

BELGIUM - ADHESION TO PREZODE

A One World One Health initiative

Prevention of the (re)emergence of zoonotic disease

OH Seminar 12/06/2024

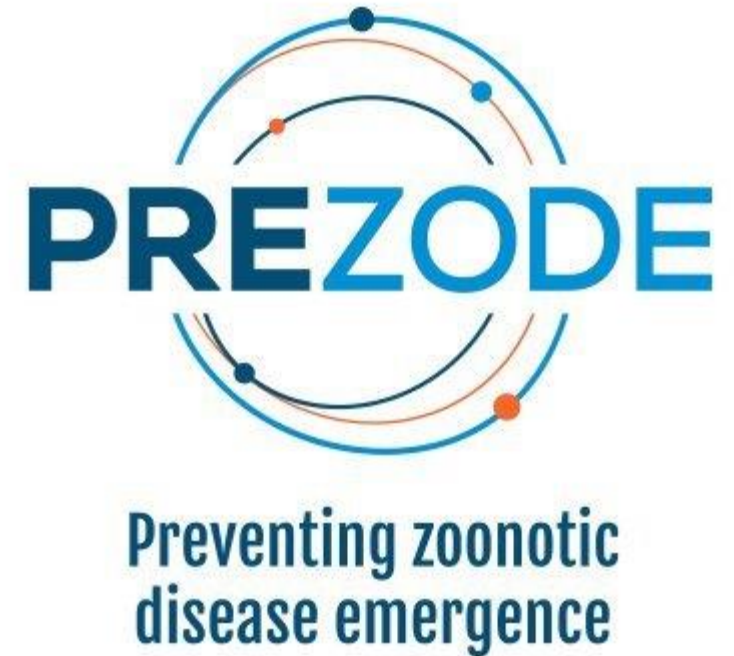


Volksgezondheid
Veiligheid van de Voedselketen
Leefmilieu

 sciensano

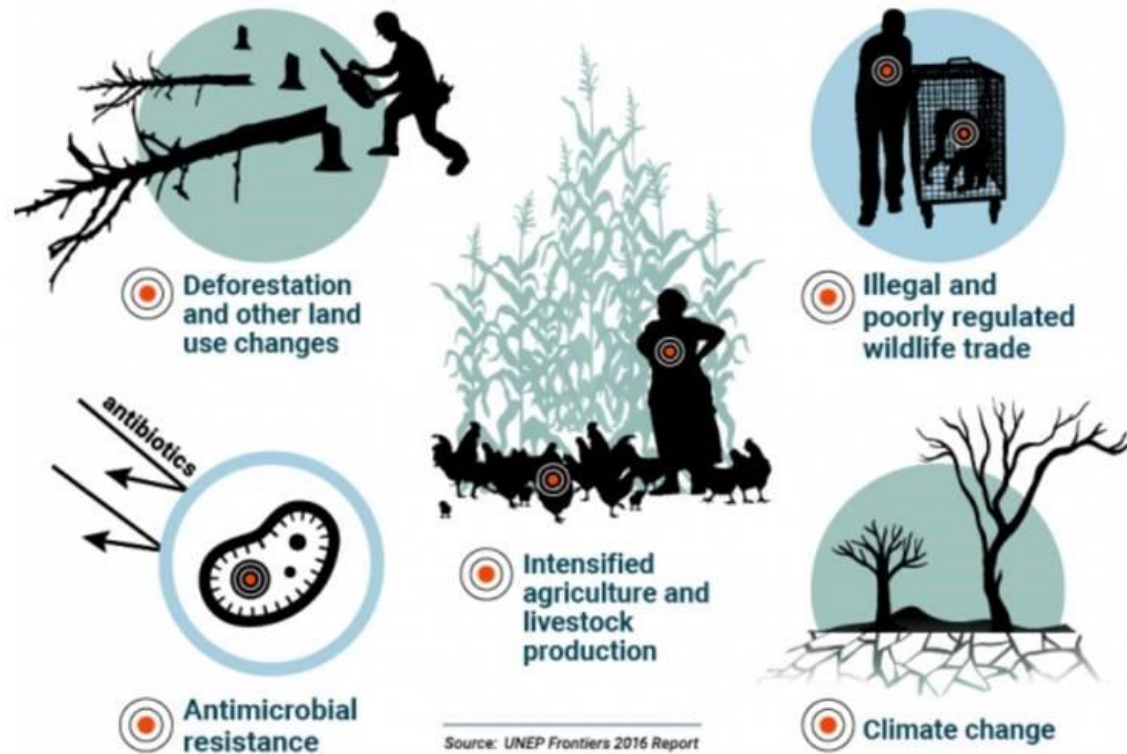
PREZODE

- PREvention of ZOonotic Disease Emergence
- International One Health initiative
- Launched in 2021 by France
- EC + Quadripartite
- Belgian membership in 2021
 - Creation of a Belgian expert group
 - Mandate to investigate implementation of policy recommendations



Biodiversity and zoonosis

What factors are increasing zoonosis emergence?
(Diseases transmitted from animals to humans)



State of play

- **Regulatory frameworks in BE and the EU to monitor**
 - Public / animal / plant health
 - Food and feed safety
 - Quality of the environment
 - Reduction of zoonotic risks
- **Complementary activities (pilot studies, research projects, ...)**
 - Universities
 - Animal health associations
 - NGOs
 - Citizen science
 - ...

