

Austria

This document is a compilation of all questions, justifications, and sources used to determine the 2021 Global Health Security Index scores for Austria. For a category and indicator-level summary, please see the Country Profile for Austria.

CATEGORY 1: PREVENTING THE EMERGENCE OR RELEASE OF PATHOGENS WITH POTENTIAL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONCERN	4
1.1 Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)	4
1.2 Zoonotic disease	8
1.3 Biosecurity	15
1.4 Biosafety	25
1.5 Dual-use research and culture of responsible science	29
1.6 Immunization	33
CATEGORY 2: EARLY DETECTION AND REPORTING FOR EPIDEMICS OF POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL CONCERN	33
2.1 Laboratory systems strength and quality	33
2.2 Laboratory supply chains	37
2.3 Real-time surveillance and reporting	39
2.4 Surveillance data accessibility and transparency	42
2.5 Case-based investigation	50
2.6 Epidemiology workforce	53
CATEGORY 3: RAPID RESPONSE TO AND MITIGATION OF THE SPREAD OF AN EPIDEMIC	55
3.1 Emergency preparedness and response planning	55
3.2 Exercising response plans	59
3.3 Emergency response operation	61
3.4 Linking public health and security authorities	63
3.5 Risk communications	64
3.6 Access to communications infrastructure	70

3.7 Trade and travel restrictions	71
-----------------------------------	----

CATEGORY 4: SUFFICIENT AND ROBUST HEALTH SECTOR TO TREAT THE SICK AND PROTECT HEALTH WORKERS 74

4.1 Health capacity in clinics, hospitals, and community care centers	74
---	----

4.2 Supply chain for health system and healthcare workers	77
---	----

4.3 Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment	82
--	----

4.4 Healthcare access	85
-----------------------	----

4.5 Communications with healthcare workers during a public health emergency	86
---	----

4.6 Infection control practices and availability of equipment	88
---	----

4.7 Capacity to test and approve new medical countermeasures	89
--	----

CATEGORY 5: COMMITMENTS TO IMPROVING NATIONAL CAPACITY, FINANCING PLANS TO ADDRESS GAPS, AND ADHERING TO GLOBAL NORMS 91

5.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) reporting compliance and disaster risk reduction	91
---	----

5.2 Cross-border agreements on public health and animal health emergency response	93
---	----

5.3 International commitments	95
-------------------------------	----

5.4 Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway (PVS)	96
--	----

5.5 Financing	97
---------------	----

5.6 Commitment to sharing of genetic and biological data and specimens	103
--	-----

CATEGORY 6: OVERALL RISK ENVIRONMENT AND VULNERABILITY TO BIOLOGICAL THREATS 104

6.1 Political and security risk	104
---------------------------------	-----

6.2 Socio-economic resilience	108
-------------------------------	-----

6.3 Infrastructure adequacy	111
-----------------------------	-----

6.4 Environmental risks	111
-------------------------	-----

6.5 Public health vulnerabilities	112
-----------------------------------	-----

Category 1: Preventing the emergence or release of pathogens with potential for international concern

1.1 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

1.1.1 AMR surveillance, detection, and reporting

1.1.1a

Is there a national AMR plan for the surveillance, detection, and reporting of priority AMR pathogens?

Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, and it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 2, Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 1, No evidence of an AMR plan = 0

Current Year Score: 2

There is a national antimicrobial resistance (AMR) plan for the surveillance, detection and reporting of priority AMR pathogens. The latest version of the National Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance was adopted by the Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection in January 2018, on the basis of the work of five working groups (dedicated to surveillance, hygiene and infection prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, diagnosis of infectious diseases and reporting and information) [1]. This document includes a description of the current situation as well as stated goals with regard to surveillance, detection and reporting of antimicrobial resistance among both humans and animals. [1] The plan is currently undergoing a process of revision that started in 2018. [2] Austria also produces annual reports on AMR, which outline the current state of AMR in the country and describe measures undertaken to monitor and reduce the phenomenon [3].

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 25 May 2020. "NAP-AMR: The National Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance." ("NAP-AMR: Der Nationale Aktionsplan zur Antibiotikaresistenz.")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen-und-Gesundheitssystem-assozierte-Infektionen/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen/NAP-AMR--Der-Nationale-Aktionsplan-zur-Antibiotikaresistenz.html>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 29 January 2020. "Measures in the sphere of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)." ("Maßnahmen im Bereich antimikrobieller Resistenzen (AMR).")

[[https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen-und-Gesundheitssystem-assozierte-Infektionen/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen/Ma%C3%9Fnahmen-im-Bereich-antimikrobieller-Resistenzen-\(AMR\).html](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen-und-Gesundheitssystem-assozierte-Infektionen/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen/Ma%C3%9Fnahmen-im-Bereich-antimikrobieller-Resistenzen-(AMR).html)]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 30 April 2020. "AURES: Resistance Reports Austria." ("AURES: Resistenzberichte & Österreich.") [<https://www.ages.at/themen/ages-schwerpunkte/antibiotika-resistenzen/resistenzberichte/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

1.1.1b

Is there a national laboratory/laboratory system which tests for priority AMR pathogens?

All 7 + 1 priority pathogens = 2, Yes, but not all 7+1 pathogens = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

There is a national laboratory system that tests for all priority antimicrobial resistance (AMR) pathogens. As documented in the Resistance Report Austria AURES 2016, the national laboratory system can test for AMR in all of the WHO-defined priority

AMR pathogens: E coli, K pneumonia, S aureus, S pneumonia, Salmonella spp, Shigella spp, N gonorrhoeae and Mycobacterium tuberculosis [1]. These tests are carried out at the Agency for Health and Food Safety's (AGES) Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hygiene/center for Food-borne Infectious Diseases in Graz, which serves as Austria's National Reference Laboratory for Antibiotic Resistance, National Reference center for Campylobacter and National Reference center for Salmonella [1, 2, 3, 4]. The 2018 annual report from the National Reference center for Campylobacter reports a sentinel surveillance program for AMR involving four laboratories: Feldkirch Hospital's Institute for Pathology, the Medical University of Graz's Institute for Hygiene, Microbiology and Environmental Medicine, Laboratory Dr Richter / Dr Mustafa Salzburg and the Labors.at Vienna Group Practice [5].

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Resistance Report Austria AURES 2018."

("Resistenzbericht Ã-sterreich AURES 2018.")

[https://www.ages.at/download/0/0/f1fed55f3f4bbce389ee6e9f8fd9bfe5ff1fcb2/fileadmin/AGES2015/Themen/Arzneimittel_Medizinprodukte_Dateien/AURES/AURES_2018.pdf]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 1 October 2019. "National Reference Laboratory for Antibiotic Resistance."

("Nationales Referenzlabor fÃ¼r Antibiotikaresistenz.") [<https://www.ages.at/service/service-oeffentliche-gesundheit/referenzzentralen/rl-antibiotikaresistenz/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 1 October 2019. "National Reference center for Campylobacter."

("Nationale Referenzzentrale fÃ¼r Campylobacter.") [<https://www.ages.at/service/service-oeffentliche-gesundheit/referenzzentralen/rz-campylobacter/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[4] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 5 November 2019. "National Reference center for Salmonella."

("Nationale Referenzzentrale fÃ¼r Salmonellen.") [<https://www.ages.at/service/service-oeffentliche-gesundheit/referenzzentralen/rz-salmonellen/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[5] National Reference center for Campylobacter. "Annual Report 2018." ("Jahresbericht 2018.")

[https://www.ages.at/download/0/0/3ad615a1498a4503d7cecc2100072eddc5bfcba9/fileadmin/AGES2015/Themen/Krankheitserreger_Dateien/Campylobacter/nationale_referenzzentrale_fuer_campylobacter_-_jahresbericht_2018.pdf]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

1.1.1c

Does the government conduct environmental detection or surveillance activities (e.g., in soil, waterways) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Austria conducts detection and surveillance activities for antimicrobial residues and AMR organisms. According to the National Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance published in 2018, since 2006 the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) has monitored for AMR among E amylovora found on plant samples [1]. The 2006 Regulation on the Monitoring of the Quality of Water Bodies, which stipulates how often different types of water body need to undergo different types of monitoring, does not mandate any testing for antibiotics or antibiotic resistance, but does allow for the instigation of special monitoring programs [2]. One such special monitoring program was carried out in 2014, monitoring ground water for tetracycline, sulphonamide, trimethoprim, makrolide, lincosamide, streptogramine and chinolone [3]. Another such program was run by the Environment Agency in 2008-2010, testing ground water for both veterinary and human antibiotics (18 in total) [4]. The 2016 report Pharmaceutical Residues in the Environment lists several past programs that monitored the environment for antibiotics: of river water in 2010, 2012 and 2013; of suspended solids and sediments in rivers in 2001; of sewage sludge in 2010; and of soil in 2005, 2010 and 2013 [3]. In 2001-2005 the Environment Agency (a body owned by the Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism) conducted a project to monitor manure and soil for veterinary

antibiotics (namely tetracycline, sulphonamide and chinolone) [5].

