

STEPUPIORS

Twinning for a European Consortium of Rectal Cancer Research Institutions through Stepping up Scientific, Technological and Innovation Excellence of IORS



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Report from the 2nd Annual Stakeholder Meeting “One Health in Serbia” within WP4 of the project STEPUPIORS – 101079217

Dec 09, 2024

"One Health in Serbia - Stakeholder Meeting for Boosting Excellence in Research and Innovation Ecosystems in Serbia" was held on December 9, 2024, in the Science Technology Park in Belgrade, organized by 4 Horizon Europe projects, coordinated by Serbian research institutions, [EINSTEIN](#) (101136377), [GrInShield](#) (101079151), [BIOLAWEB](#) (101079234) and [STEPUPIORS](#) (101079217), which are focused on different aspects of global health.

This event aimed to highlight the importance of the One Health approach for the wellbeing of Serbian citizens by integrating approaches for healthy food, environment, lifestyles, green technology, biosecurity and other relevant aspects that affect our health and ecosystems following [*WHO initiative for Advancing the implementation of the One Health approach in the WHO European Region set in place at the WHO/Europe high-level briefing of the 74th Session of the WHO Europe Regional Committee \(RC74\)*](#).

The meeting brought together interested parties from the government, policy makers, NGOs, business and academic sectors in a comprehensive approach to use real-world scientific data to improve the health of people and the ecosystem in Serbia. The meeting was supported by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation, Ministry of Health, Center for the 4th Industrial Revolution in Serbia and the EU delegation in Serbia during the opening session. Ninety-five registered participants came from 14 academic institutions, 10 business companies, 9 governmental institutions and 1 NGO.

During the [GrInShield](#) coordinated session, the development of graphene-based materials and strategies for the protection against electromagnetic radiation were discussed.

During the [BIOLAWEB](#) coordinated session, strategies for biodiversity, freshwater ecology, and conservation of water bodies in Southeastern Europe were elaborated.

During the [EINSTEIN](#) coordinated session, sustainable strategies for healthier food and food waste reuse were presented.

During the [STEPUPIORS](#) coordinated session, approaches towards more efficient management of cancer burden in Serbia were highlighted.

Dr Ana Đurić and Dr Milena Čavić delivered a lecture "Contribution of the STEPUPIORS project to better management of rectal cancer in Serbia". The private sector project stakeholder representative Dr Ivana Koljenšić from Roche Serbia gave a lecture "Towards sustainable academic-industry collaboration in the Serbian healthcare system". Dr Branislava Gemović was a representative of the policy maker project stakeholder the Center for the 4th Industrial Revolution in Serbia and talked about the "Importance of cross-sectoral collaboration for data governance in healthcare".

As an outcome of the meeting, a set of specific recommendations was prepared for the policy makers on behalf of the projects and participants, gathering feedback from the vivid discussions. All participants united around one general conclusion, that the inter-sectoral collaboration and swift, tangible actions will be crucial for creating a healthier environment for future generations in Serbia.

The meeting was promoted at EuroNews Serbia portal:

<https://www.euronews.rs/biznis/biznis-vesti/149200/naucni-skup-brze-reakcije-su-kljucne-za-poboljsanje-zdravlja-ljudi-i-zivotne-sredine-u-srbiji/vest>

STEPUPIORS project recommendation:

Establish a national scientific advisory body that connects the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut", Center for the 4th Industrial Revolution, Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia and is composed of prominent scientists/coordinators of national and international projects in the field of One Health. The purpose of this body would be to analyze and synthesize knowledge and results obtained from research conducted in Serbia and give specific recommendations for steps that can be taken to improve the health of our citizens and ecosystems in the long term.