

Topic 3.1: Global health

Title: Everyone involved in the development of global health as a tool for improving health

Why is this area relevant and which societal challenges does it address?

Global health focuses on the health of populations worldwide, recognising that health problems don't know borders and that diseases can spread rapidly from one country to another. Here are some reasons why it is important and the societal challenges we must address:

1. **Communicable diseases:** Global health deals with the prevention and control of diseases that can cross borders, such as pandemics (e.g. COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis). This involves international collaboration to monitor and respond to epidemiological outbreaks, as well as the prevention of zoonoses.
2. **Health inequalities:** It addresses disparities in access to health services between different countries and communities. Many populations in low- and middle-income countries lack adequate health care, contributing to poverty and social inequality.
3. **Climate change:** Global health addresses the impact of climate change on health, such as the increase in diseases caused by viruses and bacteria, which triggers the use of antibiotics and the real problem of resistance increases.

Precise scientific research question including added value gained from EU-LAC cooperation for both regions

1. **Research and development:** Collaboration could promote joint projects in medical research, which could accelerate the development of new vaccines and treatments, especially for diseases that affect both regions. Direct efforts towards sustainable livestock farming and achieve "emissions neutrality" on farms.
2. **Knowledge exchange:** Both continents can share experiences and best practices in health system management, research and treatment development. Being in different locations, with different climates and ecosystems, would improve knowledge of health conditions that we did not share before and have now become widespread, data that would add information to epidemiological studies. Until now, most of the work that has been done is to verify the impact and count cases, but without incorporating possible large-scale solutions. This collaboration, therefore, could answer why certain pathologies occur and find joint solutions.
3. **Resilience to pandemics:** Collaboration would allow for better preparation and response to pandemics, sharing data and resources to deal with health crises more effectively.
4. **Access to medicines:** Working together could facilitate access to medicines and health technologies, especially in health emergency situations.
5. **Capacity building:** Through training and capacity building programs, the capacity of health professionals in both regions could be improved, which would benefit local health systems.
6. **Health policies:** Creating more integrated and coherent health policies could result in a more effective approach to addressing global health problems, such as infectious diseases.

In short, strong collaboration could not only improve health in both areas, but also contribute to a more global and coordinated approach to public health.

Expected impact for both regions

1. **Vaccine research and development:** Easier development of effective vaccines against infectious diseases. This includes not only known diseases, but also preparation for possible future outbreaks. New methodologies for rapid manufacturing as well as immunization of known third world diseases.
2. **Epidemiological studies:** Gaining lines of research to understand the spread of diseases and associated risk factors. This helps design more effective interventions and implement evidence-based public health policies.
3. **Development of innovative treatments:** Increased research into new treatments and therapies.
4. **Health information technology:** Technologies such as telemedicine and health apps could be used to improve access to medical services, especially in remote areas. This also includes the use of big data to track outbreaks and health trends.
5. **International collaboration:** Knowledge, resources, and best practices in public health would be shared, as well as the implementation of new forms of healthy cities and reduction of the ecological footprint.
6. **Education and awareness:** Implement evidence-based health education programs from both continents that inform communities about disease prevention, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles.
7. **Evidence-Based policies:** Work with governments and common organizations to develop public health policies that are based on scientific research and that address the specific needs of populations (items 1 to 5), research on childhood obesity.

Implementing these strategies can significantly contribute to improving global health and addressing the challenges that arise in the field of public health.

Additional information: strategic, tactical and operational topics

Strategic topics:

1. **Global health policies:** Establish regulatory frameworks and policies that promote international cooperation in health. It is a way of sharing knowledge and thereby increasing prevention.
2. **Sustainable financing:** Ensure adequate financial resources for global health initiatives, including investment in complementary infrastructure and technology on both continents
3. **Research and development:** Promote collaboration in research for the development of vaccines, treatments and health technologies, as well as the creation of sustainable cities adapted to each ecosystem. Treatment of drug waste and its consequences on the marine and human world.

Tactical topics:

1. **Information exchange:** Create systems to share data on disease outbreaks, health statistics and best practices.
2. **Training and education:** Develop joint training programs for health professionals in different countries. It is an indirect but very realistic way of exchanging information
3. **Emergency responses:** Establish rapid response protocols for health emergencies, such as pandemics or epidemic outbreaks.

Operational topics:

1. **Logistics and distribution:** Coordinate the distribution of medical supplies and vaccines between countries, ensuring that they reach those who need them most. Faced with unexpected outbreaks with agents not common in each of the areas
2. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Implement systems to evaluate the effectiveness of health interventions and adjust strategies as necessary. Achieve a single evaluation criterion to ensure the quality of common epidemiological studies
3. **Collaboration between organizations:** Promote alliances between governments, ONGs and the private sector to maximise resources and efforts.

Added value gained from the inclusion of research infrastructures

1. **Access to resources:** Shared infrastructures can facilitate access to otherwise limited resources, such as laboratories, specialised equipment, and databases.
2. **Talent development:** Collaboration across continents by sharing infrastructures can foster the training of researchers and students, offering learning and professional development opportunities in a diverse environment.
3. **Advancing the solution of global problems:** International collaboration allows these problems to be addressed in a more effective and coordinated manner if a place to carry out studies and the capacity to carry out ambitious research projects is achieved.
4. **Publications and visibility:** Working together with researchers from different parts of the world who share infrastructures can increase the visibility of research results and facilitate publication in high-impact journals.