

CIH^{LMU} Symposia series on One Health 2026**BUILDING RESILIENT FUTURES:
ONE HEALTH IN AN ERA OF FINANCIAL AND
GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS**Concept Note

The CIH^{LMU} Symposia Series on One Health is an annual event organized by PhD and Master's students, bringing together international experts, researchers, and practitioners to address pressing global health challenges. The 2026 symposium will focus on "Building resilient futures: One Health in an era of financial and geopolitical shifts."

In recent years, the world has witnessed overlapping crises that expose the fragility of health systems. In Ukraine, war continues to strain hospitals and supply chains across Europe. In Africa, the resurgence of Ebola and the global spread of Mpox demonstrate how quickly diseases cross species and borders, overwhelming fragile systems. And a global economic instability which challenges global cooperation as well as rising geopolitical tensions, further deepened health inequities.

This moment calls for more than reactive fixes, it demands deliberate efforts to build resilience, to move toward proactive risk management, emergency preparedness, strategic investment in adaptable systems, and the integration of health and environmental sustainability into national developmental strategies. Building a resilient future is no longer a choice, it is a necessity.

The One Health approach, linking human, animal, and environmental health is vital for addressing complex interdependent threats and strengthening societal resilience. Yet financial and geopolitical instability is reshaping its implementation. Donor retrenchment and rising rivalries undermine collective preparedness, as seen in cuts to the Global Fund and USAID, WHO's reliance on corporate donations, and trade frictions disrupting supply chains. High-income countries face heightened exposure to shortages and transboundary risks, while low- and middle-income countries experience deeper inequities through reduced aid, weakened surveillance, and diminished response capacity. These challenges, however, create space to reimagine funding models, reinforce governance, and drive innovation towards more sustainable resilience.

The 2026 Symposium will serve as a platform for critical discussion and transdisciplinary collaboration to explore new pathways for creating robust, resilient, equitable, and sustainable One Health systems for the future.