

PROTOCOL ON SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH

Between:

No	Name of the founding organization	Address, city, and the country of residence or the registered office	Managing director / Dean
1.	Institute for Health and Food Safety of Zenica	Fra Ivan Jukić No. 2, 72000 Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Prim. dr. Senad Huseinagić dr.med.
2.	Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina	Futoška 121, 21102 Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia	Prof. dr. Vladimir Petrović dr.med.
3.	Scientific Veterinary Institute "Novi Sad"	Rumenacki put 20, 21113 Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia	Dr.sci. Sava Lazić dr.vet.med.
4.	Institute for Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia	St. 50 Division No. 6, 1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia	Doc. dr. Šaban Memeti dr. med.
5.	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – Skopje	"Lazar Pop Trajkov" Street No. 5-7 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia	Prof.dr. Lazo Pendovski dr.vet.med.
6.	Institute for Public Health of Montenegro	John Jackson bb, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro	Dr. Igor Galić dr. med.
7.	Specialized Veterinary Laboratory	George Washington Blvd, bb, p.fah 69, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro	mr Dejan Laušević dr.vet.med.

SUBJECT OF THE PROTOCOL: COOPERATION ON THE FORMATION OF THE REGIONAL NETWORK "BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK "

Institute for Health and Food Safety of Zenica, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, Scientific Veterinary Institute "Novi Sad", Institute for Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - Skopje, Institute for Public Health of Montenegro and Specialized Veterinary Laboratory Podgorica (hereinafter referred to as "stakeholders")

RECOGNIZE, on a regional and global scale, the appropriate area for devising a common strategy for future development, with the ultimate objective of scientific and technological interconnection, and the integration of the Balkan countries into the global trends of the One Health concept;

CONSIDER that the values incorporated into the One Health approach present the basis for the improvement of the health and well-being of humans, animals, plants and their common environment;

AIM TO connect and collaborate with organizations/ institutions in other European countries as soon as possible, with the goal of gaining access to the European Union funds and other funds, and will, therefore, encourage any activity in that regard with their respective Governments;

POINT OUT the need for strengthening relations between institutional bodies of all the parties, and improving friendly relations and solidarity among their employees and people in the region;

EMPHASIZE the need for fostering appropriate forms of cooperation aimed at stimulating development in education, public health, veterinary public health, sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, etc., as well as economic and social development in these fields.

AGREE on the need for developing relations in health care, veterinary medicine, agriculture, environmental protection, education and other fields, with the focus on the promotion and education of the One Health concept.

BELIEVE in the need for promotion of all collaborative activities leading to the joint development strategy;

And they comply with the following:

Article 1.

(Institutional relations)

Stakeholders agree on mutual cooperation based on mutual understanding and respect of the signatories on the need for collaborative work on creating and establishing the Regional Network based on the One Health concept.

By signing the protocol, the stakeholders give their consent for the establishment of the informal organization of the Regional Network "BALKAN HEALTH NETWORK".

The cooperation of the protocol signatories is based on the joint activities in the field of One Health through the Regional Network "BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK".

Stakeholders will, to the extent possible, aim at:

a) maintaining lasting relationships at an institutional level;

- b) establishing a Joint Working Group, whose task will be to draft proposals of joint action through the Regional Network (joint areas of action, professional, scientific and research collaboration, cooperation on projects, etc.).

Article 2.

(Interregional cooperation)

Stakeholders consider institutional cooperation as a priority means of exchanging experience and promoting joint initiatives in the areas of interest to all stakeholders through the promotion and application of the One Health approach.

In that regard, to the best of their abilities and to the extent possible, stakeholders will attempt to:

- a) exchange information in the areas of professional and scientific research and education, and particularly in the field of One Health;
- b) determine together priority directions of mutual collaboration based on the One Health concept;
- c) promote and coordinate activities required for the implementation of programs provided for by the Protocol and evaluate their results;
- d) present joint development and cooperation projects.

