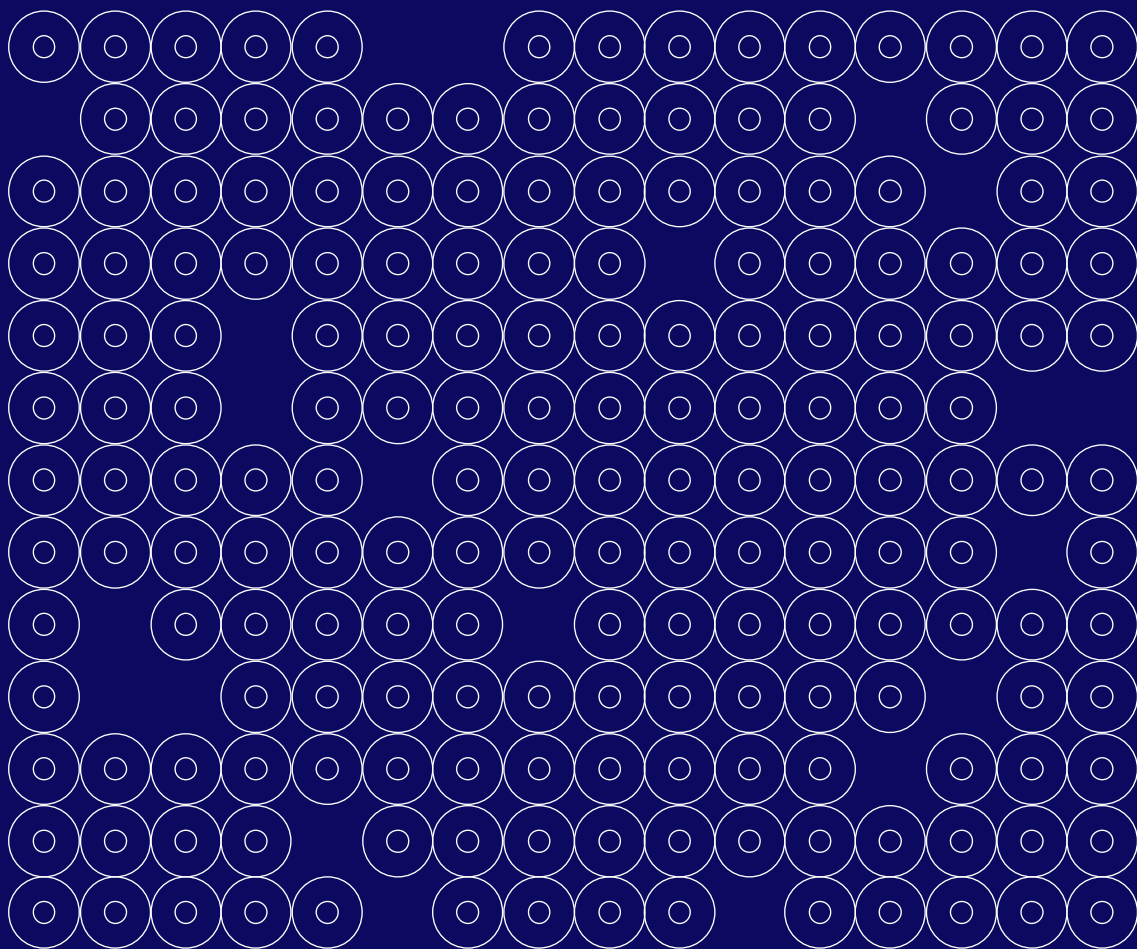


Social sciences in AMR research and innovation

Live webinar 10 January 2023

CSA DESIGN OH AMR



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Background and Objectives

The following report gives an overview of the live webinar on “Social Sciences in AMR Research and Innovation”, organised by the CSA DESIGN OH AMR on 10 January 2022, as part of the preparation of the European Partnership on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (OH AMR) and more specifically for the drafting of the Research and Innovation Objectives and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the OH AMR Partnership.

Background

The future OH AMR Partnership is one of the European Partnerships that the European Commission has identified under the framework of Horizon Europe and is expected to start 2025. Currently, the CSA DESIGN OH AMR is leading the preparation of the OH AMR Partnership, together with the Joint Programming Initiative on AMR (JPIAMR) and other stakeholders.

An important part of this preparation is to identify the Research and Innovation (R&I) Objectives. A draft version of these R&I Objectives was published 5 December 2022 and can be found [here](#). The R&I Objectives are structured around five thematic areas, whereas important aspects have been integrated as cross-cutting issues, with relevance for all thematic areas. Two of these cross-cutting issues are Social Sciences and Implementation Science.

