Seizing the momentum: Why Europe needs a One Health network of networks

Dana Thal[1], Anouk Meijs[2], Hein Imbrechts[2], Arien van de Giessen[2], Sascha Knauf[1]

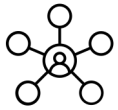
[1]One Health Platform Germany, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Germany
[2]European One Health Association



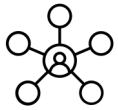


WOHC, Lisbon, 6 September 2026

Introduction

	One Health Platform (OHP), Germany	**European One Health Association (EOHA)**
	Est. 2023; evolved from the German Platform for Zoonoses Research (est. 2009)	Evolved from the Med-Vet-Net Association (est. 2009)
		
		
		
		

Introduction

	One Health Platform (OHP), Germany	**European One Health Association (EOHA)**
	Est. 2023; evolved from the German Platform for Zoonoses Research (est. 2009)	Evolved from the Med-Vet-Net Association (est. 2009)
	Research Agreement on One Health (6 German Federal Ministries: BMFTR, BMG, BMLEH, BMVg, BMUV, BMZ)	Non-profit association under the French Law of 1 July 1901, legal entity
		
		
		

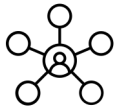
Introduction

	One Health Platform (OHP), Germany	European One Health Association (EOHA)
	Est. 2023; evolved from the German Platform for Zoonoses Research (est. 2009)	Evolved from the Med-Vet-Net Association (est. 2009)
	Research Agreement on One Health (6 German Federal Ministries: BMFTR, BMG, BMLEH, BMVg, BMUV, BMZ)	Non-profit association under the French Law of 1 July 1901, legal entity
	FLI Friedrich Loeffler Institut; Universität Münster; HIOH Helmholtz Institut für One Health	One registered office

Introduction

	One Health Platform (OHP), Germany	**European One Health Association (EOHA)**
	Est. 2023; evolved from the German Platform for Zoonoses Research (est. 2009)	Evolved from the Med-Vet-Net Association (est. 2009)
	Research Agreement on One Health (6 German Federal Ministries: BMFTR, BMG, BMLEH, BMVg, BMUV, BMZ)	Non-profit association under the French Law of 1 July 1901, legal entity
	FLI Friedrich Loeffler Institut; Universität Münster; HIOH Helmholtz Institut für One Health	One registered office
	German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space; no membership fee	Membership fee and project-based funding

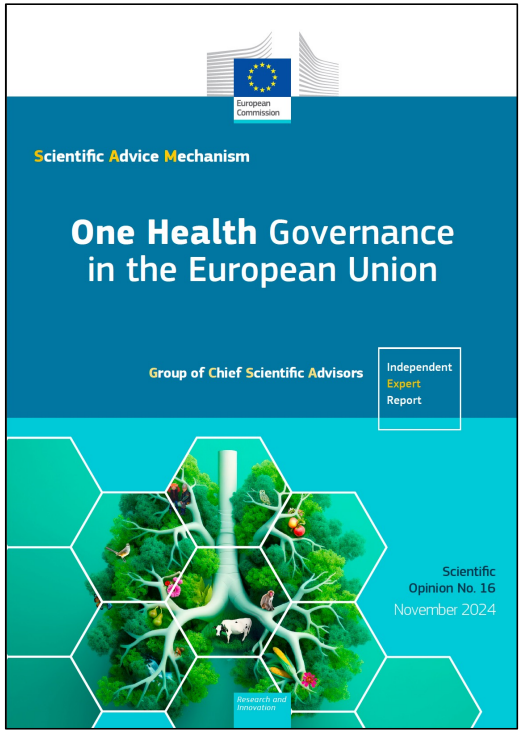
Introduction

	One Health Platform (OHP), Germany	European One Health Association (EOHA)
	Est. 2023; evolved from the German Platform for Zoonoses Research (est. 2009)	Evolved from the Med-Vet-Net Association (est. 2009)
	Research Agreement on One Health (6 German Federal Ministries: BMFTR, BMG, BMLEH, BMVg, BMUV, BMZ)	Non-profit association under the French Law of 1 July 1901, legal entity
	FLI Friedrich Loeffler Institut; Universität Münster; HIOH Helmholtz Institut für One Health	One registered office
	German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space; no membership fee	Membership fee and project-based funding
	National and community-based; inter- and transdisciplinary res. funding; training and networking events; young career support, raising public/political OH awareness	Int. public and academic membership network; focus on zoonoses and AMR and environment; funding of training courses/workshops, travel grants; promoting OH at the European level

