

Be-cause health  
Dr Stefaan Van Bastelaere, President  
Ms Magalie Schotte, Coordinator  
Nationalestraat 155  
2000 Antwerpen

## Diensten van de algemene directie • Strategie en externe positionering

Datum: 03/07/2024  
Uw referenties: BCH lidmaatschap  
Onze referenties: /  
Bijlage(n): /

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**Betreft:** Membership application Be-cause Health

Dear Dr Van Bastelaere,  
Dear Ms Schotte,

Sciensano, the Belgian federal One Health institute, wishes to apply for membership of Be-cause health. Science and health are central to Sciensano's mission and vision, building on more than 100 years of scientific expertise. Our strength and uniqueness lies within the holistic and multidisciplinary approach to health.

Sciensano's vision :

*We are a key player in human and animal health thanks to the excellence of our scientific research, our high-level services and the integration of interactions between humans, animals and their environment in our activities, advice and recommendations.*

*We base our actions on global and interdisciplinary approaches, scientific excellence, innovation and on the quality of our collaborations with our partners.*

Sciensano's mission :

*Sciensano supports human and animal health policies from a One Health perspective*

- *by making use of its expertise in research and surveillance, also in the context of crisis management,*
- *by providing high-quality scientific advice, recommendations and services,*
- *by collecting, analysing and making available validated health data,*
- *by collaborating with external partners and*
- *by liaising with relevant actors in Belgium and internationally.*

As for the conditions for membership, Sciensano

- endorses the Be-cause health vision and mission, as well as its values and principles, and the Health(care) for all declaration
- cooperates with low- and middle-income countries, and has an interest in offering support to combat global poverty and inequality

- has a clear interest in what is happening in Belgium in the field of global health
- has its One Health Coordinator, dr. Dominique Vandekerchove, actively participating in the working group 'Planetary Health'
- agrees with Be-cause health's Internal Regulations 2.0
- agrees with the Be-cause health privacy policy.

We look forward to the Steering Committee's response.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Christian Léonard  
Managing director Sciensano