

Surveillance of the antimicrobial resistance in the community: Variable coverage and methodologies across European countries

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Introduction

- The importance of **AMR in primary care remains unclear in Europe as it is scarcely documented.**
- BASICS (Bridging AMR Surveillance In Community Settings) was created to gather experts in the field of AMR in community settings
- The overall aim of the “BASICS” group is to map existing initiatives and identify needs for AMR Surveillance in Community Settings in Europe.

Study objectives:

- To describe the **current national structuring of clinical microbiology services** for primary care in Europe
- To identify and describe **existing national networks on AMR surveillance in community care** in Europe

Methods

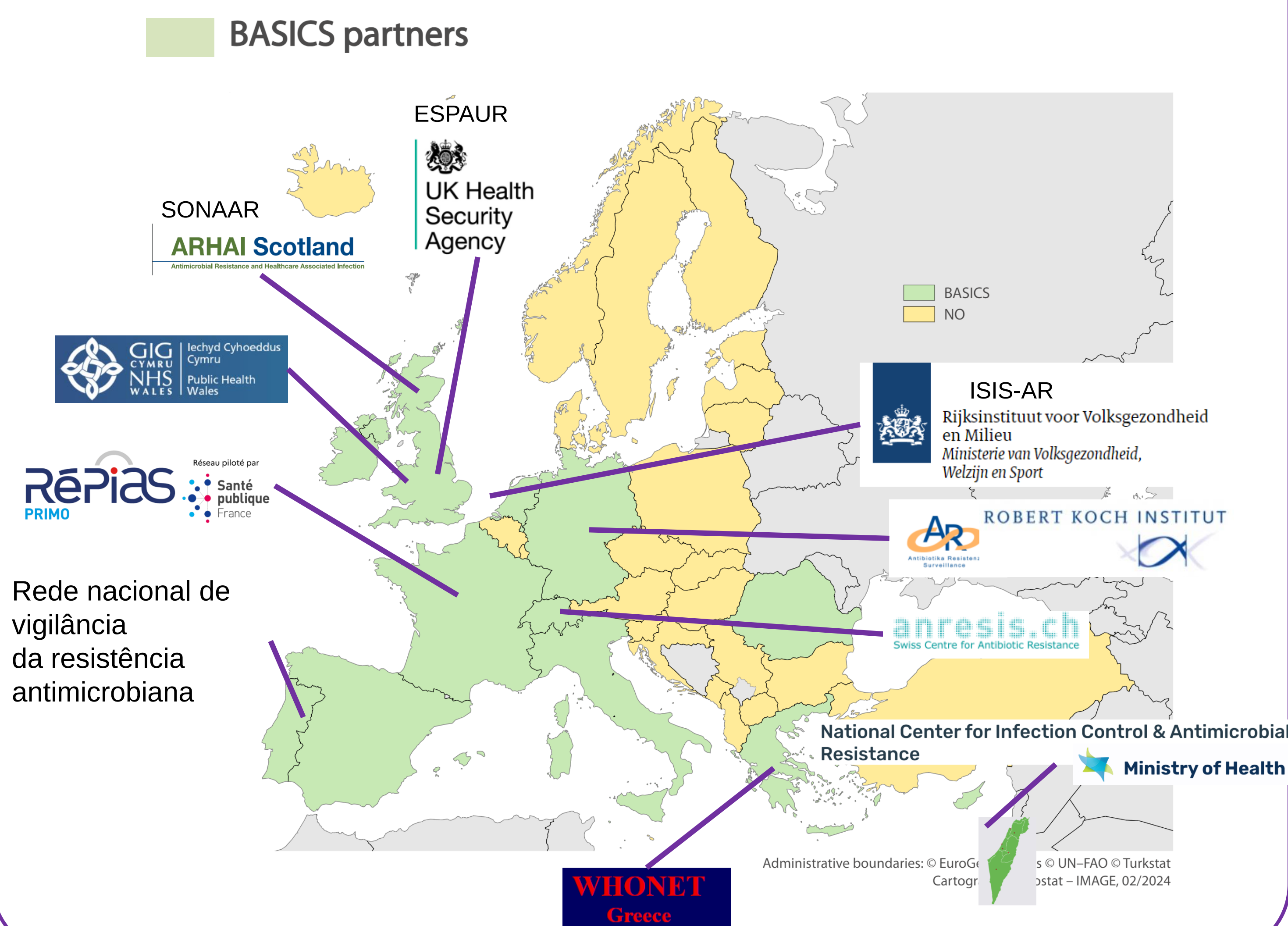
- Online structured questionnaire**
- Distributed in June 2023 to 17 partners from 16 countries
- A quantitative and qualitative assessment was performed in two parts:
 - Part I: National organisation of clinical microbiology for the community setting**
 - Process of sample management
 - Overall data availability and quality and data storage of microbiology results
 - Part II: Description of existing national or regional AMR surveillance systems in primary care**
 - Data collection, definition of indicators, method used for reporting and integration in a broader surveillance system