The EU OH landscape

The challenge with 27 EU Member States:

- Multiple different national initiatives of variable size
- Different key areas and interests
  - e.g., research, policy, education
- Different funding and governance models
  - e.g., associations, project funded, governmental, NGO
- Various foci topics
  - e.g., AMR, zoonoses, food systems, climate change, social and environmental sciences often underrepresented
- Few overarching international initiatives
  - e.g., EOHA, PEITHO, EU Cross-agency One Health Task Force



Guidance but little coordination

Kicking off an EU One Health family



EOHA European One Health Association

One Health Platform

WOHC side event: Connecting European One Health initiatives

Date: September 3, 2026
Registration from: 11:15 a.m.
Time: 12:00 noon – 6 p.m.
Place: Lisbon
Palácio do Governador
Rua Bartolomeu Dias, 117
Lisbon, Lisboa 1400-030

Incentive: There are several regional and national One Health (OH) initiatives and contact person within Europe. The aim of this side event is to improve networking between these European initiatives to make better use of synergies and strengthen transboundary efforts. Possible ways of jointly promoting OH collaborations within Europe are to be explored. This will foster long-term prospects of regional and national OH initiatives. Such an approach is particularly important in view of the current resource limitations due to the climate of multiple crises and geopolitical challenges. To further strengthen the position of individual OH initiatives within Europe, opportunities for policy alignment should be developed. The latter aligns with a Joint Statement on OH in the EU, which is currently being drafted by the OH network PEITHO in the framework of the EU Health Policy Platform. The extent to which the results of the event can contribute to and align with this statement should be examined.

Here you can find the recording of the #EUHPP Live Webinar:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/

The outcome of this networking event is presented during a session of the 9th World One Health Congress 2026 in Lisbon (4-7 September 2026).

https://globalohc.org/9WOHC

Universität Münster · FLI · HIOH Helmholtz Institut für One Health

The One Health Platform is a joined project of the University Münster, the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute and the Helmholtz-Institute for One Health, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Space.



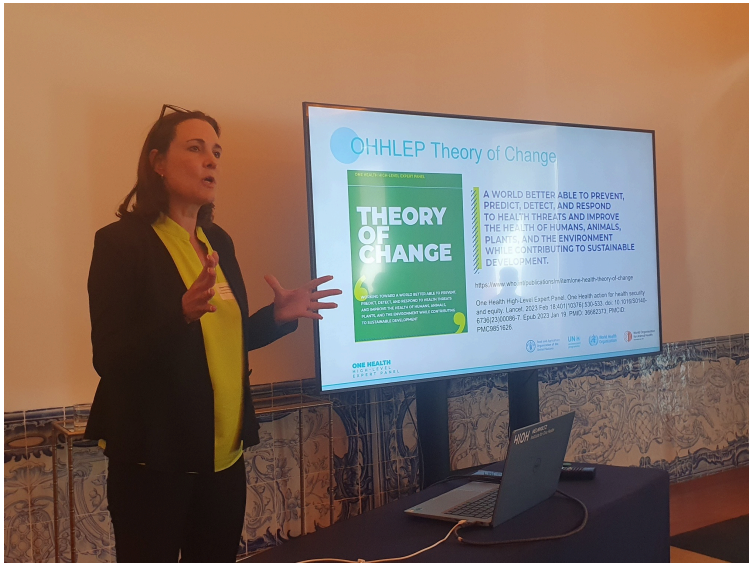
WOHC-side event: Connecting European OH initiatives (3rd Sep 2026)

- 20 organisations from 13 countries
- Identify potential fields of collaboration
- Setting up an agenda



