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One Health in Austria: What agencies can do to implement international recommendations at national level

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:15 AM (15 minutes)

Inter-agency collaboration involves cooperation and/or coordination between two or more institutions or within components of the same institution. This collaboration can be defined as any joint activity that achieves a greater public benefit than if the institution were to act alone. Complex challenges such as climate change and preserving the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment require structured and holistic solutions enabled by systemic thinking.

Expert organizations such as AGES (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety) and GÖG (Austrian National Public Health Institute) make a significant contribution to health and health maintenance in Austria. Nevertheless, there are health threats that cannot be solved separately, as became clear during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even before, but especially during the pandemic, there was increased cooperation. The ad hoc structures and activities created were successful in the short term but were not a solution in the medium and long term, as the focus was exclusively on SARS-CoV-2.

In order to respond better, faster and more efficiently to future threats, the WHO recommends using the inter-pandemic periods for cross-institutional cooperation. These phases offer the opportunity to improve coordination and resource management, to make the exchange of information more effective and to develop joint strategies and measures - at global, regional and national level.

For this reason, AGES and GÖG began working on a joint memorandum of understanding and cooperation agreement on One Health at the end of 2024 and it was signed beginning of 2025. As part of a task force, a common understanding of One Health is being developed, within a joint workshop common One Health topics were identified and next workflows agreed on. This structured collaboration is the first step towards an integrative One Health strategy for Austria.

Keywords

policy, collaboration, network, one health

Registration ID

nicht bekommen

Professional Status of the Speaker

Senior Scientist

Junior Scientist Status

No, I am not a Junior Scientist.

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