

Swedish work against antibiotic resistance – a One Health approach



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The Swedish intersectoral coordinating mechanism (ICM) engages 25 governmental agencies and organisations working in human health, animal health, food, environment, research, trade and civil contingency planning.

- Levels of antibiotic use and resistance in Sweden are among the lowest of the European countries, both in the human and animal sector.
- Early awareness and long-term interdisciplinary and intersectoral actions are important contributors to this relatively favorable situation. The global rise and unprecedented spread of resistance calls for continuous and intensified work.
- The Swedish experience is that antibiotic resistance can be tackled more efficiently if all levels of society work together towards a common goal.

Key components in the Swedish work against antibiotic resistance

- Continuous work, with political and legislative support
- Consensus and cooperation locally, regionally and nationally, within and between sectors
- Disease prevention – healthy people and animals do not need antibiotics
- Transparent and reliable data for action and follow-up
- Active involvement in international efforts

Long-standing national consensus

There is a broad and historic national consensus among stakeholders from all relevant sectors on the overarching goal of preserving the possibility of effective treatment of bacterial infections in humans and animals. This is reflected in the common priorities of the Swedish government and governmental agencies, as well as organisations within the healthcare sector, veterinary medicine, animal husbandry and the food production.