Symposium
One Health for Food Safety, Food Security, and Sustainable Food Production: Integrating Human, Animal, and Environmental Health

Friday, 13 February 2026. 09.30 - 3.30 pm (CET)

The American University of Rome, Auditorium, Via Pietro Roselli 16

Program

Time (CET)	Titles of presentations	Speakers
09.30-10.00 am	Registration and Coffee	
10.00-10.30 am	Welcoming Remarks	*Sabrina Joseph, Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs - AUR*
	Introduction	*Maria Grazia Quieti and Marina Mefleh - AUR, Ilja Richard Pavone - CID Ethics (CNR)*
Session I. Health, Environmental and Agricultural Perspectives Moderator: Marina Mefleh- AUR		
10.30-11.45 am	Microbiomes as the foundations of the link between the food system and One Health	*Fontaine Fanette, Consultant - FAO*
	The Green Deal needs deep changes	*Roberto Defez - Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources, CNR*
	The role of Nature based Solutions for environmental health	*Carlo Calfapietra- Institute of Research on Terrestrial Ecosystems (IRET), CNR*
	A One Health perspective on the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022–2030	*Carmen Savelli - Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, World Health Organization (WHO)*
	Q&A	

	Session II: The Legal Perspective **Moderator: Antonio Marchesi-AUR**	
11.45-01.00 pm	One Health and the Pandemic Agreement: Legal and Governance Perspectives for Improved Global Health Security	*Stefania Negri - School of Law, University of Salerno*
	Beyond Preparedness: Reinforcing One Health to Prevent Future Pandemics	*Ilja Richard Pavone - CID Ethics (CNR)*
	The EU approach to One Health	*Flavia Zorzi Giustiniani- Link University*
	Food Security, Biotechnology and IP Rights	*Ilaria De Gasperis- CID Ethics (CNR)*
	Q&A	
	Lunch – AUR Garden and Student Lounge	
	Session III: The social sciences and humanities perspectives **Moderator: Emanuele Cesta, Agenzia Italiana per il Farmaco (AIFA)**	
02.15-03.15 pm	One Health in Action: Empowering Young Shepherds	*Daniela Storti- Centre for Policies and Bioeconomy, Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA)- Rome*
	One Health for Pandemic Prevention, Food Systems Resilience and Ecosystem Health in the Central Asia Region: an economic perspective.	*Giacomo Branca - Tuscia University and AUR*
	The ethical framework for the nexus between sustainable food production and human health and our responsibility towards future generations	*Maurizio Balistreri- Tuscia University*
	Q& A	
03.15-03.30 pm	Wrap-up	*Marina Mefleh and Maria Grazia Quieti- AUR, Ilja Richard Pavone - CID Ethics (CNR)*

Participants' bios

Balistreri Maurizio, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy at Università della Tuscia. He directs the Icaro series for the publishing house Fandango. His main research interests include environmental ethics, roboethics, and bioethics. Among his books are Il futuro della riproduzione umana (2016), Superumani. Etica ed enhancement (2020), and Sex robots. Love in the Age of Machines (2022, Trivent). He is also one of the authors of Biotecnologie e Modificazioni genetiche (Il Mulino, 2020).

Branca Giacomo is Associate Professor of Economic Policy (Tuscia University, Italy) and Adjunct Professor of Food Policy (American University of Rome). Through the Economics of Sustainable Agri-food Systems Lab, he works on the interface between production ecosystems, socio-economy and public policy, in a development context. He has long-term experience with international organizations (FAO, IFAD, WB) developing agriculture policy plans and investment strategies focusing on smallholder farm production and resilient agri-food systems.

Calfapietra Carlo, Ph.D. (www.carlocalfapietra.com) is the director of the Institute of Research on Terrestrial Ecosystems (IRET) of CNR. PhD in Forest Ecology at University of Padova and Marie Curie fellow at University of Madison- Wisconsin (USA). He published more than 100 research papers on international journals (H-index: 59) and coordinated pa number of international and national projects on nature-based solutions, urban forests, climate change and biodiversity.

Cesta Emanuele, Lawyer, legal officer at AIFA and legal expert in pharmaceutical regulatory issues (medicines shortages and counterfeiting), Chair of the CD-P-PH of the CoE, contract teacher of Italian pharmaceutical legislation at University of Tor Vergata (Rome), member of GHSI - MCM Taskforce and of the GHSA - Legal Preparedness Action Package (https://ghsagenda.org/legal-preparedness/), member of the EAHL (https://eahl.eu/), member of the teaching staff in JM Projects, Modules and Centre of Excellence, financed by the UE, member of the JSPN.