Article 3.

(Composition of the Joint Working Group)

The Joint Working Group consists of experts, stakeholder employees, independently appointed by the stakeholders as their representatives.

Article 4.

(Joint Working Group activities)

The activities of the Joint Working Group based on the promotion and application of the One Health approach are:

- a) the creation of the most favorable conditions for the implementation of the protocol;
- b) the identification of common priorities and interests;
- c) giving opinions on the issues of common interest;
- d) evaluation of the situation and promotion of cooperation and presentation of proposals to the authorized decision-making bodies of the interested parties;

- e) initiating procedures for coordinating activities of the informal organization Regional Network “BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK” following applicable legislation of the home countries;
- f) the creation of preconditions for cooperation with other institutions/ organizations in the home countries, as well as other countries of the Balkan region through the informal organization Regional Network “BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK”;
- g) other activities based on the application of the One Health approach.

The Joint Working Group will hold meetings via available web applications (“online”) once a month, and more frequently if necessary.

Face-to-face meetings of the Joint Working Group members and visits to individual institutions/organizations of the Regional Network members will be organized at least once a year when favorable conditions are met. The assessment of the favorable conditions will be carried out by the Joint Working Group members.

Article 5.

(Primary goals and activities of the Regional Network “BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK”)

The goals and activities of the Regional Network “BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK” are:

- improving the health and well-being of humans, animals, plants and their common environment through the application of the collaborative One Health approach;
- professional and scientific research cooperation, exchange of experience and opinions among the Network members following the One Health approach;
- development of a resilient and competent workforce on the principles of the One Health approach relying on education, research and training sessions provided by the organizations/institutions in the Balkan region;
- expanding the Network and connecting with all interested parties in the field of One Health in the Balkan region;
- establishing partnerships in the field of One Health at an international level;
- educating the public about the importance of the One Health approach and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Agenda 2030);
- promoting the One Health approach and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Agenda 2030).

Article 6.

(Duration and the form of organization of the Regional Network “BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK”)

The Regional Network “BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK” is established as an informal organization for an indefinite period of time.

The formal registration of the Regional Network "BALKAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK" can be done when the favorable conditions are met, with the prior consent of all the network founders, the signatories to the Protocol.

In that case, an assembly will be formed for which all the interested parties, the signatories to the Protocol, will appoint at least two (2) and at most three (3) members among their employees.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 7.

The Protocol is made in fourteen (14) copies in English and in the languages of the home countries of all the interested parties: Bosnian, Serbian, Montenegrin and Macedonian.

Each interested party shall retain two copies, one in English and one in the language of the home country.

Article 8.

The Protocol signatories will resolve any misunderstandings by agreement in the spirit of mutual tolerance and respect.

In case of any possible disagreement over the Protocol, the version in English will be used as the basic version.

Article 9.

The Protocol on Cooperation does not entail any financial obligations of the signatories. Any financial responsibilities incurred will be resolved by additional acts of all the Protocol signatories.

Article 10.






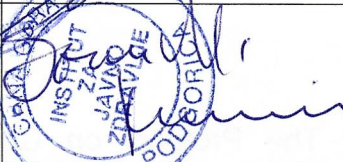
The Protocol may be amended by the agreement of the signatories.

Article 11.

The founders agree with the content of the Protocol, which they confirm by their signatures.

In Zenica,

15.06. 2022. (Date)

No	CONTRACTING PARTIES	Authorized representatives of the founders	Signature and stamp
1.	Institute for Health and Food Safety of Zenica, Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina		
2.	Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia		
3.	Scientific Veterinary Institute „Novi Sad“, Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia		
4.	Institute for Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia		
5.	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – Skopje, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia		
6.	Institute for Public Health of Montenegro, Podgorica, Montenegro		
7.	Specialized Veterinary Laboratory, Podgorica, Montenegro		