Background information

- Antimicrobial resistance remains one of the key problems within community and hospital settings in Europe.
- Many EU countries have public educational campaigns to encourage prudent antibiotic use.
- Respiratory and gastrointestinal infections have been identified as a major cause of childhood illness in schools.
- Research has shown that the implementation of proper hand hygiene practices has reduced absenteeism rates within the school environment.

What is e-Bug?

- e-Bug is a European wide, DG-SANCO funded, antibiotic and hygiene teaching resource for junior and senior school children.
- This resource will comprise of a teacher and student educational pack reinforcing an awareness of essential hygiene and antibiotic issues.
- As the Internet has become a powerful vehicle for education, the pack will be accompanied by a website hosting complementary games and interactive quizzes.
- 18 countries in total are involved in e-Bug, covering 62% of the European population.

Project aims

- To compliment national antibiotic and hygiene educational campaigns.
- Exchange information and experience of good practice within the educational curriculum with associate partner countries.
- Develop an antibiotic and hygiene teaching pack for both junior and senior schools.
- Develop an interactive educational website, based on the educational pack, to improve e-Health across Europe.
- Translate and implement the pack across associate countries in close collaboration with local Ministries of Health and Education.
- Disseminate and market the e-Bug resource to collaborating partner countries.

Education across Europe

The structure of associate partner countries education systems from pre primary through upper secondary schools indicate that aiming the pack at 9-11 and 13-15 year olds is the most appropriate age groups.

Summary

- All countries include hand hygiene in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools.
- All countries adequately cover human health and hygiene.
- There is little school based education on the importance of appropriate antibiotic use and antibiotic resistant bacteria.
- Only two countries highlight in the curriculum that antibiotic resistance is a problem in hospitals.
- Educational resources reinforcing teaching and implementing national advice through public campaigns are either limited or do not exist.
- As the curricula in all partner countries cover basic human health and hygiene, a resource such as e-Bug is suitable for pan European implementation.

Conclusion

- There is a current need for more educational resources that emphasise these issues.
- The data from this research will be used to develop e-Bug and complement current European school curriculum and public campaigns.