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 25 May 2020. "NAP-AMR: The National Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance." ("NAP-AMR: Der Nationale Aktionsplan zur Antibiotikaresistenz.")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen-und-Gesundheitssystem-assoziierte-Infektionen/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen/NAP-AMR--Der-Nationale-Aktionsplan-zur-Antibiotikaresistenz.html>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, the Environment and Water Management. Regulation BGBl. I Nr. 479/2006. "On the Monitoring of the Quality of Water Bodies." ("Über die Überwachung des Zustandes von Gewässern.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20005172>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] Christina Hartmann. 2016. "Pharmaceutical Residues in the Environment." ("Arzneimittelrückstände in der Umwelt.") Environment Agency. [www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/REPO573.pdf]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[4] Manfred Clara, Oliver Gans, Franko Humer, Stefan Weiszig; and Irene Zieritz. 2010. "Antibiotics in Ground Water." ("Antibiotika im Grundwasser.") Environment Agency.

[<http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/REPO258.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[5] Robert Sattelberger, Oliver Gans and Elena Martinecz. 2015. "Veterinary Antibiotics in Manure and Earth." ("Veterinärantibiotika in Wirtschaftsdünger und Boden.") Environment Agency.

[<http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/BE272.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

1.1.2 Antimicrobial control

1.1.2a

Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Austria has legislation requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans, and there is no evidence of gaps in enforcement. In Austria antibiotics must be prescribed by a practising doctor or dentist, as confirmed in a 2016 report by the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and on the website of the Austrian Federal Office for Safety in Health Care [1, 2]. A 2017 news article quotes a representative of the Agency for Health and Food Safety as confirming that pharmacists strictly adhere to this rule [3]. Regulations concerning prescriptions (for both humans and animals) are found in the Law on the Supply of Medicinal Products on the Basis of Medical Prescription [4]. This law does not itself include a list of products for which prescriptions are required, but, in accordance with this law, the Office for Safety in Health Care determines which medicines require prescriptions [1].

[1] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. 2015. "Prescription Requirement." ("Rezeptpflicht.")

[<https://www.basg.gv.at/news-center/patientinnen/arzneimittel/rezeptpflicht/>] Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] Ann Versporten, John Paget, Dominique Lescure, Françoise Schellevis, Liset van Dijk and Herman Goossens. 2016. "Regulation and authorization of antibiotics in the ambulatory care sector in Europe."

[https://www.escmid.org/escmid_publications/escmid_library/material/?mid=48979]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] Der Standard. 1 August 2017. "Problematic: Austrians take 'their partner's' antibiotics." ("Problematisch: Österreicher Schlucken Antibiotika 'vom Partner'.")

[<https://derstandard.at/2000062097035/ProblematischOesterreicher-schlucken-Antibiotika-vom-Nachbarn>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[4] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 413/1972. "On the Supply of Medicinal Products on the Basis of Medical Prescription." ("Über die Abgabe von Arzneimitteln auf Grund ¨rztlicher Verschreibung.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010351>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

1.1.2b

Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Austria has legislation requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals, and there is no evidence of gaps in enforcement. According to a 2019 government guideline for veterinarians, titled "Use of Veterinary Medical Products with Antibacterial Effects", all veterinary antibiotics require a prescription, and must only be prescribed for bacterial infections. [1] The website of the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) similarly states that antibiotics for animal use always require a prescription, without exception, and that this prescription can only be issued by a veterinarian. [2] In addition, since 2006 throughout the European Union it has been forbidden to give antibiotics to healthy animals, due to the Regulation on Additives for Use in Animal Nutrition [3, 4]. Since 2014 AGES has monitored all sales of antibiotics by veterinary pharmacies, as the Regulation on the Distribution of Veterinary Antibiotics requires veterinary pharmacists to submit details of all such sales into a central database [5, 6]. AGES publishes annual reports on veterinary antibiotic sales, with the most recent available report stating that 49.85 tons of antibiotics were sold for animal use in 2018. [6]

[1] Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. September 2019. "Use of Veterinary Medical Products with Antibacterial Effects. A guideline for veterinary practice." ("Umgang mit antibakteriell wirksamen Tierarzneimitteln. Ein Leitfaden für die tier¨rztliche Praxis.")

[https://www.tieraerztekammer.at/fileadmin/daten/Oeffentlicher_Bereich/Kammer/Vet-Files/VADEMECUM_HANDBUCH_2019_ONLINE.pdf]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 2 December 2019. "Antibiotics and resistance in Austria. Antibiotic use in animal husbandry." ("Antibiotika & Resistenzen in Österreich. Antibiotikaesatz in der Tierhaltung.")

[<https://www.ages.at/themen/ages-schwerpunkte/antibiotika-resistenzen/antibiotikaresistenzen/tab/3/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] European Parliament and Council of the European Union. Regulation No 1831/2003. "On additives for use in animal nutrition." [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32003R1831>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[4] Die Presse. 11 January 2012. "Dangerous meat: Antibiotics in Austria too." ("Geführliches Fleisch: Antibiotika auch in Österreich.") [https://diepresse.com/home/leben/gesundheit/723061/Gefaehrliches-Fleisch_Antibiotika-auch-in-Oesterreich]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry of Health. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 5/2016. "On the Establishment of a System to Monitor the Distribution and Consumption of Veterinary Antibiotics." ("Mit der ein System zur Überwachung des Vertriebs und Verbrauchs von Antibiotika im Veterinürereich eingerichtet wird.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20008823>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[6] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 20 April 2020. "Volumes of antibiotic sales." ("Antibiotika-Vertriebsmengen.")

[<https://www.ages.at/themen/ages-schwerpunkte/antibiotika-resistenzen/vertriebsmengen/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

1.2 ZOOBOTIC DISEASE

1.2.1 National planning for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

1.2.1a

Is there national legislation, plans, or equivalent strategy documents on zoonotic disease?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is a national law on zoonotic disease, as well as annual reports on the subject. The Law on Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Pathogens, adopted in 2005, regulates surveillance of zoonoses and zoonotic pathogens, surveillance of antimicrobial resistance among zoonotic pathogens, epidemiological study of outbreaks of food-borne illnesses and exchange of information related to zoonotic diseases [1]. The law applies to all zoonoses, defined as "diseases and/or infections that can naturally be transmitted directly or indirectly between animals and humans." It specifically lists 8 zoonotic diseases that should always be monitored: brucellosis, campylobacteriosis, echinococcosis, listeriosis, salmonellosis, trichinosis, tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, and verotoxin-producing *E coli* [1]. It further lists 16 zoonotic diseases that may require surveillance, depending on the epidemiological situation: calicivirus, hepatitis A, influenza, rabies, arthropod-borne viruses, borreliosis, botulism, leptospirosis, psittacosis, tuberculosis not caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, vibriosis, yersiniosis, anisakiasis, cryptosporidiosis, cysticercosis, and toxoplasmosis [1]. Since 2005 the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Agency for Health and Food Safety have produced an annual Report on Zoonoses [2]. These reports outline Austria's zoonotic epidemiological situation and describe measures undertaken to monitor and combat zoonotic diseases over the previous year [3]. The 2018 Report has sections on 10 zoonotic diseases: salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, listeriosis, verotoxin-producing *E coli*, yersiniosis, tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, brucellosis, trichinosis, echinococcosis and toxoplasmosis [3].

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 128/2005. "On Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents." ("Zur Ãœberwachung von Zoonosen und Zoonoseerregern.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004373>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Reports on Zoonotic Diseases." ("Zoonosenberichte.") [<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/zoonoseberichte.html>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] Peter Much, Magdalena Arrobas and Ulrich Herzog. July 2019. "Zoonoses and their Pathogens in Austria. Report 2018" ("Zoonosen und ihre Erreger in Ã-sterreich. Bericht 2018.") Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. [https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/Zoonosenbroschuere_2018_1o_Din-A4_BF.pdf?7i568m]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.2.1b

Is there national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has legislation and policies to identify and reduce risk of zoonotic disease spillover events from humans to animals. The Law on Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Pathogens, adopted in 2005, regulates surveillance of zoonoses and

zoonotic pathogens, surveillance of antimicrobial resistance among zoonotic pathogens, epidemiological study of outbreaks of food-borne illnesses and exchange of information related to zoonotic diseases [1]. The law applies to all zoonoses, defined as "diseases and/or infections that can naturally be transmitted directly or indirectly between animals and humans." It specifically lists 8 zoonotic diseases that should always be monitored: brucellosis, campylobacteriosis, echinococcosis, listeriosis, salmonellosis, trichinosis, tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* and verotoxin-producing *E coli* [1]. It further lists 16 zoonotic diseases that may require surveillance, depending on the epidemiological situation: calicivirus, hepatitis A, influenza, rabies, arthropod-borne viruses, borreliosis, botulism, leptospirosis, psittacosis, tuberculosis not caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, vibriosis, yersiniosis, anisakiasis, cryptosporidiosis, cysticercosis and toxoplasmosis [1]. Since 2005 the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Agency for Health and Food Safety have produced an annual Report on Zoonoses [2]. These reports outline Austria's zoonotic epidemiological situation and describe measures undertaken to monitor and combat zoonotic diseases over the previous year [3]. The 2018 Report identifies risks as direct or indirect contact with infected animals and consumption of contaminated food, noting that in Austria the latter is a greater risk than the former. [3] The report describes measures undertaken as including surveillance and monitoring for known and novel zoonotic diseases, including through food inspections. [3] In addition, government webpages describe efforts to provide rabies vaccinations to domestic animals, wild animals, veterinarians and hunters, and report that as a result rabies has been completely eradicated in Austria's wild fox population. [4, 5] Government webpages also state that if an agricultural firm is found to be infected with a zoonosis, it must take countermeasures, which are described in detail for different diseases. [6]

