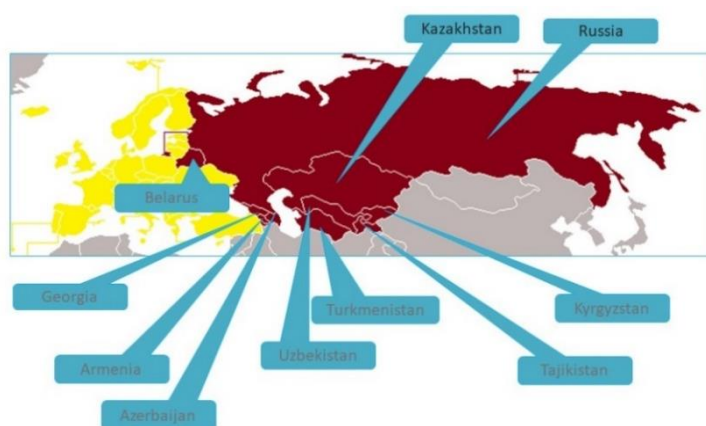


***Eurasian countries 'synchronised their watches' with the
National Action Plan on Antimicrobial resistance***

Workshop, Almaty, 10-11 October 2018

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been a flagship topic identified by the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite alliance since 2010. Half of the ten countries participating in this sub-regional workshop, initiated by OIE in collaboration with WHO and FAO in Almaty (Kazakhstan), declared having their National Action Plan on AMR still under development, despite having all entered into a commitment to develop and have it in place by 2017.



Representatives of the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, as well as the Veterinary Services and Public Health Service of Eurasian countries gathered together last month to maintain momentum on the discussion about countries implementing the Global Action Plan and on the actions to address AMR across all sectors.

From this workshop it became clear that all countries face the same challenges in developing their National Action Plan on AMR, particularly in weak inter-sectoral cooperation, the absence of or deficiencies in national surveillance systems on the use of antibiotics and AMR, the over-the-counter selling of medicines and finally, poor awareness campaigns.

'Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are in the process of developing a National Action Plan on AMR, while those of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan have already been developed and approved by their governments.'

Those having experience in the implementation of an AMR National Action Plan recognised the need for behavioural improvement in:

- the control of the prescription of antimicrobials for medical and veterinary use;
- rational use of antimicrobials in humans and animals;
- use of antimicrobials for preventive reasons;
- distance selling of antimicrobials;
- and strengthening of content and quality of training programmes in veterinary and medical education establishments regarding AMR and the prudent use of antimicrobials.

‘Increasing and broadening awareness and knowledge on AMR is required to engage national representatives of human, agriculture and animal health sectors, and to encourage behavioural change. Reforms are needed and require sustained financing of all activities outlined in the National Action Plan.’

Participants were presented with detailed information regarding the AMR Global Action Plan from a tripartite perspective, results of the last survey on the National Action Plan on AMR in Europe and all tripartite communication tools regarding AMR, in addition to this month’s launch of the World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2018.

Experts stressed:

- the necessity of good inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms;
- the need to clarify and identify roles and responsibilities of all sectors, including the private sector, and stakeholders in the implementation of the National Action Plan on AMR;
- the expanding awareness activities across sectors and increase awareness among the general population;
- the capacity building of laboratories in light of AMR surveys across sectors;
- the need to strengthen the prudent use of antimicrobials, both in human and animal health;
- the necessity to reinforce the adherence to prescription guidelines across sectors (‘ban over-the-counter sales’).



In connection with the work of the tripartite alliance, countries were called upon to participate more effectively in **OIE data collection on the use of antimicrobials in animals**, and were urged to become active participants in this month’s **World Antibiotic Awareness Week** (12-18 November 2018).

Periodic tripartite meetings on AMR will be held, the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2020, and will involve the entire European region.

■ November 2018