Defez Roberto is associate to CNR-IBBR in Naples. Member of the National Academy of Agriculture; of the Ethics Committce of the Umberto Veronesi Foundation; of the Accademia dei Gorgofili; Bussolera-Branca Foundation scientific advisor; member of the Scientific Council of the Dohrn Foundation. He wrote two books: The GMO Case 2016 by Carocci, and DISCOVERY2018 by Codice.

De Gasperis Ilaria is a lawyer with a PhD in "Comparative and International Public Law" from Sapienza University, Rome. She works at the Interdepartmental Center for Research Ethics and Integrity (CID Ethics) of the National Research Council, where she is principal investigator of the "Ethics and Intellectual Property Research Unit". Her fields of research are Patent Law, European and International Law, Human Rights Law, with a focus on the legal protection of Biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence.

Fontaine Fanette is microbiologist working as AMR- microbiome specialist in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (Rome, Italy). She led technical work on interconnections between microbiomes and agrifood. Since 2023, she is working on the interconnections between AMR and Food Loss and Waste and on the importance of microbiomes in the One Health framework.

Marchesi Antonio, PhD (European University Institute), teaches international law at the Law Faculty of the University of Teramo and is Director of the Graduate Program in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution at The American University of Rome. He was Chairperson of Amnesty International Italy and has been a consultant to several NGOs and national and European human rights institutions. He has authored over fifty academic articles and several books.

Mefleh Marina, is currently an Adjunct Professor in the MA in Food Studies program at The American University of Rome (AUR) and a Scientific Project Officer at the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM Bari). Her work and research focus on advancing innovation in the organic food sector by connecting technology developers, research institutions, and small producers through Organic Food Innovation Hubs across Europe

Negri Stefania, Ph.D., Associate Professor of International Law; President of the European Association of Health Law (EAHL); Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence "New Visions of the European Union's Role in Global Health" (EU4GH); Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Module "One Health: Global and EU Perspectives" (1HEALTH); Member of the Italian delegation at the GHSA Legal Preparedness Action Package and currently co-Chair of the GHSA LP AP Sub-working Group on One Health; co-Editor of the Journal of Global Health Law.

Pavone Ilja Richard, holds a Ph.D. in International Law and Human Rights (Sapienza University of Rome), he is a Senior Researcher in International Law at the Interdepartmental Center for Research Ethics and Integrity (CID Ethics) of the National Research Council of Italy, where he coordinates the Biolaw Research Unit. He teaches European Law and Biotechnologies at the Catholic University of Rome. He is widely published in the fields of bioethics and biolaw, global health, environment, animal law and food law.

Quieti Maria Grazia, Ph.D. in Social Sciences from Cardiff University, is Director of the master's in food studies and Coordinator of the Center for Food Studies at The American University of Rome. She previously served as Executive Director of the U.S.-Italy Fulbright Commission and Senior Policy Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. (FAO). Her recent work focuses on sustainable diets and novel foods.

Savelli Carmen, a Scientist at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva. He supports countries in detecting and preventing foodborne diseases, strengthening food control systems, and enhancing preparedness for food safety emergencies. He serves as WHO lead for INFOSAN, linking 190 Member States during food safety incidents, and for the WHO Alliance for Food Safety, advancing the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety. He holds a PhD in public health.

Storti Daniela, PhD in Institutions, Agriculture and Development Policies, is a senior researcher at CREA. A rural development policy expert, she has over 20 years of leadership in national and EU programs, multi-level governance, and interinstitutional collaborations. She directs the Young Shepherds School and leads CREA's role in the Triple Wins project with WHO, promoting public food procurement as a One Health driver. She has led many projects and published widely.

Zorzi Giustiniani Flavia is Associate Professor of European Union Law at Link University in Rome and Adjunct Professor of International Law and International Law of the Digital Society at Uninettuno University. She has published extensively on various subjects of international and EU law. She is the author of the book "International law in disaster scenarios. Applicable rules and principles" (Springer, 2020) and co-editor of the Routledge Handbook of Human Rights in Disasters (Routledge, 2018). She is the scientific coordinator of the Jean Monnet Module "The EU approach to cross-border health threats. Exploring the EU role as a regional and global public health actor" (2023-2026).