State of play

- **Coordination efforts across sectors are underway**
 - e.g. Risk Assessment Group - Veterinary - Emerging Zoonoses (RAG-V-EZ), OH management governance system for preparedness and response
- **Challenges:**
 - No comprehensive and multidisciplinary OWOH framework for prevention in Belgium
 - Division of competences – different political levels → fragmented policy
 - Heterogeneous data → hampers compilation and comparison of data
- **Examples in other countries**
 - NL : Signalling Forum Zoonoses
 - UK : Human Animal Infections and Risk Surveillance group (HAIRS)

PREZODE activities in Belgium

Interministerial decision (2022) to create a Belgian One World One Health group of experts across sectors (Human Health, Animal Health, Environment, Foreign Affairs, development cooperation, etc.):

- a) mapping actors, projects and initiatives active in zoonoses prevention in Belgium
Joint study Sciensano/FPS Health
- b) providing a One World One Health vision for prevention of (re)emergence of zoonotic disease in Belgium
7 key recommendations
- c) Follow the work of the international PREZODE initiative

a) Mapping actors: ZooBioDiv

WP 1: Study on the link between changes in biodiversity and the emergence of zoonoses, taking into account the impacts of climate change:

- Review of existing scientific literature on how biodiversity changes and climate change may affect the emergence of zoonotic pathogens.
Only in a Belgian context or under similar conditions from a climatic, geographical, environmental and socio-economic point of view.
- Including the identification of planetary health indicators that could allow a future assessment of the impact of biodiversity and climate change on the emergence of zoonotic diseases (in Belgium).

Deadline: September 2024

will serve as scientific-based information for further policies

a) Mapping actors: ZooBioDiv

Mapping of all actors (public and private) and initiatives currently active in the field of zoonoses in Belgium and covering all areas of intervention: prevention, surveillance, monitoring, diagnosis and response.

- Including the identification and descriptive analysis of all available data sources in Belgium related to zoonoses.

Deadline: [February/March 2025](#)

Future prospects: To be useful for the future establishment of a Belgian governance structure for the prevention of the emergence of zoonoses.

b) OWOH vision in Belgium



PREZODE

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Belgian One World One Health Vision Towards Prevention of Zoonotic Disease Emergence

A paradigm shift from response to deep prevention

Summary of key policy recommendations

1. Establish a comprehensive, cross-cutting One World One Health governance at



b) OWOH vision in Belgium

7 Key Policy Recommendations

1. *One World One Health Governance structure for the prevention of zoonotic diseases*
 - **Transversal and multidisciplinary**
 - **all relevant Belgian institutions and actors working on zoonoses and AMR**
 - **Key approach: prevention at the source**
2. *One World One Health National action plan*
 - **Foster collaboration, communication, education and synergies between all actors, including the private sector and citizens**
 - **Need for a robust open-access data system**
 - **Built on existing initiatives**
 - **Educational programmes, communication strategies**
3. *Monitoring and surveillance programs*
 - **Keep existing programs, but more aligned and interoperable**
 - **Extend early warning and response systems (EWRS) and diagnostic capacity**
 - **Creation of a structurally integrated surveillance system with long-term integrated funding at national level**

b) OWOH vision in Belgium

7 Key Policy Recommendations

4. *One World One Health research funding*
 - **More long-term funding and coordination**
 - **Specific funding opportunities**
 - **BE needs to join the PREZODE fund**
 - **Innovative and cross-regional funding tools**
 - **Financially support research and innovation techniques**
5. *One World One Health socio-educative programs*
 - **Empower citizens through education, knowledge acquisition and skills**
6. *Assist the global community – higher risk countries*
 - **Work with partner governments**
 - **Pandemic prevention at the source**
7. *Advocate the One World One Health approach*

Full report: <https://www.biodiversity.be/6011/>

Implementation of the recommendations

- Focus on socio-economic activities relevant for spillover risk in Belgium → 6 working groups