- [1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 128/2005. "On Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents." ("Zur Überwachung von Zoonosen und Zoonoseerregern.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004373>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Reports on Zoonotic Diseases." ("Zoonosenberichte.") [<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/zoonoseberichte.html>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [3] Peter Much, Magdalena Arrouas and Ulrich Herzog. July 2019. "Zoonoses and their Pathogens in Austria. Report 2018" ("Zoonosen und ihre Erreger in Österreich. Bericht 2018.") Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. [https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/Zoonosenbroschuere_2018_1o_Din-A4_BF.pdf?7i568m]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [4] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 31 January 2020. "Rabies." ("Tollwut.") [<https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/tollwut/tab/4/>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. October 2012. "Rabies - Disease - Protection - Prevention." ("Tollwut - Krankheit - Schutz - Vorsorge.") [<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/tierschutz/publikationen/tollwut.html>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Food-borne diseases and their pathogens – leaflets." ("Lebensmittelbedingte Erkrankungen und ihre Erreger - Merkblätter.") [<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/zoonosen/merkblaetter.html>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

1.2.1c

Is there national legislation, plans, or guidelines that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has laws and reports that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern. The Law on Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Pathogens, which was adopted in 2005 and regulates zoonotic surveillance activity, lists 8 zoonotic diseases that should always be monitored: brucellosis, campylobacteriosis, echinococcosis, listeriosis, salmonellosis, trichinosis, tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* and verotoxin-producing *E coli* [1]. The law also lists a further 16 zoonotic diseases that may require surveillance, depending on the epidemiological situation: calicivirus, hepatitis A, influenza, rabies, arthropod-borne viruses, borreliosis, botulism, leptospirosis, psittacosis, tuberculosis not caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, vibriosis, yersiniosis, anisakiasis, cryptosporidiosis, cysticercosis and toxoplasmosis [1]. Since 2005 the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Agency for Health and Food Safety have produced an annual Report on Zoonoses [2]. The 2018 Report on Zoonoses has sections on 10 zoonotic diseases, which are designated as requiring surveillance: salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, listeriosis, verotoxin-producing *E coli*, yersiniosis, tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, brucellosis, trichinosis, echinococcosis and toxoplasmosis [3]. Each chapter contains general information on the disease as well as a description of its epidemiology in Austria and an outline of actions taken to monitor and combat it [3]. In addition, government webpages describe efforts to provide rabies vaccinations to domestic animals, wild animals, veterinarians and hunters, and report that as a result rabies has been completely eradicated in Austria's wild fox population. [4, 5] Government webpages also state that if an agricultural firm is found to be infected with a zoonosis, it must take countermeasures, which are described in detail for different diseases. [6] Furthermore, the government advises all residents over the age of 1 to receive vaccinations against tick-borne encephalitis. [7, 8, 9] As a result of the government's efforts to promote vaccination against this disease, government webpages report that about 85% of the population is currently vaccinated, and the number of annual cases has decreased from as high as 700 to as low as 40. [7, 8, 9]

- [1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 128/2005. "On Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents." ("Zur Überwachung von Zoonosen und Zoonoseerregern.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004373>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Reports on Zoonotic Diseases." ("Zoonosenberichte.") [<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/zoonoseberichte.html>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [3] Peter Much, Magdalena Arrouas and Ulrich Herzog. July 2019. "Zoonoses and their Pathogens in Austria. Report 2018" ("Zoonosen und ihre Erreger in Österreich. Bericht 2018.") Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. [https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/Zoonosenbroschuere_2018_1o_Din-A4_BF.pdf?7i568m]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [4] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 31 January 2020. "Rabies." ("Tollwut.") [<https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/tollwut/tab/4/>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. October 2012. "Rabies - Disease - Protection - Prevention." ("Tollwut - Krankheit - Schutz - Vorsorge.") [<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/tierschutz/publikationen/tollwut.html>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Food-borne diseases and their pathogens – leaflets." ("Lebensmittelbedingte Erkrankungen und ihre Erreger - Merkblätter.") [<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/zoonosen/merkblaetter.html>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 7 February 2020. "Tick-borne encephalitis." ("Frühsommer-Meningoenzephalitis (FSME).") [[https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Fr%C3%BChsommer-Meningoenzephalitis-\(FSME\).html](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Fr%C3%BChsommer-Meningoenzephalitis-(FSME).html)]. Accessed 10 September 2020.
- [8] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 8 August 2019. "Vaccination against tick-borne encephalitis." ("Impfung gegen FSME.") [<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/gesundheitsvorsorge/impfungen/fsme>]. Accessed 10 September 2020.

[9] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 26 August 2020. "Tick-borne diseases." ("Durch Zecken übertragbare Krankheiten.") [<https://www.ages.at/themen/ages-schwerpunkte/vektoriebertragene-krankheiten/zecken/durch-zecken-uebertragbare-krankheiten/#c74198>]. Accessed 10 September 2020.

1.2.1d

Is there a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

While there is a unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries, the Federal Commission for the Surveillance and Control of Zoonoses, there is insufficient evidence of joint funding/operations.

The Federal Commission for the Surveillance and Control of Zoonoses is based within the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) and consists of six experts from the BMSGPK (three experts on veterinary medicine, one expert on hygiene in slaughtering and meat processing, one expert on food safety and one expert on epidemics among humans), five experts from the Agency for Health and Food Safety, one expert from either the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, one expert from the Federal Ministry of Defence and the heads of the Commissions for Zoonoses of each of Austria's nine Bundesländer (top-level administrative sub-divisions) [1].

The Federal Commission for the Surveillance and Control of Zoonoses is responsible for developing activities to monitor and fight zoonotic diseases as well as organizing interdisciplinary cooperation in this sphere and, in general, coordinating surveillance of zoonotic diseases, surveillance of antimicrobial resistance among zoonotic pathogens, epidemiological study of outbreaks of food-borne illnesses and exchange of information related to zoonotic diseases [1, 2]. It should be noted that the BMSGPK is responsible for both human and animal health.

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 128/2005. "On Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents." ("Zur Überwachung von Zoonosen und Zoonoseerregern.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004373>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 380/2006. "On adoption of rules of procedure for the Federal Commission for the Surveillance and Control of Zoonoses." ("Zur Erlassung einer Geschäftsordnung der Bundeskommission zur Überwachung und Bekämpfung von Zoonosen.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20005022>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.2.2 Surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

1.2.2a

Does the country have a national mechanism (either voluntary or mandatory) for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Austria has a national mechanism (either voluntary or mandatory) for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency. Austria has a mandatory mechanism for

owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to only local authorities. According to article 17 of the Law on Defence against and Eradication of Animal Diseases, any livestock owner or farm worker who suspects that an animal is infected with a notifiable disease must immediately notify the local mayor (or an official appointed by the mayor for this purpose) or the local police station [1]. This reporting can be conducted in person or by telephone. The law states that the police or the mayor's office must pass the information to the authorities of the Bezirk (mid-level administrative unit), but there is no mention of informing central authorities. [1] Article 16 of the same law contains a full list of the 35 notifiable animal diseases [1]. In addition, for certain animals (namely pigs, sheep, goats, bees, cattle, horses, donkeys, mules, poultry, camelids and rabbits) there are requirements to submit annual reports – and reports of transfers from one location to another and (for certain animals) of slaughter – to the Veterinary Information System (VIS), which is maintained by the federal statistical agency, Statistik Austria, on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK). [2, 3, 4, 5, 6] However, the VIS only contains information about the locations and quantities of the animals, not about their health. [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

[1] Imperial Council of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Law TGBl. Nr. 177/1909 of 6 August 1909. "Concerning defence against and eradication of animal diseases." ("Betreffend die Abwehr und Tilgung von Tierseuchen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010172>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Health. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 291/2009. "On the identification of pigs, sheep, goats and equidae as well as the registration of animal holdings." ("Über die Kennzeichnung von Schweinen, Schafen, Ziegen und Equiden sowie die Registrierung von Tierhaltungen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20006454>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Veterinary Information System." ("Veterärinformationssystem.") [<https://vis.statistik.at/vis-veterinaerinformationssystem>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Guideline for filling out the VIS annual survey form." ("Leitfaden zum Ausfüllen des VIS-Jahreserhebungsformulars.") [<https://vis.statistik.at/fileadmin/ovis/media/documents/JAE-2020-LW.pdf>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[5] Statistik Austria. 15 June 2020. "Consumer Health Information System." ("Verbrauchergesundheitsinformationssystem.") [https://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/wirtschaft/land_und_forstwirtschaft/verbrauchergesundheitsinformationssystem/index.html]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 30 March 2019. "Veterinary Information System." ("Veterärinformationssystem.") [<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/vis/vis.html>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[7] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[8] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[9] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

1.2.2b

Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There are laws that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners). According to Articles 8 and 8a of the Law on Defence against and Eradication of Animal Diseases (adopted 1909, last

amended 2019), the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection maintains an electronic database of information on all farms and similar establishments containing animals, including the numbers of animals owned and details of any illnesses [1]. The law states that this data can be shared with the Agency for Health and Food Safety and the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, but not with third parties. The law further specifies that the data is protected by the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). [1] The GDPR safeguards confidentiality of information to a high standard, requiring pseudonymisation and only permitting the sharing of personal data with the data subject's express permission [2].