Abstracts

Balistreri Maurizio- The ethical framework for the nexus between sustainable food production and human health and our responsibility towards future generations

This presentation examines the ethical framework linking sustainable food production, human health, and responsibility toward future generations. It highlights how food systems shape not only environmental sustainability but also public health outcomes. Unsustainable practices are shown to generate long-term risks for both ecosystems and human well-being. Drawing on ethical, bioethical, and public health perspectives, the presentation emphasizes intergenerational responsibility as a key moral principle. It argues for an integrated and forward-looking ethical approach capable of guiding sustainable, health-oriented food policies and practices.

Branca Giacomo- One Health for Pandemic Prevention, Food Systems Resilience and Ecosystem Health in the Central Asia Region: an economic perspective

The paper assesses the economic feasibility of One Health (OH) interventions in Central Asia, with reference to a regional case study. While cost-effectiveness is generally used in the health care sector, here the benefits of coordinated and transboundary strategies for disease control are quantified in the agriculture, health and environmental sectors. The monetised benefits include increased food safety and security, enhanced public health, and improved environmental ecosystems consequent to the reduction in the prevalence of the most important zoonotic diseases (brucellosis and echinococcosis), and the increased surveillance of other zoonoses (e.g., rabies). By comparing such benefits (public goods) with the investment costs, an economic rationale for the OH public expenditure is demonstrated. The results can inform policy making. Regional policies to develop appropriate incentives for scaling-up are required. Effective pathways for the reduction of pandemic risks should also be pursued by European policies to strengthen security ties with the Region.

Calfapietra Carlo - The role of Nature based Solutions for environmental health

The role of Nature-based Solutions (NBS) in restoring urban ecosystems has now been widely recognized since the EU has made NBS one of the critical pillars in its political and executive agenda in 2015. Nature Restoration Law and Green Deal targets of Climate Neutrality and reduction of biodiversity loss provide now an unprecedented chance. At the same time in Italy a unique initiative has started in 2022, The National Biodiversity Future Centre (NBFC) which is involving more than 2000 researchers and is focusing on a variety of topics of the Terrestrial, Marine and Urban Biodiversity. While Monitoring, Conservation and Valorization represent three important keywords of this initiative, Restoration assumes a priority topic thanks to the recent international mandate. It is particularly relevant to identify gaps and protocols to validate scientifically innovative and practical solutions for successful and effective NBS applications also quantifying the benefits of the NBS implementations.

Defez Roberto - The Green Deal needs deep changes

"The European Green Deal is transforming the EU into a modern, resource efficient and competitive economy. It aims to cut missions by at least 50% and raising organic agriculture from 7.5% to 25% by 2030". This plan was written in 2019, before Covid, before Ukraine invasion and before the development of the energy-intensive AI. All these events have been perceived as more urgent by the public and governments. They have encouraged individual isolation and a decline in the sharing of interests. Organic farming has simply been a way to import more, produce less, and often not better. All the parameters of organic food production demonstrate that it is not (yet) an environmentally friendly strategy. From the hope of having healthy food and a healthy environment to that of getting sick at every global event. We need true European political integration.

De Gasperis Ilaria- Food Security, Biotechnology and IP Rights

Climate change, pollution, environmental degradation, pandemics, wars and political crises pose a serious threat to the fulfilment of food security, exposing the ever-increasing global interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental wellbeing. Biotechnology, on the other hand, plays a crucial role in tackling food insecurity, having the potential to increase exponentially both the quality and quantity of available food and to contribute significantly to the reinstatement of depauperated ecosystems worldwide. Since research and development may prove particularly expensive and lengthy, companies seek to protect new biotechnological inventions through patents, which aim at fostering innovation and attracting investments. However, patents hinge upon legal and economic mechanisms that may as well hamper the access to food and endanger biodiversity. The paper outlines the main issues related to food security, biotechnology and patents in the light of the current international legal framework and explores possible solutions in compliance with the principles of One Health.

