

UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI URBINO "CARLO BO"

**SELECTION CALL FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF
PhD SCHOLARSHIPS
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**APPLICATION TO PHD PROGRAM IN
"GLOBAL STUDIES, ECONOMY, SOCIETY AND LAW"
ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025 XL CYCLE**

APPLICANT: Alessia Teresa Accoto

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**RESTRICTED TOPIC: ONE HEALTH AND PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HEALTH GLOBAL EMERGENCIES**

**PROJECT TITLE: The provision of relevant global regulatory tools for the prevention and
protection of health, with particular regard to mental health, including the outcome of
pandemic events**

PROPOSED RESEARCH:

Introduction of the problem in the international scientific context

For some time now, we have been witnessing an evolution on the concept of health, which is no longer understood merely as the absence of disease or infirmity but as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being.

The COVID-19 pandemic, by highlighting the weaknesses and peculiarities of the individual health systems worldwide and exposing the disparities among population in terms of response and healthcare capabilities, has underscored the connection between individuals and the Planet, as well as the need for a broader and more global approach to health, aimed at implementing *One Health* policies.

In Italy, to further the *One Health* approach, which is officially recognized by the Ministry of Health, multidisciplinary collaborations and joint actions have been launched. At the supranational level, *One Health* is emphasised by the European Commission and many international organizations, as a relevant strategy in sectors that benefit from collaboration across different disciplines¹.

There is certainly an ever-increasing focus on this healthcare model, but greater implementation is still necessary, especially concerning mental health. In fact, given the worrying post-pandemic scenario, characterized by strong emotional tensions resulting, in some cases, in mental and neurological pathologies, it is essential to develop a strategy for the care and assistance of patients suffering from mental illnesses. which indicates achievable objectives, involving all interested

¹In particular, in October 2022, was drawn up the "*One Health Joint Action Plan*" (OHJPA) in order to support the implementation of policies with a *One Health* approach to address health risks at global, national and regional level, implementing various intervention plans. The *One Health* approach is also considered by the PNRR (*National Recovery and Resilience Plan*) as a key element to address inequalities and promote global health. Pannella A., *One Health: un approccio integrato per la salute globale* on www.agendadigitale.eu.

stakeholders (clinical and non-clinical). A first step was taken in Italy thanks to the SIN² which presented the "*One Brain, One Health*" Manifesto, aimed at developing concrete solutions to enhance, promote and protect brain health.

However, the implementation of the regulatory remains necessary, through the provision of adequate measures aimed at preventing and addressing the highlighted issues on global scale.

Relevance of the problem

The issue appears to be on a particular relevance given the serious consequences to which the outbreak and continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic has led, especially regarding mental health. In fact, as reported by the WHO³, there has been a significant global increase in psychological and mental illnesses, revealing a worrying scenario.

Furthermore, health protection, both physical and mental, should be implemented preventively from a young age to avoid, through timely and adequate treatment, the onset of actual pathologies when disorders and character alteration emerge in individuals.

It is also absolutely necessary to avoid conceiving human health as a priority and independent objective separate from the health of the planet and its resources, which impact both physical and mental health.

Therefore, it is no longer enough to focus on the individual within the single state with established rules that do not consider a general and global structure of the entire healthcare system. Instead, it is necessary to create regulatory instruments that ensure the protection of health. To this end, greater cooperation and solid and structured coordination between the governments of the different countries is needed, to be able to deal with and above all prevent major risk situations. For this reason, a global plan is essential, which must be constantly updated and monitored in light of emerging evidence.

Research method used and any facilities and equipment needed to carry out the research

The research will begin with the analysis of the most effective regulations to ensure compliance with health protection, both physical and mental, by examining the approach of the various states to *One Health*, with the goal of creating regulatory interdisciplinarity that provides a global approach.

Specifically, the first year will be dedicated to researching the *status quaestionis* of all the legislation concerning the areas of interest and the doctrinal as well as jurisprudential evolution in the matter, especially at the national level. The focus will be on exploring how the *One Health* approach is implemented also at a psychological level, combined with the legal field.

The second year will involve analyzing the research conducted and examining all case studies related to the project, focusing also on international regulations. This will be done to understand the different strategies adopted by other states, where the *One Health* systems is more substantively applied, to demonstrate the practical utility of this approach.

During the third year, a synthesis of the research conducted will be compiled, evaluating the compatibility of the proposed objectives with the current normative framework, or, if more likely, determining whether a modification of the legal system is necessary. In the latter case, a revision of the normative rules will be proposed, always respecting the supreme constitutional principles, in a more guaranteed perspective for the subjects, who must be safeguarded already from a prevention perspective in order to avoid a further global pandemic that could also involve mental issues.

² Italian Society of Neurology

³ World Health Organization

Objectives and expected results

Given the current regulatory framework, a change is necessary to allow the healthcare and scientific research sectors to adequately prevent and effectively treat any health emergencies that may affect groups of individuals.

In particular, it will be necessary to strengthen governance by including mental health issues within global institutional initiatives; to enhance health infrastructures and research, including also the creation of an interdisciplinary table, to guarantee equal access to diagnostic pathways and patient care; to implement promotion and prevention strategies, raising awareness among populations of the priority that health must hold today; provision of an electronic health record that is completely and easily accessible at an international level and contains all the patients' clinical information; strengthen the usability of public health through the adoption of tools that guarantee the protection of good health throughout the entire life span, in all age and population groups.

All of this presupposes that the research will also involve a careful comparison with the relevant Italian norms of reference to harmonize the current framework with the reform perspective.

This aims to unify European and global regulations as much as possible in light of the ever-growing phenomenon of globalization.

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Project abstract

Starting from a reflection on the critical issues that have emerged from the exercise of the protection of the right to health, increasingly highlighted by the recent global pandemic, there arises a need for

study and in-depth analysis of the topic in question so that physical and psychic health find an ever greater and more practicable protection on a global level. An evaluation of international norms appears essential, through a regulatory interdisciplinarity of the various states. A global approach and regulatory frameworks that is more accessible to the entire public health system is necessary, including the adoption of tools that guarantee the implementation of the *One Health* approach and the protection of good health throughout the entire life of the subjects, across all age groups of the population.