

One Health

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Introducing the Focus Area

A global, holistic approach to major health-related challenges

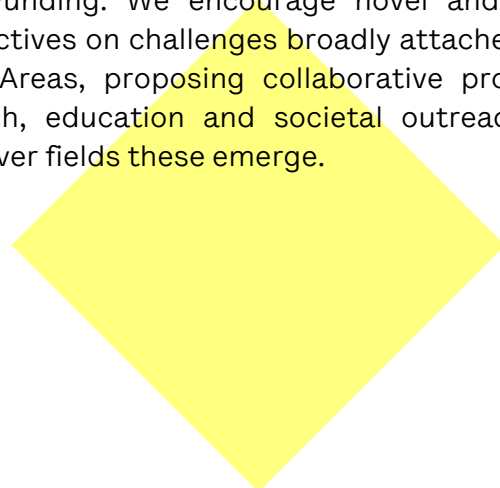
One Health is a recent global movement that promotes networked, ecological thinking about health. It recognises that the health of humans, animals, other organisms and the environment are inextricably intertwined within each other. Addressing major health challenges stemming from the complex interactions between humans, animals, plants and their ecosystems requires recalibrating previous conceptual and methodological repertoires and tightening multidisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration.

Una Europa's approach to One Health aims to promote and consolidate transdisciplinary research, education and societal outreach initiatives across European and international partners, with the objective of better understanding, integrating and acting upon the complexity of health, social and ecological determinants. We advocate a global, holistic, and long-term approach to major health-related challenges, ultimately promoting the well-being of humans and animals in a sustainable and healthy environment.

Focus Areas: Inspiration, not limitation

Una Europa's six Focus Areas – Cultural Heritage, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Europe and the World, Future Materials, One Health, and Sustainability and Climate Protection – reflect pressing global and societal challenges. Inherently interdisciplinary, they are designed to bring together experts in a wide range of fields to find new ways of collaboratively conducting the research of the future and forging new paths in education and societal outreach.

The Focus Areas are intended to inspire researchers, not limit them. No discipline is excluded from applying to secure Una Europa Seed Funding. We encourage novel and diverse perspectives on challenges broadly attached to the Focus Areas, proposing collaborative projects in research, education and societal outreach, from whichever fields these emerge.



Alessandra Scagliarini

Chair,
One Health Self-Steering Committee
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Case studies

Sample Seed Funding-supported projects in One Health



As with the Focus Areas themselves, these case studies are intended to provide inspiration only and are in no way indicative of research topics that are more likely to succeed in securing Una Europa Seed Funding in the future.

Project: One Health as an emerging Focus Area for Una Europa (UNA-OH)

Description: UNA-OH is a multidisciplinary group of professionals assembled around the emerging Focus Area 'One Health' within Una Europa. As demonstrated by current spread of emerging infectious diseases as well as antimicrobial resistance, there is an urgent need for break through research, education and technology transfer to battle emerging health hazards in contemporary increasingly globalized industrial societies. The mission is to harness the diverse strengths and expertise of the partners to create new synergies in research and teaching, to address global One Health threats and to forge cutting-edge research, teaching, training.

Duration: July 2020–March 2022

Funding: €19,000

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Project: Smart bionano Materials and Robotic Technologies (SMART)

Description: This project is inspired by living 4 systems, which are a treasure trove of complex functional “nanomachines” such as enzymes and viruses, whose building blocks include lipids, proteins and nucleic acids. Using these components, nature has succeeded in building marvels such as self-replicating cells and the ribosome. The question then arises if the same biocompatible and supremely functional components can be used to design and build novel nanomachines capable of carrying out useful tasks such as delivering drugs or repairing damaged cells. SMART brings together researchers with expertise in these building blocks with the ultimate aim of building hybrid artificial nanodevices with unprecedented capabilities.

Duration: January 2022–December 2022

Funding: €16,710

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Project: NEXTVET - Una Europa Summer School 2023 in Veterinary Public Health (Meat Hygiene)

Description: Veterinary surgeons working on farms and at food-processing establishments play a fundamental role in safeguarding public health, animal health, and animal welfare. An essential part of veterinary undergraduate training in Europe involves students undertaking placements within the food industry. Increasing exposure to practical training in inspection techniques of animals presented for slaughter contribute to the prevention of foodborne hazards entering the food chain, posing a risk to public health. The aim of NEXTVET is to create an Una Europa Summer School 2023 in Veterinary Public Health (Meat Hygiene), where European veterinary students will be trained - in a safe, controlled environment - to improve public health, animal health and welfare under a One Health umbrella.

Duration: January-December 2022

Funding: €11,000

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