

# Leading the charge against AMR

SWEDEN

### EPW core priorities and flagships

Promoting health and well-being  
Incorporating behavioural and cultural insights

### WHO collaboration

Facilitating dialogue  
WHO collaborating centre

The misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals has accelerated resistance, making AMR a global health threat leading to prolonged illness, higher health-care costs and increased mortality. Recognizing the severity of this issue, Sweden was the first country to ban antibiotic growth promoters in animal feed in 1986, setting a global precedent.

Sweden's collaboration with the Regional Office on AMR began with piloting the Tailoring Antimicrobial Resistance Programmes (TAP) framework, which takes a behavioural insights approach. This provided a critical understanding of migrants' expectations around antibiotics. After supporting the development of the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System, the Public Health Agency of Sweden focused on regional and country-level AMR activities. Sweden supports regional efforts by leading the Baltic One Health One Plan (BALTOHOP) project, building institutional and technical capacity and strengthening Nordic-Baltic collaboration with a One Health perspective.

### The impact

Sweden's leadership in AMR, particularly as chair of the novel antimicrobials working group in the Novel Medicines Platform, has advanced regional and global discussions on AMR. The Swedish Strategic Programme for the Rational Use of Antimicrobial Agents and Surveillance of Resistance (STRAMA) looks to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use and promote responsible prescribing practices. The model has been successfully adopted in other countries, demonstrating the broader impact of Sweden's collaboration with the Regional Office.

### Lessons learned

- Early and targeted interventions, such as TAP, are worthwhile projects to inform policy-making.
- Regional implementation of successful models, such as STRAMA, amplifies impact beyond national borders.
- Country-to-country partnerships are essential for long-term success, and solidarity can foster progress beyond national efforts.

### Donors and partners

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs; WHO Collaborating Centre for AMR Containment; ReAct



European Region



Stacks of antibiotic discs at Jönköping County Hospital.  
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“We’ve advanced from surveillance to integrated AMR work in health systems. Beyond data collection, we aim to build bridges with countries and foster partnerships across sectors.”

**Dr Sonja Löfmark Behrendtz**, Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for AMR Containment, Sweden

### What's next?

The WHO Collaborating Centre for AMR Containment will support the implementation of the Regional Office's AMR Roadmap 2023–2030. Key efforts include promoting the STRAMA model with a focus on the use of AMR data for action, and implementing antimicrobial stewardship programmes using behavioural insights across Europe over the next four years.