Socio-economic activities	Location to disease transmission risk	Processes at risk	Persons at risk	Examples of Zoonotic pathogens
International trade	Transport hubs	Wildlife trade Illegal import of meat	Law enforcement agents Transport hub staff, travelers	Ebola virus Monkeypox virus
Tourism and outdoor activities	National parks Forests Rivers, lakes	Recreational processes	Hikers, swimmers, athletes	Borrelia bacteria (Lyme disease) Coxiella burnetii (Q fever) Hanta virus Leptospira bacteria
Animal handling	Animal sanctuaries, hunting grounds, private and public gardens	Handling of (wild) animals	Animal caretakers, hunters, vets	Francisella tularensis (Tularaemia)
Farming	Farms	Indoor confinement, animal waste, AMR	Farmers, vets	Avian influenza type A virus
Land-use change	Deforestation, urbanization, agricultural expansion	Fragmentation, contamination, urban green spaces	Residents	Echinococcus multilocularis (fox tapeworm)

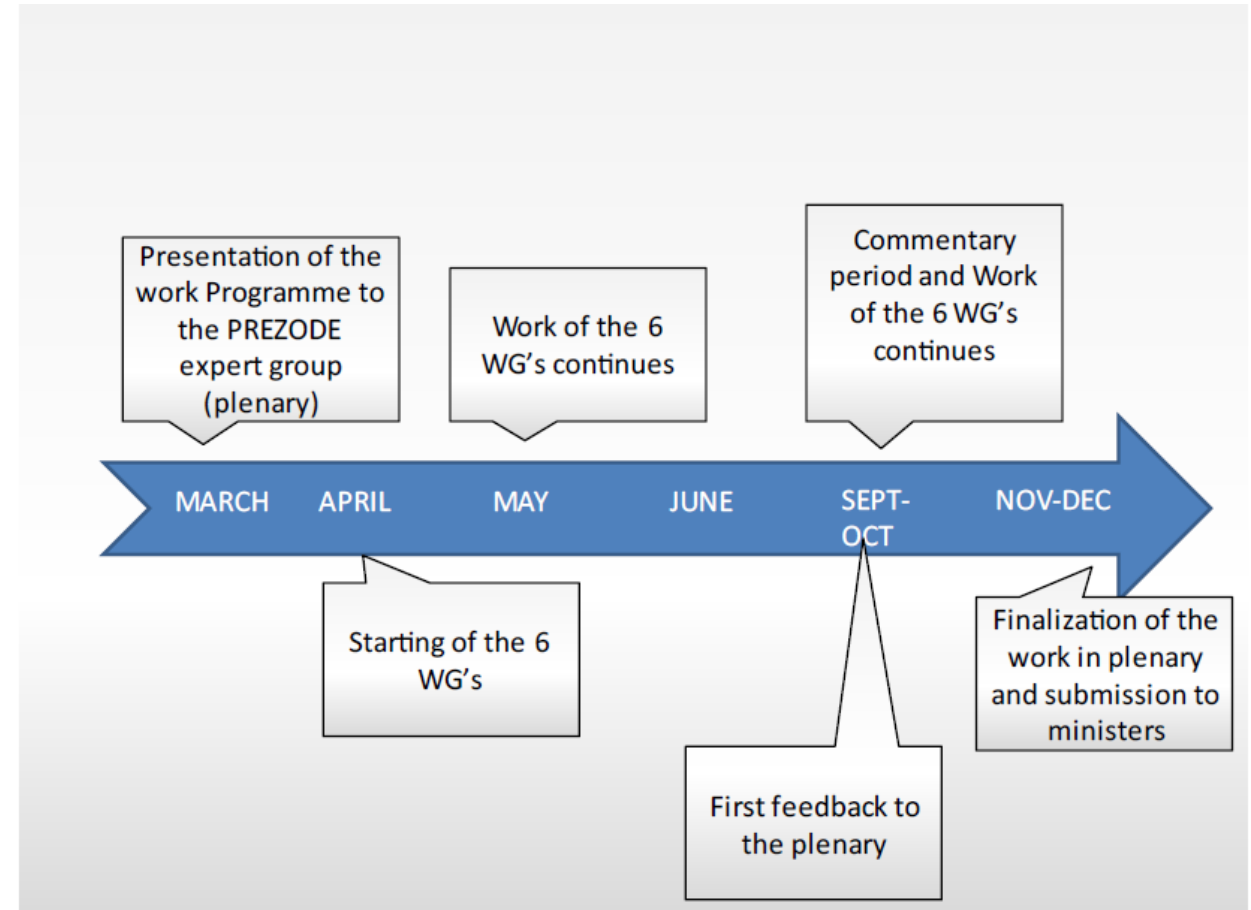
Implementation of the recommendations

Following questions will be answered:

- Importance for BE
- Which zoonotic risks? People at risk?
- Current programs for prevention? What level and by whom?
- How are preventive actions financed? How often? What level?
- Coordination with other relevant scientific authorities/institutions?
- Long term vision?
- Top 3 priority actions?
- Estimated budget and human resources?

Note to Ministers

- To be prepared in // with the joint Sciansano & FPS Health study
- End of December 2024/beginning of 2025
- Compilation of the contributions of the working groups in a memorandum
- To provide the basis for a national prevention-oriented strategy that will complement and strengthen zoonotic surveillance, control, preparedness and response initiatives



Thank you !