Although the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is, per se, a biological process, the context that determines the emergence and impact of resistance is underpinned by social aspects. It is necessary to identify these social aspects and consider them while designing prevention and control strategies against AMR using a One Health approach (including human health, animal health, plants, environment and food). There is therefore a clear need to integrate the full spectrum of social science and humanities disciplines to be able to tackle AMR, including economics, political science, ethics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and law. The DESIGN OH AMR has therefore established a working group on Social Sciences, who has been consulted in the drafting process of the R&I Objectives.

Objectives

The objectives of the webinar on “Social Sciences in AMR Research and Innovation” were:

- To give an overview of the preparation of the OH AMR Partnership and how social sciences and humanities have been integrated in the R&I Objectives
- To give some examples how social sciences can contribute to AMR research and innovation, including some projects previously funded by JPIAMR
- To encourage social scientists to reply to the ongoing survey on the draft R&I objectives of the OH AMR Partnership

Webinar

Speakers and presentations

Prof Clare Chandler, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



Clare Chandler is a medical anthropologist and co-founder of the interdisciplinary Antimicrobial Resistance Centre at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She is known for her anthropological work on medicines and health care in resource limited settings and has a keen interest in capacity strengthening both in practice and as a research topic.

Prof Chandler gave an introductory speech on the Role of social sciences in AMR research and an overview of the how the different social science disciplines can contribute. She highlighted the fact that AMR manifests differently across time and space, the unequal burden of AMR and access to antibiotics, as well as the importance of individual behaviour, societal values and norms and economic and political imperatives. She also presented the view that AMR is as much a social as a biological phenomenon and that social science is not only there to ensure uptake of biomedical solutions.

Laura Marin, coordinator, DESIGN OH AMR, Swedish Research Council

Laura Marin is the head of the JPIAMR secretariat and the coordinator of the CSA DESIGN OH AMR, who are leading the preparations of the OH AMR partnership. Laura gave an overview of JPIAMR and the timeline and scope of the preparation of the OH AMR partnership.

Sophie Gay, DESIGN OH AMR, French National Research Agency

Sophie Gay presented the Research and Innovation (R&I) Objectives of the OH AMR partnership. The R&I Objectives are structured around five thematic areas and social sciences has been integrated as a cross-cutting issue, relevant to all thematic areas. The R&I Objectives have been developed by one working group per thematic area, and there has also been a working group on social sciences. Social sciences are expected to complement projects in medical sciences but also to take the lead of some projects. Currently an open consultation on the R&I objectives is ongoing and Sophie encouraged to reply to this survey.

Dr Chantal Morel, University of Bern



Dr Chantal Morel is a health economist specialising in infectious diseases, and antimicrobial resistance in particular. Her research focuses on the use of new financing arrangements and incentives to bolster innovation in the antibiotic pipeline as well as estimation of the economic burden of AMR.

Dr Morel presented two economics projects that have previously received funding from JPIAMR:

1. Antibiotic Susceptibility Bonus (ASB) is a model incentive, which suggest a bonus to pharmaceutical companies if the target pathogens remain susceptible to their product over time.
2. The SNAP-ONE project examines the full economic costs associated with AMR across all One Health settings in two African countries, in order to inform authorities and thereby incentivise implementation of the national action plans.

Susanne Frykman, DESIGN OH AMR, Swedish Research Council

Susanne Frykman presented a couple of more examples of JPIAMR-funded projects with a strong integration of social sciences. These include to identify success and failure factors for interventions, monitoring of AMR and AMU in LMICs, linking behavioural attitudes to molecular data etc.

Q&A session

Points raised during the discussion included the importance of cost-effectiveness studies of AMU and of interventions in order to guide prioritisation and to understand and resolve tensions between different AMR stakeholders. Another important issue is the engagement with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). DESIGN OH AMR will engage with developing agencies for R&I in LMICs and seek synergies with the work of WHO. The EU4Health partnership JAMRAI-2 will also do work on implementation in LMICs. There was also a discussion on different incentive models currently discussed at EU level. The EU4Health partnership JAMRAI-2 will also be actively be involved in this work. In addition, there was an encouragement to engage with existing social science initiatives, such as Sonar-Global.

There was an overall agreement that social sciences need to have a more prominent position in AMR research and that they should not simply be seen as add-ons to biomedical projects.

Webinar Participants

175 persons from 49 countries, encompassing Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, participated in the webinar. 63% of the participants were female. 50% were Researchers, 10% Funders, 9% Policy makers, 6% Students and 22% Other.