Fontaine Fanette - Microbiomes as the foundations of the link between the food system and One Health

Microbiomes—complex assemblages of microorganisms including bacteria, archaea, fungi, viruses, algae, and microeukaryotes—are fundamental to the health and stability of all ecosystems. They sustain key functions supporting human, animal, plant, soil, water, and air health, thereby underpinning resilient agrifood, health, and ecological systems. However, microbiome disturbances, such as the loss of microbial diversity and functionality, contribute to systemic risks including antimicrobial resistance (AMR), emerging infectious diseases, food insecurity, malnutrition, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), climate change impacts, and ecosystem degradation. Addressing these interconnected risks requires cross-sectoral policy leadership to promote microbiome stewardship, support microbiome-based innovations, and leverage the microbiome's role in enhancing resilience and sustainability. Integrating microbiome considerations into One Health strategies provides a unique opportunity to strengthen global and local responses to health and agrifood challenges through a holistic, preventive, and systems-based approach that recognizes microbiomes as foundational to planetary health.

Negri Stefania - One Health and the Pandemic Agreement: Legal and Governance Perspectives for Improved Global Health Security

The Pandemic Agreement marks a decisive step towards enhancing global health security. It is the first legally binding instrument to operationalize One Health. The Agreement significantly expands the scope of international health policy and the international legal architecture by tackling the root causes of outbreaks rather than just focusing on controlling them through emergency preparedness and response. Food safety and the management of foodborne diseases are integral components of this larger framework. Article 4 on "pandemic prevention and surveillance" and Article 5 on a "One Health Approach for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response" capture the core of member states' commitments to tackle pandemics at the earliest possible stages. While food safety is not a primary focus of the Agreement, it can play a role in preventing and managing outbreaks of new and emerging foodborne infections, reducing risks associated with zoonotic diseases such as those stemming from wildlife trade and farming practices.

Pavone Ilja Richard - Beyond Preparedness: Reinforcing One Health to Prevent Future Pandemics

This speech critically examines the anthropocentric framework underlying One Health. Although it is a holistic concept that recognizes the close connection between human health, animal health, and environmental protection, it will be argued that One Health's approach to human health and the prevention of zoonoses focuses excessively on promoting human interests, to the detriment of non-human animals and the protection of ecosystems, which is neither sustainable nor compassionate. The article also proposes an alternative vision for the protection of long-term health, advocating an approach based on a "One Health–Centered" interpretation of the main environmental treaties (using CITES as an example). This perspective emphasizes the need to address the root causes of zoonoses through policies and actions that counter the exploitation of non-human animals.

Savelli Carmen - A One Health perspective on the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022–2030

This presentation will provide a one health perspective on the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030, which emphasizes the close connection between human, animal and environmental health. The strategy notes that many factors, including globalization, population growth and environmental change have increased the complexity of food safety risks, with foodborne hazards spreading quickly through interconnected food systems. It highlights that emerging threats such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and climate-related shifts in pathogen persistence require coordinated action across sectors and borders. The strategy calls for integrated surveillance that brings together data from across sectors, supported by stronger information sharing and joint analysis. Mechanisms such as INFOSAN and the WHO Alliance for Food Safety facilitate this collaboration by enabling timely communication and coordinated action among countries and sectors. Through this approach, the strategy aims to strengthen national capacities to detect, prevent and respond to foodborne risks in a coherent and sustainable way.

Storti Daniela- One Health in Action: Empowering Young Shepherds

The contribution presents the experience of the Scuola Giovani Pastori (Young Shepherds School), an innovative training and networking project promoted by CREA in collaboration with the Riabitare l'Italia Association, designed to support young people interested in starting pastoral activities in the country's mountain areas. In the model developed by the School, the One Health approach is integrated both into the training content—with particular attention to ecosystem health through regenerative livestock practices inspired by agroecology principles—and into teaching methods, focused on relationships, care, and empowerment of people. Furthermore, the project aims to build a supportive community, where mutual recognition acts as a protective factor for participants' mental health. This vision, aligned with the One Health approach, acknowledges the connections between individual well-being, the quality of social relationships, and the health of natural environments.

Zorzi Flavia- The EU approach to One Health

The presentation is meant to illustrate the progressive evolution of One Health within the EU legal order. As will be show, the ever-increasing importance assigned to the concept has been accompanied by its incorporation into EU law as an integrated and multidisciplinary "approach", that needs to be applied by European institutions in their work. In the final phase, still underway, we are witnessing its possible transformation into a "principle." Such an evolution was advocated by the Conference on the Future of Europe, which in its final report proposed adopting a holistic approach to health, acting "in line with the One Health approach, which should be emphasized as a horizontal and fundamental principle encompassing all EU policies." If achieved, this would lead to the emergence of a new principle, additional to, or potentially replacing, the "Health in all policies" principle already enshrined in the Treaties.