



**Socioeconomic and historical aspects to
consider when implementing One Health:
case study for Romania**

**Alexandru Supeanu, Veterinarian
National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority in Romania**



Different approaches in One Health

- ❖ Most One Health case reports and evaluations are focused on presenting **positive** results
- ❖ Also known as success stories, but **what is the mechanism behind them? – what was done right?**
- ❖ **Scarce data** available on factors that are identified as **non-viable** for specific One Health activities – aspects like regions, traditions, legal system, social aspects, etc – **what went wrong?**

Health over the centuries

History is our best friend!

Deities



Hippocrates - imbalance of

the 4 bodily fluids



Galen - temperamental

and emotional states





Romania – Historical aspects related to One Health

- Medicine was one of the pillars of society – **functional cluster - elders/wise** council of the society, together with – **religious leaders, mayor, policemen, teachers, veterinarians**
- Correlation with the **degree of trust in authorities** (who did people trust most?) and between the level of influence of different professions

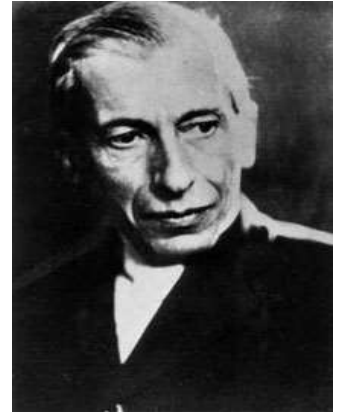
One Health in Romania's medical history

- Victor Babes (1854-1926): co-authored the world's first bacteriology treaty; pioneering work in **rabies**, **antibiotics**, serotherapy, infectious diseases, **veterinary medicine** (he was a **human microbiologist**)



One Health in Romania's medical history

- Nicolae Paulescu (1869 – 1931): physician, the inventor of insulin, pioneering work in endocrinology; understanding the value of the **animal model** in his activities (closely working with veterinarians)



One Health in Romania's medical history

- Ioan Cantacuzino (1863-1934): physician, pioneering work in anti-cholera and **anti-tuberculosis** vaccination, human and veterinary epidemiology and infectious diseases outbreaks



One Health in Romania's medical history

- Ion Poenaru (1868-1939): first to scientifically demonstrate the transmission of **smallpox in pigs** through inoculation



One Health in Romania's medical history

- Vladimir Capatana (1911-1997): **veterinarian, first to design an experimental model for a small pancreas**, alongside physicians and physicists



Today: One Health in Romania

- Although having a tradition in comparative medicine (a piece of the One Health puzzle), One Health in Romania started in 2015.
- **One Health Romania** – an NGO with the mission to implement One Health in Romania and not only.





Today: One Health in Romania

Public and private legal entities, from various domains:

- Environmental protection;
- Food safety, security and nutrition;
- Scientific research;
- Industry;
- Education;
- Academia and NGOs.



Today: One Health in Romania

Individual members, from all relevant expertise areas of the One Health concept:

- Environmental health and protection
- Food security, safety and nutrition
- Zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance
- Biology, physics and chemistry
- Engineering and economics
- Legislation, human and animal rights
- Clergy, arts, politics

Lessons learned in Romania: ideal scenario

Sectors of One Health



■ Academia ■ Industry ■ Authorities ■ NGOs ■ Public

Lessons learned in Romania: real scenario

Sectors of One Health



■ Academia ■ Industry ■ Authorities ■ NGOs ■ Public

Analysis of the different sectors of One Health in Romania



- Few dedicated One Health funds and attempts of One Health training for future generations
- Very few relevant One Health articles
- Struggling to form One Health partnerships with other clusters.

Analysis of the different sectors of One Health in Romania



Current status

- Waiting on the authorities to promote One Health regulations (no regulations = no actions)
- Extremely interested in One Health solutions (e.g. antibiotics in the animal husbandry system)
- Willing to invest in One Health (R&D)

Analysis of the different sectors of One Health in Romania



- Conflict of interest (legal system, social history)
- No specialized departments in One Health
- Making One Health official - political and economical constrains
- Affected by political instability (management)

Analysis of the different sectors of One Health in Romania



- Very few One Health information reaches the public, and no One Health ‘celebrities’
- Round tables are the best solution to explain One Health
- Very open to successful One Health examples (rabies)

Analysis of the different sectors of One Health in Romania



Current status

- Very few specialized One Health funds
- Often associated with a hidden agenda
- No sway over other One Health sectors
- Lobby = conflict of interests



Take home messages

- ❖ In Romania, the public authorities sector is key in implementing One Health!
- ❖ What works in one country may not work in another – social/cultural/economical aspects!
- ❖ One Health should not be limited to AMR and Zoonoses, but should bring forward the rest of the puzzle pieces!
- ❖ Using a general, globalized approach will not reach the functional unit of One Health – the local community!



Thank you!

Alexandru Supeanu

**Fellow of the European Food Safety Authority - EUFORA Food Safety
Risk Assessment Program (2017 -2018)**

**Official Veterinarian - the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food
Safety Authority in Romania**