Organisation of clinical microbiology

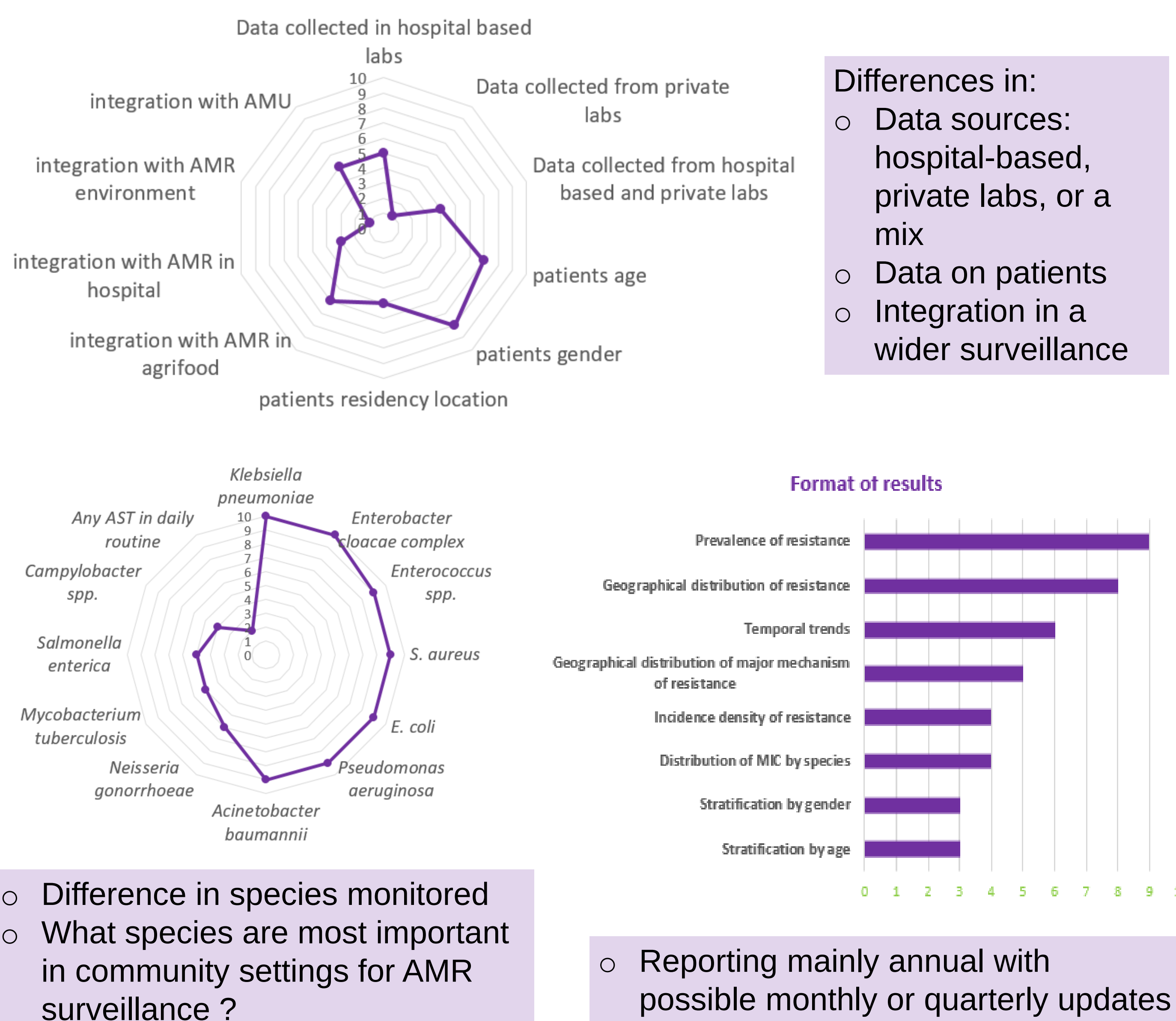
- Among the 17 partners (from 16 countries):
 - 9 (53%) had microbiology processed by **hospital-based labs**, 1 (6%) **by private or GP labs**, or 7 (41%) by a **mix**
 - 16 (94%) had a **national accreditation process** for clinical labs (50% voluntary)
 - Labs processing** of samples differs according to countries:
 - 11 (69%) had national recommendations on sampling, culture or AST (EUCAST 91%, CLSI 9%)
 - All reported AST on **SIR format**
- N.B: in some countries, requests for laboratory analysis are open without a prescription from a general practitioner

Existing AMR surveillance systems

10 AMR surveillance systems identified in 10 countries



Comparing available data



Conclusion

- Only **59% of participating European countries** had an **existing AMR surveillance system in community** settings.
- The **heterogeneity of data extracted and focus** suggests the need for a consistent and shared method across Europe.
- Next aim of the group is to **define AMR indicators** of interest in community settings.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Elena Addis, University of Verona, Italy; Susanna Frost, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Ireland; Robin Howes, NHS, Wales; Mairi MacLeod NHS, Scotland; Ronan McMullan HSCNI, North Ireland.
This study was funded under the JPIAMR 2022 call for Diagnostic and Surveillance Networks.