[1] Imperial Council of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Law TGBL. Nr. 177/1909 of 6 August 1909. "Concerning defence against and eradication of animal diseases." ("Betreffend die Abwehr und Tilgung von Tierseuchen.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010172]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] European Parliament and Council of the European Union. Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016. "On the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC. (General Data Protection Regulation)." [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32016R0679]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.2.2c

Does the country conduct surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife (e.g., wild animals, insects, other disease vectors)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria conducts surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife. The Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) monitors wild animals for rabies, with testing conducted by the AGES Institute for Veterinary Examinations in MÄldling [1]. This monitoring has been ongoing since the 1990s, even though the last confirmed case of rabies in a wild animal in Austria was in 2002. [1, 2] In 2018 480 wild animals were tested, including 192 bats and 179 foxes. [1] Since 2009 and 2011 respectively, wild red deer in Vorarlberg and parts of Tyrol have been monitored for tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacterium caprae*. [3] In 2018, 611 red deer were tested in Tyrol (of which 14 were found to be infected) and 763 were tested in Vorarlberg (of which 27 were infected). [3]

[1] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 31 January 2020. "Rabies." ("Tollwut.")

[https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/tollwut/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. October 2012. "Rabies - Disease - Protection - Prevention." ("Tollwut - Krankheit - Schutz - Vorsorge.")

[https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/tierschutz/publikationen/tollwut.html]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] Peter Much, Magdalena Arrouas and Ulrich Herzog. July 2019. "Zoonoses and their Pathogens in Austria. Report 2018" ("Zoonosen und ihre Erreger in Ästerreich. Bericht 2018.") Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. [https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/Zoonosenbroschuere_2018_1o_Din-A4_BF.pdf?7i568m]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.2.3 International reporting of animal disease outbreaks

1.2.3a

Has the country submitted a report to OIE on the incidence of human cases of zoonotic disease for the last calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2019

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.4 Animal health workforce

1.2.4a

Number of veterinarians per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 55.84

2018

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.4b

Number of veterinary para-professionals per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: -

No data available

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.5 Private sector and zoonotic

1.2.5a

Does the national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulations, or plans include mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has at least one mechanism for working with the private sector in controlling and responding to zoonoses. The Law on Defence against and Eradication of Animal Diseases (adopted 1909, last amended 2019) stipulates that veterinarians from the private sector can be recruited to assist with the state's response to the outbreak of any animal disease (not only zoonotic diseases), for example by carrying out vaccinations [1]. The law includes details on the legal status of such veterinarians and the conditions of their engagement. However, neither the 2005 Law on Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Pathogens nor 2018's Report on Zoonoses makes any mention of other mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses [2, 3]. There is no evidence of other mechanisms on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism or the Agency for Health and Food Safety [4, 5, 6].

- [1] Imperial Council of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Law TGBl. Nr. 177/1909 of 6 August 1909. "Concerning defence against and eradication of animal diseases." ("Betreffend die Abwehr und Tilgung von Tierseuchen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010172>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 128/2005. "On Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents." ("Zur Überwachung von Zoonosen und Zoonoseerregern.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004373>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [3] Peter Much, Magdalena Arrobas and Ulrich Herzog. July 2019. "Zoonoses and their Pathogens in Austria. Report 2018" ("Zoonosen und ihre Erreger in Österreich. Bericht 2018.") Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. [https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/publikationen/Zoonosenbroschuere_2018_1o_Din-A4_BF.pdf?7i568m]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [6] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/startseite/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.3 BIOSECURITY

1.3.1 Whole-of- government biosecurity systems

1.3.1a

Does the country have in place a record, updated within the past five years, of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed, including details on inventories and inventory management systems of those facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Austria has an official record in place of facilities handling especially dangerous pathogens and toxins. Article 11 of the Regulation on Protecting Employees against Endangerment by Biological Agents (adopted 1998, last amended 2015) has provisions requiring facilities to inform the Labor Inspection Authority if they wish to work with especially dangerous biological agents, but there is no evidence that this information is used to create a record of facilities [1]. According to Austria's 2019 Confidence Building Measures report submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, Austria has facilities handling biological agents at biosafety levels 2 and 3, but not 4 [2]. However, this report does not provide any further details on facilities where dangerous pathogens are stored or processed. [2] There is no evidence of any official record of such facilities on the websites of of the military, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Agency for Health and Food Safety, the Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare or the Labor Inspection Authority, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials [3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11].

- [1] Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998. "On protecting employees against endangerment by biological agents." ("Über den Schutz der Arbeitnehmer/innen gegen Gefährdung durch biologische Arbeitsstoffe.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10009126>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

- [2] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [3] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [8] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [9] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. [<https://www.basg.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [10] Labor Inspection Authority. [<https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [11] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre. "BWC Legislation Database. A." [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.3.1b

Does the country have in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems, and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of legislation or regulations related to biosecurity that address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems, or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. The Regulation on Protecting Employees against Endangerment by Biological Agents (adopted 1998, last amended 2015) stipulates health and safety standards that must be maintained in institutions that work with biological agents, but does not address biosecurity. [1] There is no evidence of relevant regulations on the websites of the military, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Agency for Health and Food Safety, or the Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials. [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]. Austria's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, do not make mention of legislation or regulations regarding the operational requirements or the cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed [10, 11, 12]. In Austria's latest International Health Regulations self-assessment, it its implementation of a laboratory biosafety and biosecurity regime as 20%. [13] An academic article from 2009 reports that at that time the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety had observer status in the European Network of Biosafety-Level-4 Laboratories (Euronet-P4), a network established by the European Community in 2005 in order to standardize biosecurity and biosafety policies, among other things. [14] However, there is no evidence that this network is still active today: a European Union webpage reports that the network was established in 2005-2008, and provides a link to its website, but the link does not work. [15]

[1] Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998. "On protecting employees against endangerment by biological agents." ("Über den Schutz der Arbeitnehmer/innen gegen Gefährdung durch biologische Arbeitsstoffe.")

- [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10009126>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [2] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [5] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [8] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. [<https://www.basg.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [9] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "BWC Legislation Database. A." [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. 24 August 2020.
- [10] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [11] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [12] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [13] World Health Organization. "Austria." [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/country/297#ihrsar>]. Accessed 24 August 2020.
- [14] C. Nisii, C. Castilletti, A. Di Caro, MR Capobianchi, D. Brown, G. Lloyd, S. Gunther, A. Lundkvist, M. Pletschette and G. Ippolito. August 2009. "The European network of Biosafety-Level-4 laboratories: enhancing European preparedness for new health threats." *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*. 15
- [8]. [<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1198743X14604572>]. Accessed 24 August 2020.
- [15] European Commission. "EURONET - P4 [-] [2003214] - Project." [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/chafea_pdb/health/projects/2003214/summary]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.3.1c

Is there an established agency (or agencies) responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Austria has any established agency (or agencies) responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations as there are no known biosecurity legislation or regulations, and therefore there can be no agency to enforce them. The Regulation on Protecting Employees against Endangerment by Biological Agents (adopted 1998, last amended 2015) stipulates health and safety standards that must be maintained in institutions that work with biological agents, but does not address biosecurity. [1] There is no evidence of any relevant regulations on the websites of the military, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), or the Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials. [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]. Austria's 2017, 2018 and

2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, do not make mention of legislation or regulations regarding the operational requirements or the cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed [10, 11, 12]. Within AGES there is an entity called the Zentrum für biologische Sicherheit (translatable as "Center for Biological Safety" or "Center for Biological Security"), but this is in fact simply a research facility dedicated to the study of highly contagious animal diseases. [13, 14]

- [1] Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998. "On protecting employees against endangerment by biological agents." ("Über den Schutz der Arbeitnehmer/innen gegen Gefährdung durch biologische Arbeitsstoffe.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10009126]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [2] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [https://www.bundesheer.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [https://www.sozialministerium.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [5] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [https://www.ages.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [https://www.bmi.gv.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [8] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. [https://www.basg.gv.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [9] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre. "BWC Legislation Database. A." [https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/]. 24 August 2020.
- [10] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [11] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [12] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [13] Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research. "Center for Biological Safety/Security." ("Zentrum für biologische Sicherheit.") [https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmbwf.gv.at/de/fi/zentrum-fur-biologische-sicherheit-zbs_3331]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [14] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 2015. "Center for Biological Safety/Security." ("Zentrum für biologische Sicherheit.") [https://www.ages.at/download/0/0/12fa1a74a9ec4f1ea145d9f10e3939d7734ea813/fileadmin/AGES2015/Service/Tiergesundheit/Folder/VET-Folder_BRO_1c_din-lang.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.3.1d

Is there public evidence that shows that the country has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Austria has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities. There is no evidence of such efforts on the websites of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Agency for Health and Food Safety, or the Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. Austria's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, do not make mention of such actions either. [9, 10, 11]

[1] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[4] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[7] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. [<https://www.basg.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[8] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre. "BWC Legislation Database. A." [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. 24 August 2020.

