



BUCHAREST DECLARATION ON THE 'ONE HEALTH' CONCEPT

DEFINITION: One Health: the development of a global strategy for the integration of human, animal and environmental health. The One Health initiative was established by three sister organisations namely the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO) with several sponsors.

FEAM strongly endorses this initiative, which will be of critical importance in tackling future global challenges including antimicrobial resistance, vector-borne diseases, viral pandemics and non-communicable diseases. Ignoring this approach has potentially huge health and environmental implications. If we fail to implement a 'One Health' approach, we will miss crucial opportunities and consequently face huge financial burdens, for example due to our lack of preparedness for pandemics and their downstream health and economic consequences.

This topic has been a focus of FEAM's work for a number of years, starting with a dedicated session in its 2011 Spring Conference in Rome that led to a series of articles published in the [Italian Journal of Public Health](#). In June 2013, FEAM and InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) hosted a workshop on the 'Better Integration of Education in One Health' in Budapest¹. More recently, FEAM dedicated another session to the 'One Health' concept during its Spring Conference hosted by the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences on 12 and 13 May 2014 in Bucharest. Our Member Academies comprise experts from human medicine, veterinary medicine, biomedical and environmental science including expertise in comparative medicine.

Based on these discussions, the following recommendations were strongly endorsed in Bucharest:

- Basic science should be a priority in medical, veterinary and biomedical *curricula*, providing a framework for comprehensive understanding of the 'One Health' concept.
- The initiative will succeed only if we see a significant increase in the awareness of the public health, clinical and bioethical implications of 'One Health'. All stakeholders should take responsibility for delivering this, including national governments as well as the OIE, WHO and FAO.
- Funders and policymakers have a responsibility to show leadership in promoting the approach of 'One Health' and in supporting research that enhances this approach.
- Better communication is needed between human and animal health communities, and governments should consider implementing robust mechanisms to achieve this goal.
- FEAM will promote the importance of this topic and aims to use its convening power to engage multiple stakeholders from across the sectors in taking the 'One Health' agenda forward.

Bucharest, 13 May 2014

¹ Kindly hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 5 June 2013.