Created with mapchart.net

Theory of change



Wanda Markotter, OHHLEP 2026

Strengthening the OH 4Cs in the EU

Communication

Identify needs, define common and achievable goals

Collaboration

Create synergies, intensify cross-border partnership

Coordination

Harmonization, min. redundancies, reconcile national and EU interests

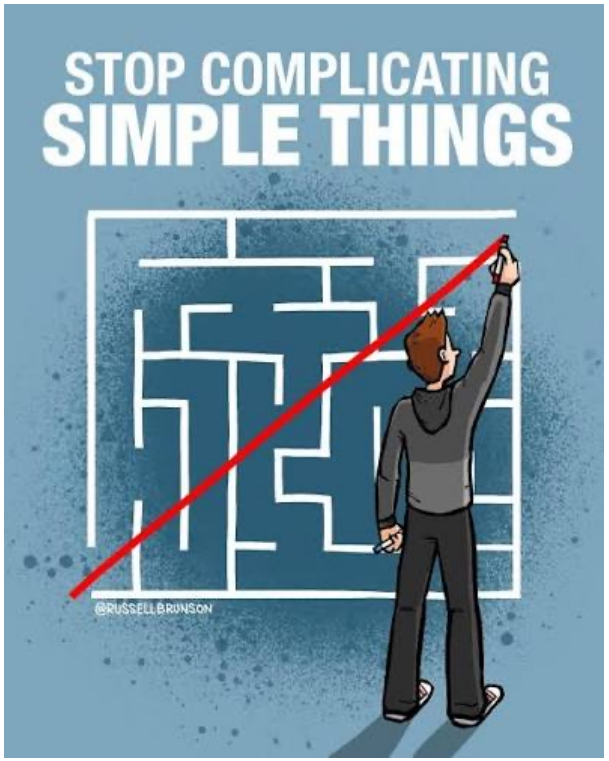
Capacity strengthening

Sustain. long-term funding, est. comm. channels, next generation support

Group work snapshots

Scientific collaboration

- Participants felt reasonably well-connected at domestic level
- Clear gap between national and EU-level integration
- Networking on national and international level rated high
  - Desire for stronger EU-ties
  - Joint research and funding applications
- Existing EU funding structures well known but
  - Either inaccessible
  - Over-complicated, heavy admin, complicated user interface
- A network would support transnational educational/exchange OH programmes (MSc, PhD, postdocs)
- Alignment of national/transnational research calls



https://www.facebook.com/RussellBrunsonLIVE/posts/stop-making-simple-things-complicatedi-think-a-lot-of-the-times-we-make-things-s/3581439968638366/

Group work snapshots

Promoting early career professionals

- Harmonization of efforts needed
- Less duplication
- Increased effectiveness, capitalisation of funds/ resources
- Greater outreach, more visibility, easier access of offers needed
- Knowledge transfer, profiting from diverse experiences, views and expertise required
- Identification of further networks and contact persons is vital
- Lack of dissemination of information between networks (e.g. on events, travel grants)
- Joint (online) events for early career professionals from all sectors across the EU



Group work snapshots

Conveying science to policy

- Sharing best practices to convey science to policy is largely missing
- Intensification of the (one voice) communication between the EU OH community and EU representatives/bodies needed
  - National policy makers
  - EU Commission
- Participants think a joint message has more weight

Making use of PEITHO including priorities in

- Early attention to engagement of stakeholders
- Identifying contact points
- Economic analyses