[9] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[10] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[11] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.3.1e

Is there public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)–based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola, which would preclude culturing a live pathogen?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Austria has capacity to conduct polymerase chain reaction (PCR) diagnostic testing for Ebola and anthrax. Information on the website of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) - particularly a 2014 diagram titled, 'Algorithm for laboratory evidence of Ebola virus disease' ("Algorithmus Labornachweis Ebola-Viruserkrankung") - indicates that in Austria both screening laboratories and reference laboratories can conduct PCR tests for Ebola. [1, 2, 3] Similarly, information on the BMSGPK's website indicates that PCR testing is used for

anthrax. [4]

- [1] Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. 6 November 2011. "Algorithm laboratory detection Ebola virus disease." ("Algorithmus Labornachweis Ebola-Viruserkrankung.")
[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 24 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. 26 July 2017. "Ebola Fever. Information for medical professionals." ("Ebola-Fieber. Informationen für medizinisches Fachpersonal.")
[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.")
[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. 1 September 2017. "Anthrax. Information for medical professionals." ("Anthrax (Milzbrand). Informationen für medizinisches Fachpersonal.")
[[https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Anthrax-\(Milzbrand\).html](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Anthrax-(Milzbrand).html)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.3.2 Biosecurity training and practices

1.3.2a

Does the country require biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of Austrian legislation requiring biosecurity training for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. Article 12 of the Law on Safety and Health Protection at Work (adopted 1994, last amended 2018) and article 12 of the Regulation on Protecting Employees against Endangerment by Biological Agents (adopted 1998, last amended 2018) state that all employers in Austria are required to provide employees working with biological agents with sufficient information on health and safety risk associated with working with biological agents. Article 13 of the Law on Safety and Health Protection at Work stipulates that all questions of the employees related to health and safety have to be answered by the employer. Article 14 states that instructions and training on workplace health and safety have to be provided by all employers to the employees. However, these provisions aim at protecting the workers (biosafety) rather than biosecurity. [1, 2] There is no evidence for the existence of a standardized biosecurity training for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential on the websites of the military, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Agency for Health and Food Safety, or the Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials [3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]. There is no mention of biosecurity training requirements in Austria's 2017, 2018 or 2019 Confidence Building Measures reports submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention [11, 12, 13].

- [1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal law BGBl. Nr. 450/1994 idF BGBl. Nr. 457/1995. "On safety and health protection at work." ("Über Sicherheit und Gesundheitsschutz bei der Arbeit.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008910]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998. "On protecting employees against endangerment by biological agents." ("Über den Schutz der Arbeitnehmer/innen gegen Gefährdung durch biologische Arbeitsstoffe.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10009126]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [3] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [https://www.bundesheer.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [https://www.sozialministerium.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [https://www.bmi.gv.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [8] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [https://www.ages.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [9] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. [https://www.basg.gv.at/]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [10] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre. "BWC Legislation Database. A." [https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/]. 24 August 2020.
- [11] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [12] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.
- [13] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.3.3 Personnel vetting: regulating access to sensitive locations

1.3.3a

Do regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to the following checks: drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks?

Personnel are subject to all three of these checks = 3, Personnel are subject to two of these checks = 2, Personnel are subject to one of these checks = 1, Personnel are not subject to any of these checks = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of Austrian laws or regulations specifying that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to drug testing, background checks, or psychological or mental fitness checks. The Regulation on Protecting Employees against Endangerment by Biological Agents (adopted 1998, last amended 2015), which stipulates health and safety standards that

must be maintained in facilities that work with biological agents, does not mention such tests, and covers biosafety rather than biosecurity. [1] The Law on Safety and Health Protection at Work (adopted 1994, last amended 2018), which is a general labor protection law not specifically dealing with biosecurity, does not mention such tests either. [2] There is no evidence such tests on the websites of of the military, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Agency for Health and Food Safety, or the Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials. [3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] There is no mention of biosecurity training requirements in Austria's 2017, 2018 or 2019 Confidence Building Measures reports submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention. [11, 12, 13]

[1] Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998. "On protecting employees against endangerment by biological agents." ("Über den Schutz der Arbeitnehmer/innen gegen Gefährdung durch biologische Arbeitsstoffe.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10009126>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal law BGBl. Nr. 450/1994 idF BGBl. Nr. 457/1995. "On safety and health protection at work." ("Über Sicherheit und Gesundheitsschutz bei der Arbeit.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008910>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[7] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[8] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[9] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. [<https://www.basg.gv.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[10] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "BWC Legislation Database. A."

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. 24 August 2020.

[11] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[12] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[13] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

1.3.4 Transportation security

1.3.4a

Does the country have publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (specifically including Categories A and B)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (Categories A and B). The legal basis for the transport of dangerous goods and infectious substances in Austria is the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR). ADR covers infectious substances and is binding for all commercial transporters through Law 145/1998 on the Carriage of Hazardous Goods. [1, 2] Rules on accepting samples and guidelines for transportation are available on the website of the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES); they differentiate Category A and B materials and relate mostly to packaging and labelling [3]. AGES is a state company owned by the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism; it is responsible for public health, animal health, food safety, medical and drug safety and food security. [4] Austria's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, do not make mention of national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (Categories A and B) [5, 6, 7].

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. I Nr. 145/1998. "On the Carriage of Hazardous Goods." ("Über die Beförderung gefährlicher Güter.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10012852>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Agency for Health and Food Safety. "Sample transportation." ("Probenversand.") [<https://www.ages.at/service/service-tiergesundheits/formulare-probenversand/probenversand/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. 2012. "Important Notes on Sample Shipment (Wichtige Hinweise zum Probenversand)".

[https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/fileadmin/v/tierspital/Probenversand_Labordienstleistungen_Vetmeduni_Vienna.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Agency for Health and Food Safety. "AGES - Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety Ltd." ("AGES - Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH.") [<https://www.ages.at/ages/allgemeines/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[6] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[7] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.3.5 Cross-border transfer and end-user screening

1.3.5a

Is there legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is legislation in place to oversee the cross-border transport and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins and pathogens with pandemic potential. For Austria end-user screening is mandated by the European Union's Regulation No 428/2009 on Setting up a Community Regime for the Control of Exports, Transfer, Brokering and Transit of Dual-Use Items. In its list of items covered by the term "dual-use", the regulation includes 91 pathogens and toxins: 32 human viruses, 17 animal viruses, 4 rickettsiae, 15 bacteria, 19 toxins, 2 fungi and 2 mycoplasmas [1]. Among others, this includes the pathogens and toxins associated with plague, cholera, encephalitis, Ebola, dengue fever, anthrax, salmonellosis, brucellosis, shigellosis, yellow fever and botulism. However, the list omits pathogens and toxins associated with some major infectious diseases, such as influenza and tuberculosis. The regulation states that export authorization is subject to identification of the end-user and intended use [1]. It further states that dual-use items may not be exported when the exporter is informed by member state authorities that they are intended for the production of weapons of mass destruction, or for military use more broadly where the destination country is subject to an arms embargo imposed by the organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) or United Nations Security Council [1]. Regulations issued by the European Council are legally binding legislative acts in all European Union member states [2]. Furthermore, Austria has implemented Regulation No 428/2009 through article 15.1 of the 2011 Foreign Trade Act, which states that authorization shall be required for the brokering of dual-use items if the federal minister for science, research and economy notifies the broker that the items in question are or may be intended for military use [3]. Austria's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, make no mention of legislation to oversee the cross-border transport and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins and pathogens with pandemic potential [4, 5, 6].

[1] European Council. Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 of 5 May 2009. "Setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items." [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02009R0428-20191231>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] European Union. "Regulations, Directives and other acts." [https://europa.eu/european-union/eu-law/legal-acts_en]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] European Union. 20 August 2016. "Information on measures adopted by Member States in conformity with Articles 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 17 and 22 of Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items." [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/august/tradoc_154880.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[6] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and

Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.4 BIOSAFETY

1.4.1 Whole-of-government biosafety systems

1.4.1a

Does the country have in place national biosafety legislation and/or regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has in place national biosafety regulations. Austria's main biosafety regulation is Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998 on Protecting Employees against Endangerment by Biological Agents. This regulation stipulates health and safety standards that must be maintained in institutions that work with biological agents, including hygiene standards, personal protective equipment and employee training requirements [1]. The Federal Law on Safety and Health Protection at Work also includes relevant provisions, requiring employers to seek permission from the Labor Inspectorate (Austria's central body responsible for workplace health and safety) before their employees can work with biological agents [2]. Austria's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, confirm that Austria has biosafety legislation and regulations but provide no further details [3, 4, 5].

[1] Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998. "On protecting employees against endangerment by biological agents." ("Äber den Schutz der Arbeitnehmer/innen gegen GefÄhrdung durch biologische Arbeitsstoffe."). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10009126>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal law StF: BGBl. Nr. 450/1994 idF BGBl. Nr. 457/1995. "On safety and health protection at work." ("Äber Sicherheit und Gesundheitsschutz bei der Arbeit."). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008910>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.4.1b

Is there an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations: the Labor Inspectorate. According to article 42 of the Federal Law on Safety and Health Protection at Work, any place of work intending to use biological agents must inform the Labor Inspectorate (Austria's central body in charge of workplace safety) and may only commence use of biological agents if, 30 days after informing the Labor Inspectorate, they have not received any communication forbidding them from doing so on the grounds of employee safety [1]. According to article 11 of Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998 on Protecting Employees against Endangerment by Biological Agents, the employer's notification to the Labor Inspectorate must include the details of the biological agents to be used, a risk assessment and information on safety measures to be taken [2]. Article 3 of the Federal Law on the Labor Inspectorate describes the body's central responsibility as protecting employees' health and safety, including by monitoring compliance with relevant legislation and regulations. [3] The Federal Law on the Labor Inspectorate does not specifically mention biosafety, but the Labor Inspectorate's website contains basic information about the safety of work with biological agents. [4, 5, 6, 7] Austria's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, make no mention of the agency responsible for enforcing biosafety legislation and regulations [8, 9, 10].

