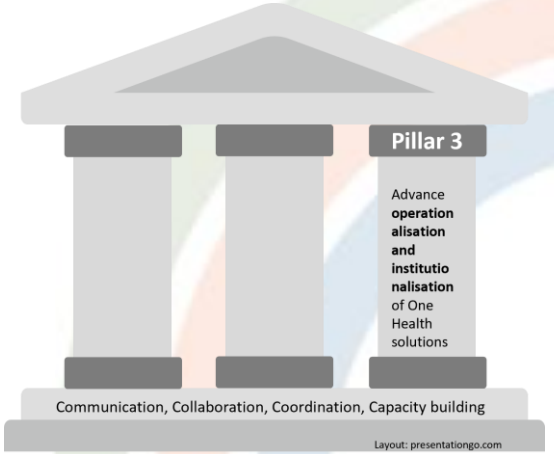
Joint statement: preliminary advice



Pillar 2

- **Exchange among One Health initiatives** to create synergies, avoid overlaps, make best use of funding.
- Promote coordinated, multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral Research Agendas e.g. by involving stakeholders beyond academia in advisory boards.
- Foster **training and education** at all levels (secondary education, early career, professionals), including modules on cross-sectoral collaboration and communication.

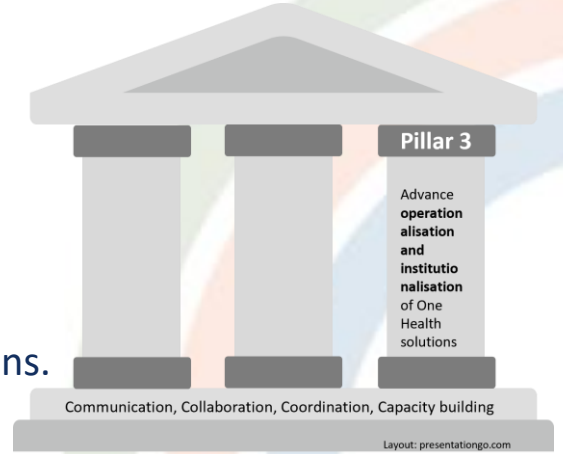
Joint statement: preliminary advice



Pillar 3

- **Early attention to implementation** by engagement with stakeholders and end users, and planning:
  - Co-creation → **actual needs** are addressed.
  - Collaborative development → facilitate **uptake**.
  - Simulation exercises and pilots → solutions are **effective**.
- Establish dedicated One Health **working groups** that:
  - Bridge science and policy (cross-sector).
  - Monitor One Health governance and uptake (integrated research opportunities, funding, and operational response).

Joint statement: preliminary advice



Pillar 3

- Strengthening **operational relationships**:
  - Staff exchanges.
  - Post-exercise and post-crisis after-action evaluations.

  → Help refine integrated protocols for prevention, detection and control.
- Advocate for **policy uptake** by dissemination to **targeted audiences**:
  - Include communication experts in working groups.
  - Include general public as target.
  - Include economic considerations.

In conclusion

- PEITHO and its Joint Statement would like to give **practical advice** to the stakeholders on how to follow the SAM's recommendations.
- Its long-term aim is to **operationalise** and eventually facilitate **institutionalisation** of the One Health approach in Europe.
- Although targeted to the stakeholders, policy makers could make use of the Joint Statement to design strategies to best support us.

Would you like to contribute?

Join PEITHO and co-write the Joint Statement

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