https://www.radicalcompliance.com/2022/11/07/more-thoughts-on-policies/

PEITHO Joint Statement

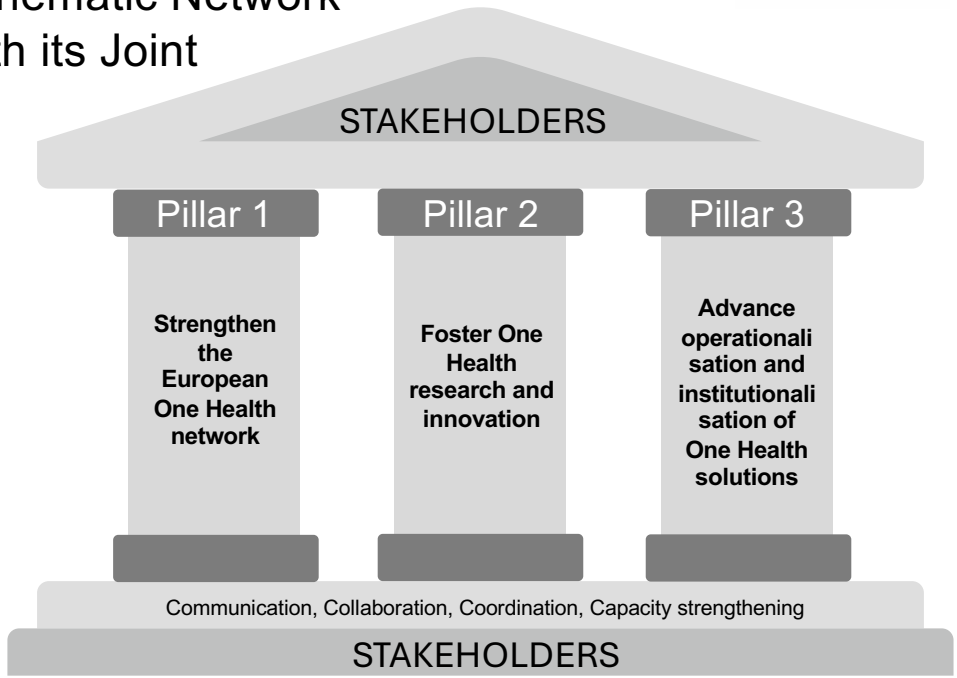
Platform for European Interdisciplinary, Transdisciplinary, Holistic One Health (PEITHO)

Funded by the European Union

EU Health Policy Platform Thematic Network (2025–2026), concluding with its Joint Statement in October 2026

Joint Statement (Deliverable)
Roadmap, focused on operationalization of One Health in Europe in relation to the EU health policy agenda.

- Practical advice to put into practice the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Mechanism (SAM) “One Health Governance in the EU”



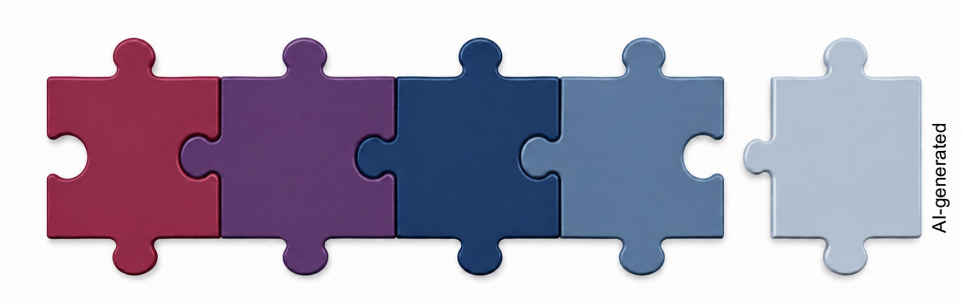
Expected benefits of a better coordination

Political alignment & outreach
stronger, more coherent OH voice for EU-level advocacy and lobbying

Funding efficiency
coordination drives synergies: joint funding applications, and reduced duplication of effort across Member States

Crisis resilience
pooled expertise enables fast reaction and earlier warning for a better prevention

Stronger evidence base
interoperable data and joint research agendas turn fragmented national findings into harmonised and applied knowledge



Capacity strengthening
cross-border training and research, incl. staff mobility, sustain expertise, partnership and support for early career professionals

Trust & visibility
consistent communication reinforces recognition and legitimacy of the OH approach with policymakers and the public

What needs to be done next?

Data collection

- Continue to collect contacts and information about all existing and planned networks across the EU (filling the gaps)
- More meetings and discussions involving stakeholders incl. EU level representatives

Governance and operability

- Define structures that are needed
- Making use of existing structures (e.g., EOHA)

MOU/JDI/Declaration

- Discussed controversially, must be followed by action



Canva.com

One Health Symposium 2026

One Health Platform

EOHA
European One Health Association

Join us for more discussions: One Health Symposium – Berlin, October 5 – 7



One Health Platform

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Thanks

One Health Platform

EOHA
European One Health Association

FLI Friedrich Loeffler Institut
HIOH Helmholtz Institute for One Health
Universität Münster

www.onehealthplatform.net
info@onehealthplatform.net

www.onehealthassoc.eu
info@onehealthassoc.eu





S. Knauf D. Thal A. Wagemann

Or meet us at the conference!



A. Meijs