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal law StF: BGBl. Nr. 450/1994 idF BGBl. Nr. 457/1995. "On safety and health protection at work." ("Äber Sicherheit und Gesundheitsschutz bei der Arbeit.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008910>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998. "On protecting employees against endangerment by biological agents." ("Äber den Schutz der Arbeitnehmer/innen gegen Gefährdung durch biologische Arbeitsstoffe.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10009126>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal law BGBl. Nr. 27/1993. "On the Labor Inspectorate." ("Äber die Arbeitsinspektion.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008840>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Labor Inspectorate. 17 February 2020. "Biological agents." ("Biologische Arbeitsstoffe.")

[https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/Arbeitsstoffe/Arbeitsstoffe_1/Biologische_Arbeitsstoffe.html].

[5] Labor Inspectorate. 19 June 2020. "Measures when working with dangerous materials." ("Maßnahmen bei der Verwendung von Arbeitsstoffen.")

[https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/Arbeitsstoffe/Massnahmen_bei_der_Verwendung_von_Arbeitsstoffen/Massnahmen_bei_der_Verwendung_von_Arbeitsstoffen.html].

[6] Labor Inspectorate. 5 August 2020. "Dangerous materials." ("Gefährliche Arbeitsstoffe.")

[https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/Arbeitsstoffe/Arbeitsstoffe_1/Gefaehrliche_Arbeitsstoffe.html].

[7] Labor Inspectorate. 5 August 2020. "General information about dangerous materials." ("Allgemeines zu Arbeitsstoffen.")

[https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/Arbeitsstoffe/Allgemeines_zu_Arbeitsstoffen.html].

[8] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[9] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[10] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.4.2 Biosafety training and practices

1.4.2a

Does the country require biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

Although Austria requires biosafety training for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential, there is no evidence of a standardized, required approach or common curriculum. Article 12 of Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998 on Protecting Employees against Endangerment by Biological Agents states that employers must provide employees working with biological agents with necessary information on potential health threats, hygiene and disinfection, prevention of explosions and use of protective equipment [1]. The same article also adds that employees provided with vaccinations must be informed of the benefits and dangers associated with the vaccinations they have received. As far as more general workplace health and safety training regulations are concerned, articles 12 and 14 of the Federal Law on Safety and Health Protection at Work state that all employers in Austria are required to provide employees with sufficient training and information on workplace health and safety, tailored to the nature of their work [2]. The law specifies that training must be repeated regularly, with updates to reflect new situations and advances in knowledge. In particular, it is stated there must be new training with the introduction of new equipment, materials or procedures, as well as after accidents. However, neither document cited above includes specific details about what the safety training should cover. [1, 2] The Labor Inspectorate's website provides some general information about safety measures when working with biological agents, but does not discuss biosafety training. [3, 4, 5, 6] State-run information website Help.gv.at states that employees working with biological agents must receive written information as well as training covering the measures set for emergency situations and protective measures to be observed, but does not provide further detail. [7] The Unternehmensservice website (a state-run portal providing information for businesses) states that employees using biological agents should be informed about possible health effects, hygiene and disinfection measures, measures to prevent exposure and personal protective equipment, but the website provides no further detail. [8] There is no evidence of a standardized biosafety training program on the website of the Federal Ministry for Labor, Family and Youth, the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety or the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials [9, 10, 11, 12, 13]. Austria's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention, do not mention biosafety training [14, 15, 16].

[1] Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Regulation BGBl. II Nr. 237/1998. "On protecting employees against endangerment by biological agents." ("Über den Schutz der Arbeitnehmer/innen gegen Gefährdung durch biologische Arbeitsstoffe.").

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10009126>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal law StF: BGBl. Nr. 450/1994 idF BGBl. Nr. 457/1995. "On safety and health

- protection at work." ("Uml;ber Sicherheit und Gesundheitsschutz bei der Arbeit.").
[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008910>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [3] Labor Inspectorate. 17 February 2020. "Biological agents." ("Biologische Arbeitsstoffe.")
[https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/Arbeitsstoffe/Arbeitsstoffe_1/Biologische_Arbeitsstoffe.html]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [4] Labor Inspectorate. 19 June 2020. "Measures when working with dangerous materials." ("Maßnahmen bei der Verwendung von Arbeitsstoffen.")
[https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/Arbeitsstoffe/Massnahmen_bei_der_Verwendung_von_Arbeitsstoffen/Massnahmen_bei_der_Verwendung_von_Arbeitsstoffen.html]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [5] Labor Inspectorate. 5 August 2020. "Dangerous materials." ("Gefährliche Arbeitsstoffe.")
[https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/Arbeitsstoffe/Arbeitsstoffe_1/Gefaehrliche_Arbeitsstoffe.html]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [6] Labor Inspectorate. 4 February 2020. "General information about dangerous materials." ("Allgemeines zu Arbeitsstoffen.")
[https://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/Arbeitsstoffe/Allgemeines_zu_Arbeitsstoffen.html]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [7] Help.gv.at. 5 August 2020. "Training." ("Unterweisung.")
[<https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/208/Seite.2080108.html>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [8] Unternehmensservice. 5 August 2020. "Disclosure of information." ("Informationsweitergabe.")
[https://www.usp.gv.at/Portal.Node/usp/public/content/mitarbeiter/gesundheit_und_sicherheit/arbeitnehmerschutz/informationsweitergabe/51161.html]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [9] Federal Ministry for Labor, Family and Youth. [<https://www.bmafj.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [10] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [11] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/startseite/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [12] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://bmbwf.gv.at>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [13] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "BWC Legislation Database. A."
[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. 24 August 2020.
- [14] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [15] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [16] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.5 DUAL-USE RESEARCH AND CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE

1.5.1 Oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research

1.5.1a

Is there publicly available evidence that the country has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential or dual-use research. There is no evidence of such an assessment on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the military, the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism or the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] However, as a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, Austria participates in confidence-building measures, including the submission of reports on research that is or could be related to biological weapons [6, 7, 8]. The three most recent such reports that are publicly available - those submitted in 2017, 2018 and 2019 - contain details on the institutions in Austria conducting research on dangerous pathogens/toxins and biological weapons [9, 10, 11].

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "BWC Legislation Database. A." [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. 24 August 2020.

[6] United Nations. 2018. "Report on universalization activities." [<http://undocs.org/bwc/msp/2018/3>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[7] United Nations. 2015. "Guide to Participating in Confidence-Building Measures of the Biological Weapons Convention." [<https://unoda-web.s3-accelerate.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/assets/publications/more/cbm-guide/cbm-guide-2015.pdf>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[8] BWC1972.org. "CBMs." [<http://bwc1972.org/home/the-biological-weapons-convention/about-the-bwc/text-of-the-biological-weapons-convention-2/cbms/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[9] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[10] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[11] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the

7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.5.1b

Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a national policy requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research. There is no evidence of such a requirement on the websites of the military, the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety or the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]. There is no mention of such a policy in Austria's 2017, 2018 or 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, which were submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention [6, 7, 8].

[1] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/startseite/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "BWC Legislation Database. A." [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. 24 August 2020.

[6] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[7] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[8] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.5.1c

Is there an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, pathogens with pandemic potential, and/or other dual use research. There is no evidence of such an agency on the websites of the military, the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) or the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]. There is no mention of such an agency in Austria's 2017, 2018 or 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, which were submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention [6, 7, 8]. Within AGES there is an entity called the Zentrum für biologische Sicherheit (translatable as "Center for Biological Safety" or "Center for Biological Security"), but this is in fact simply a research facility dedicated to the study of highly contagious animal diseases. [9, 10]

[1] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/startseite/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "BWC Legislation Database. A." [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. 24 August 2020.

[6] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[7] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[8] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[9] Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research. "Center for Biological Safety/Security." ("Zentrum für biologische Sicherheit.") [https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmbwf.gv.at/de/fi/zentrum-fur-biologische-sicherheit-zbs_3331]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[10] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 2015. "Center for Biological Safety/Security." ("Zentrum für biologische Sicherheit.")

