New EU project builds an international Social Sciences network for the prevention and response to infectious threats and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Sonar-Global project, a global Social Sciences network for Infectious Threats and AMR

The goal of the new European project Sonar-Global is to build a sustainable international social sciences network to engage the active participation of the social sciences in the prevention and response to infectious threats and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Its activities will foster complementarities and synergies among social scientists and other stakeholders for the governance of infectious threats and AMR.

The project will provide a platform for collaboration among social sciences experts, institutions and existing networks engaged in preparedness and response to epidemics and AMR in Europe and around the world. The platform will build on activities at regional hubs within Europe and vulnerable countries threatened by EID and AMR. It will facilitate learning opportunities on how to improve the governance of EID and AMR preparedness and response within Europe, between the global North and South, and between countries in the global South.

“The European Commission has given us an unprecedented opportunity to integrate social sciences into epidemic and AMR preparedness and response. Our ambition is to create a dynamic network that will collaborate with other stakeholders to tackle these challenges” says Tamara Giles-Vernick, Sonar-Global coordinator (Institut Pasteur).

Specific objectives of Sonar-Global
Sonar-Global will lead activities through a program that builds governance from the ground by:

1. Developing an open-access platform to support the Sonar-Global activities and sharing them broadly
2. Adapting, testing and evaluating vulnerability assessment tools on the ground and engagement models to facilitate collaboration across multiple stakeholders
3. Piloting and evaluating curricula for training social scientists in preparedness and response to infectious threats and AMR and fostering social sciences knowledge of infectious threats and of AMR among non-social sciences actors

The Sonar-Global project was granted within the Horizon 2020 Program of the European Union after a competitive one-stage selection process. The project started with a kick-off meeting in Paris (France) on the 30th of January 2019 at Institut Pasteur, coordinator of the project, and will be funded for 3 years.

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