



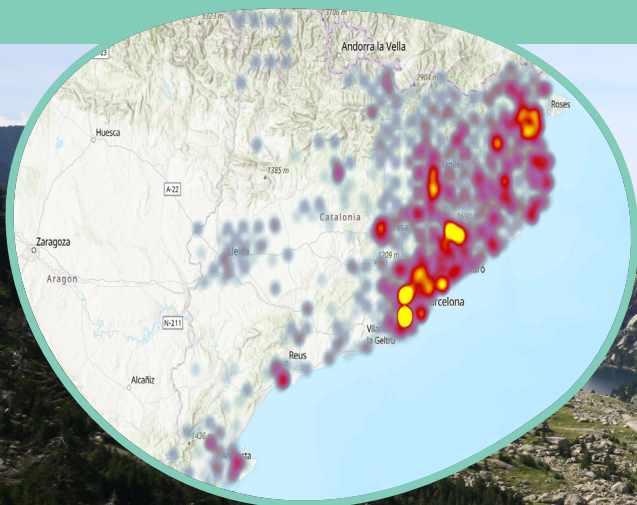
European Partnership on
Animal Health and Welfare

STMs

Short-Term Missions

Case Study

The EUP AH&W provides small grants for Short-Term Missions (STMs) with the aim of sharing scientific expertise, methodologies, equipment, and facilities to harmonise the existing approaches and methodologies within the large EUP AH&W. They aim to drive research forward in a collaborative and non-duplicative fashion to strengthen both the scientific capacity within the EUP AH&W and promote Animal Health and Welfare across Europe. Additionally, STMs serve as a platform for creating and consolidating professional networks, fostering mutual trust among researchers and institutions, and establishing a strong foundation for future collaborative efforts.



Title: **Ecological Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance in Catalonia**

EUP AH&W Thematic area: Surveillance/monitoring systems and risk assessment of animal health and welfare.

Home Institute: Denmark Technical University (DTU).

Mission hosting institute: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

Duration of mission: 3 months.

Summary

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is increasingly recognised as a One Health challenge shaped by interactions between humans, livestock, wildlife, and the environment. However, wildlife and ecological surveillance remain underdeveloped components of AMR monitoring, despite their potential to act as sentinel systems for environmental exposure and transmission. This Short-Term Mission (STM) contributed to the development of wildlife-based AMR surveillance methods, strengthening AMR data harmonisation, and advancing tools for environmental AMR mapping and communication.

Together with researchers from UAB, the STM awardee created an interactive online map that visually shows where antibiotic-resistant bacteria have been found in wildlife, and how this may relate to environmental pollution sources, such as wastewater and livestock farming. Using data from wildlife samples and environmental monitoring platforms, the researcher began building this interactive map using mapping and design software. The ultimate goal is to present complex scientific data in a way that is easy for the general public to understand, while also allowing scientists to explore detailed information in one place.

In the evenings, the STM awardee had the opportunity to attend a One Health master's course, where experts from different countries shared how they approach health challenges that affect people, animals, and ecosystems. This helped broaden their perspective and introduced them to different ways of thinking, working, and communicating in science.

The work undertaken during the STM will be presented at the European One Health Association (EOHA) annual conference in Madrid in 2026. The finalised interactive AMR surveillance maps will also be published on public databases such as storymaps.arcgis.com.

“ I am so grateful to EUPAH&W for providing me with the opportunity to participate in my three-month short-term mission working at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). As a PhD student from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), I was ecstatic to finally work with fellow EUP AH&W members in person and be welcomed into their research community. This short-term mission provided a strong learning environment for key aspects of my overall thesis project, and I will be able to apply what I learned to my final thesis, assist with the visual dissemination of future projects, and ultimately strengthen my future scientific career. I look forward to maintaining my newly established connections and continued collaboration with the wonderful team at UAB and EUPAH&W. ”

Hillary Stratton
Phd Student