[https://www.ages.at/download/0/0/12fa1a74a9ec4f1ea145d9f10e3939d7734ea813/fileadmin/AGES2015/Service/Tiergesundheit/Folder/VET-Folder_BRO_1c_din-lang.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.5.2 Screening guidance for providers of genetic material

1.5.2a

Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of legislation, regulations, policies or other guidelines requiring the screening of synthesized DNA before it is sold. According to the Genetic Technology Law, it is necessary to acquire government permission to sell genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or anything in which GMOs are contained [1]. The law defines "organism" (as in "genetically modified organism") as "single- or multi-cellular lifeforms or non-cellular reproductive biological units, including viruses, viroids and plasmoids". In its list of exact procedures that constitute genetic modification, the law includes "DNA recombination techniques that use vector systems." The application for permission must contain a detailed description of the product (including its specific genetic characteristics), a description of its intended use, guidelines for its use, a risk assessment and intended packaging/labelling and a risk assessment. If granted, the permission for sale will only be for specified uses. Once put on the market, the seller will be responsible for monitoring its continued safety on terms agreed with the authorities. There is no evidence of further relevant laws or regulations on the screening of synthesized DNA on the websites of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the military, the Agency for Health and Food Safety or the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research, or in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre's database of legislation related to biological weapons and materials [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]. Nothing relevant is mentioned in Austria's 2017, 2018 or 2019 Confidence Building Measure Reports, which were submitted to the United Nations as part of its commitments under the Biological Weapons Convention [7, 8, 9].

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal law BGBl. Nr. 510/1994. "Regulating work with genetically modified organisms, the release and sale of genetically modified organisms and the use of genetic analysis and gene therapy on humans. (Genetic Technology Law)." "Mit dem Arbeiten mit gentechnisch veränderten Organismen, das Freisetzen und Inverkehrbringen von gentechnisch veränderten Organismen und die Anwendung von Genanalyse und Gentherapie am Menschen geregelt werden (Gentechnikgesetz)."

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010826>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/startseite/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://bmbwf.gv.at>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[6] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "BWC Legislation Database. A." [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. 24 August 2020.

[7] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2017. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2017_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[8] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2018. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2018_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[9] Government of the Republic of Austria. 2019. "Annual Report by Austria in accordance with the final declaration of the 7th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Covering the year 2018." [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/system/files/form-pdf/bwc_cbm_2019_austria.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

1.6 IMMUNIZATION

1.6.1 Vaccination rates

1.6.1a

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2)

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2), 95% or greater = 2, 80-94.9% = 1, Less than 80%, or no data = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2019

World Health Organization

1.6.1b

Are official foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccination figures for livestock publicly available through the OIE database?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

OIE WAHIS database

Category 2: Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern

2.1 LABORATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTH AND QUALITY

2.1.1 Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases

2.1.1a

Does the national laboratory system have the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests?

Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and these tests are named = 2, Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and the tests are not named = 1, No evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Austria's national laboratory system has the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for 6 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests. Austria's reference laboratories for infectious-disease testing are listed by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [1] Serology for HIV is performed at the Medical University of Vienna's Center for Virology [2]. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for Influenza virus is performed at the Medical University of Vienna's Center for

Virology, which is also a WHO reference laboratory for Influenza. [3, 4] Rapid diagnostic testing for plasmodium spp. (malaria) is performed at the Medical University of Vienna's Institute of Specific Prophylaxis and Tropical Medicine. [5] Virus culture for poliovirus (polio) is tested at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) Institute for Medical Microbiology & Hygiene in Vienna. [6] Microscopy for mycobacterium tuberculosis (tuberculosis/TB) is conducted at the AGES Institute for Medical Microbiology & Hygiene in Vienna. [7] Bacterial culture for Salmonella enteritidis serotype Typhi (typhoid) is performed at the AGES Institute for Medical Microbiology & Hygiene in Graz. [8] No evidence that Austria has defined its four country-specific tests was found the websites of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, or the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. [9, 10]

- [1] Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection of Austria. 27 June 2020. "Epidemiological Monitoring of Infectious Diseases - List of National Reference Centers (Epidemiologische Überwachung Von Infektionskrankheiten Liste nationaler Referenzzentralen)". [https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Statistiken-und-Fallzahlen.html]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [2] Medical University of Vienna. "An Overview of Appropriate Sample Material [Geeignetes Untersuchungsmaterial im Überblick]". [https://www.virologie.meduniwien.ac.at/fileadmin/virologie/files/virologische_diagnostik_homepage_untersuchungsmaterial.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [3] World Health Organization. 28 July 2020. "National Influenza centres. European Region of WHO". [https://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/national_influenza_centres/list/en/index3.html]. Accessed 24 August 2020.
- [4] Medical University of Vienna. "Influenza - Project Influenza Diagnostic Network Austria". [https://www.virologie.meduniwien.ac.at/wissenschaft-forschung/virus-epidemiologie/influenza-projekt-diagnostisches-influenzanzetzwerk-oesterreich-dinoe/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [5] Medical University Vienna. "Diagnostic laboratory: Serological examination for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis". [https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/hp/tropenmedizin/gesundheitsbereich/diagnostik/serologische-diagnostik/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [6] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. 8 October 2019. "National Reference center for Polio (Nationale Referenzzentrale für Polio)". [https://www.ages.at/service/service-oeffentliche-gesundheit/referenzzentralen/rz-polio/#/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [7] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. 8 October 2019. "National Reference center for Tuberculosis". [https://www.ages.at/en/service/services-public-health/national-reference-centres/national-reference-centre-for-tuberculosis/]. Accessed 24 August 2020.
- [8] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. 5 November 2019. "National Reference center for Salmonella (Nationale Referenzzentrale für Salmonellen)". [https://www.ages.at/service/service-oeffentliche-gesundheit/referenzzentralen/rz-salmonellen/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMASGK). [https://www.sozialministerium.at/public.html]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [10] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES). [https://www.ages.at/startseite/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

2.1.1b

Is there a national plan, strategy or similar document for conducting testing during a public health emergency, which includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing?

Yes, there is evidence of a plan, and it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 2, Yes, there is evidence of a plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 1, No evidence of a plan = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has a national strategy for conducting testing during a public health emergency, but it does not include considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, or defining goals for testing. Austria's Epidemic Law (No. 186/1950) governs measures to contain and treat specified infectious diseases (including rabies, tuberculosis, and COVID-19, among others). [1] Article 5 sets out a requirement for health authorities to conduct testing in order identify the disease and pathogen, where possible through professional research institutes, and for patients of the disease and suspected cases to submit to testing. [1] However, no other specific objectives for testing are outlined, and there are no provisions for increasing testing capacity for novel pathogens. [1] The Epidemic Law was updated in 2020 to include articles 5a and 5b, which outline provisions for COVID-19 testing programs, including objectives of determining the diseases's prevalence in specific population groups, regions, facilities and at-risk groups. [1] However, these articles do not include any provisions for scaling capacity or testing goals. [1] Austria adopted a national Influenza Plan in 2006, designed to be adapted by administrative regions around the country. [2, 3] However, neither the national plan, nor that developed for the city of Vienna make provisions for testing that are applicable to novel pathogens. [4, 5] The national influenza plan states (section 4.2.2) that laboratory diagnosis of influenza is only expedient at the outset of a wave of influenza, as at later stages clinical diagnosis is more efficient, with commercially-available influenza test systems delivering high false negative rates in older patients. [4] The Vienna influenza pandemic plan does not refer to laboratory diagnosis, but sets standards for clinical diagnosis (Annex II). [5] Two similar January 2020 media reports quote a Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection statement that the national and Vienna Influenza Plans were undergoing revision to address the coronavirus pandemic. [6, 7] However, no evidence of this process, or more up-to-date information, was found on the Ministry of Social Affairs website, or that of the City of Vienna. [8, 9]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] Hofmayer, M. 2013. "The Austrian Health system", ("Das Österreichische Gesundheitssystem").

[<https://broschuere.service.sozialministerium.at/Home/Download?publicationId=545>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Health. 26 April 2009. "Ministry of Health: National influenza pandemic plan ensures protection of the Austrian population", ("Gesundheitsministerium: Nationaler Influenza-Pandemieplan gewährleistet Schutz der österreichischen Bevölkerung"). [https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20090426_OTS0031/gesundheitsministerium-nationaler-influenza-pandemieplan-gewaehrleistet-schutz-der-oesterreichischen-bevoelkerung]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Health and Women. "Influenza Pandemic Plan for Austria", ("Influenza Pandemieplan Strategie für Österreich"). [<https://eportal.mountsinai.ca/Microbiology//avian/Plans/Austria.pdf>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] City of Vienna. April 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan for Vienna", ("Influenza Pandemieplanung für Wien"). [<https://www.wien.gv.at/gesundheits/sandirektion/pdf/pandemieplan.pdf>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[6] Medin Live. 30 January 2020. "Austrian pandemic plan is currently being revised", ("Österreichischer Pandemieplan wird derzeit überarbeitet"). [<https://www.medinlive.at/gesundheitspolitik/oesterreichischer-pandemieplan-wird-derzeit-ueberarbeitet>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[7] Vienna Online. 30 January 2020. "Information about coronavirus to be integrated into the Vienna pandemic plan", ("Infos über Coronavirus werden in Wiener Pandemieplan integriert"). [<https://www.vienna.at/infos-ueber-coronavirus-werden-in-wiener-pandemieplan-integriert/6504387>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[8] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[9] City of Vienna. [www.wien.gv.at/].

2.1.2 Laboratory quality systems

2.1.2a

Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is accredited (e.g., International Organization for Standardization [ISO] 15189:2003, U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments [CLIA])?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has two accredited reference laboratories. The Medical University of Vienna's (MUVI) Center for Virology and the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety Ltd (AGES), through three serve as reference laboratories for the WHO-defined core tests. [1] AGES is accredited at ISO 17025, which specifies the general requirements for the competence to carry out tests and/or calibrations, including sampling, covering testing and calibration through standard methods, non-standard and laboratory-developed methods. [2] The MUVI center for Virology is ISO 9001:2015 certified. [3] Additionally, the Molecular Genetic Diagnostics Laboratory of the Sisters of Charity Clinic Linz is ISO 15189: 2012 certified since 2015. [4]

[1] Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection of Austria. 27 June 2020. "Epidemiological Monitoring of Infectious Diseases - List of National Reference Centers (Epidemiologische & Uuml;berwachung Von Infektionskrankheiten Liste nationaler Referenzzentralen)". [https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Statistiken-und-Fallzahlen.html]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. "Quality Management" [https://www.ages.at/en/ages/basics/quality-management/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Medical University of Vienna 2018. "Center for Virology. Medical Science Division". [https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/web/en/about-us/organisation/medical-science-divisions/center-for-virology/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Ordensklinikum Linz. "Molecular Genetic Diagnostics Laboratory: Quality Management", ("Labor für Molekulargenetische Diagnostik: Qualitätsmanagement"). [https://www.ordensklinikum.at/de/patienten/abteilungen/labors/labor-fuer-molekulargenetische-diagnostik/qualitaetsmanagement/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

2.1.2b

Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is subject to external quality assurance review?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that national laboratories that serve as reference facilities are subject to external quality assurance review. No evidence of such a requirement was found on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [1, 2] The Federal Health Agency, responsible for certifying laboratories under Good Laboratory Practice principles (which are to be re-assessed every 3 years), does not refer to any quality assurance or special requirements for reference laboratories. [3] Accreditation Austria, the government's official accreditation unit under the Ministry of Digitization and Business Location, does not describe any requirements for accredited laboratories to be subjected to review. [4, 5] Testing laboratories at AGES, the Medical University of Vienna and the Sisters of Charity Clinic Linz serve as reference facilities, but no evidence that these laboratories are subject to external quality assessment was found on their websites. [6, 7, 8]

- [1] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>] Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmnt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [3] Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare. "Good laboratory practice", ("Gute Laborpraxis"). [<https://www.basg.gv.at/fuer-unternehmen/bewilligung-und-zertifizierung/gute-laborpraxis-glp>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry of Digitization and Business Location. "Accreditation", ("Akkreditierung"). [<https://www.bmdw.gv.at/Services/Akkreditierung.html>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [5] Quality Austria. "EN ISO 15189 (as an audit target as part of ISO 9001 audits)", ("EN ISO 15189 (als Auditziel im Rahmen von ISO 9001 Audits)"). [<https://www.qualityaustria.com/produktgruppen/gesundheits-soziales-und-gesundheitstourismus/en-iso-15189-als-auditziel-im-rahmen-von-iso-9001-audits/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [6] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. "Quality Management" [<https://www.ages.at/en/ages/basics/quality-management/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [7] Medical University of Vienna. "Center for Virology. Medical Science Division". [<https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/web/en/about-us/organisation/medical-science-divisions/center-for-virology/>]. Accessed 24 August 2020.
- [8] Ordensklinikum Linz. "Molecular Genetic Diagnostics Laboratory: Quality Management", ("Labor für Molekulargenetische Diagnostik: Qualitätsmanagement"). [<https://www.ordensklinikum.at/de/patienten/abteilungen/labors/labor-fuer-molekulargenetische-diagnostik/qualitaetsmanagement/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

2.2 LABORATORY SUPPLY CHAINS

2.2.1 Specimen referral and transport system

2.2.1a

Is there a nationwide specimen transport system?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence of a nationwide standardized system for transporting specimens in place in Austria. The legal basis for the transport of dangerous goods in Austria is the "European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), which covers infectious substances. [1] Under the Carriage of Hazardous Goods Act 145 / 1998, the ADR is binding for all commercial transporters; despite this, the legislation's main focus is packaging and labelling rather than actual transportation. [1, 2] Act 145/1998 is reflected in the policy of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) on accepting samples and on transportation, which specify clear labeling and designation of Category A and B materials; the former must be reported to the AGES Biological Risk Officer before transportation, as must category B materials arriving from abroad. [3] AGES is a company of the Republic of Austria, owned by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, responsible for public health, animal health, food safety, medical and drug safety and food security. [4] Guidelines on the transport and packing of dangerous goods compliant with ADR are in place with the country's Post Service, but there is no indication of a specific service or system for this on the Post Service website. [5, 6] Austrian specimen handling institutions, such as the Center for Virology at the Medical University of Vienna and the Medical University of Innsbruck, reflect the legal requirements of ADR and Act 145/1998, and also state that the Austrian Post or any private courier service can be used for specimen transportation. [7, 8] No further guidelines on what courier service to use is available on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the AGES, and the Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. [9, 10, 11, 12]

- [1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 145 / 1998. "Carriage of Hazardous Goods", ("Gefahrgutbeförderungs-gesetz BGBl. I Nr. 145/1998").
[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10012852>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [2] University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. 2012. "Important Notes on Sample Shipment", ("Wichtige Hinweise zum Probenversand").
[https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/fileadmin/v/tierspital/Probenversand_Labordienstleistungen_Vetmeduni_Vienna.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020..
- [3] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety Ltd (AGES). "Sample transportation", ("Probenversand").
[<https://www.ages.at/service/service-tiergesundheits/formulare-probenversand/probenversand/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [4] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety Ltd. "About", ("Allgemeines"). [<https://www.ages.at/ages/allgemeines/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [5] Austrian Post AG. March 2020. "Dangerous goods: This is how dangerous goods arrive safely", ("Gefahrgut: So kommen gefährliche Güter sicher an"). [<https://www.post.at/g/c/logistikleistungen-sensible-gueter>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [6] Austrian Post AG. [<https://www.post.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [7] Medical University of Vienna, Center for Virology. "Storage and Transport (Lagerung und Transport)".
[https://www.virologie.meduniwien.ac.at/fileadmin/virologie/files/virologische_diagnostik_homepage_probenversand.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [8] Medical University of Innsbruck. "Security Instructions on the Transportation of Biological Agents (Sicherheitshinweise für den Transport von biologischen Arbeitsstoffen)". [https://www.i-med.ac.at/stst_sicherheit/docs/Sicherheitshinweise-fuer-den-Transport-von-biologischen-Arbeitsstoffen.pdf]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [9] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [10] Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmnt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [11] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES). [<https://www.ages.at/startseite/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [12] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (BASG). [<https://www.basg.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

2.2.2 Laboratory cooperation and coordination

2.2.2a

Is there a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak?

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a plan to rapidly authorize laboratories for testing during a public health emergency. No evidence of a plan specifically on this subject was found on the website of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, or that of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [1, 2] The Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare, which is responsible for monitoring activity of medical laboratories subjected to regulations including Ordinance No. 450/2006 on good laboratory practice (implementing European Union Directive 2004/10 / EC), does not outline any procedures for emergency licensing of laboratories. [3, 4] The quality standard assessment procedure for medical laboratories as described on the government's healthcare portal, as well as information on the accreditation body Quality Austria website related to accreditation under international standards, do not describe any methods for expedited accreditation of medical laboratories. [5, 6] No evidence of measures to expand testing capabilities was found in available versions of the national Pandemic Plan, a general strategy document designed to be adapted to pandemics with different pathogens; a national plan against influenza and plan for Vienna, the capital, contain only limited considerations for testing in

the event of an influenza pandemic. [7, 8, 9]

- [1] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmnt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. Ordinance No. 450/2006. "Good Laboratory Practice", ("Gute Laborpraxis"). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20005138>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare. "Good laboratory practice", ("Gute Laborpraxis"). [<https://www.basg.gv.at/fuer-unternehmen/bewilligung-und-zertifizierung/gute-laborpraxis-glp>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [5] Gesundheit AT. "In the laboratory: Quality assurance", ("Im Labor: QualitätÃ¤t;tsicherung"). [<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/labor/laborbefund/qualitaetsicherung>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [6] Quality Austria. "EN ISO 15189 (as an audit target as part of ISO 9001 audits)", ("EN ISO 15189 (als Auditziel im Rahmen von ISO 9001 Audits)"). [<https://www.qualityaustria.com/produktgruppen/gesundheit-soziales-und-gesundheitstourismus/en-iso-15189-als-auditziel-im-rahmen-von-iso-9001-audits/>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry of Health and Women. "Influenza Pandemic Plan for Austria", ("Influenza Pandemieplan Strategie fÃ¼r Ã-sterreich"). [<https://eportal.mountsinai.ca/Microbiology//avian/Plans/Austria.pdf>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [8] City of Vienna. April 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan for Vienna", ("Influenza Pandemieplanung fÃ¼r Wien"). [<https://www.wien.gv.at/gesundheits/sandirektion/pdf/pandemieplan.pdf>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [9] Federal Ministry of Health. 26 April 2009. "Ministry of Health: National influenza pandemic plan ensures protection of the Austrian population", ("Gesundheitsministerium: Nationaler Influenza-Pandemieplan gewÃ¤t;hrleistet Schutz der Ã¶sterreichischen BevÃ¶lkerung"). [https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20090426_OTS0031/gesundheitsministerium-nationaler-influenza-pandemieplan-gewaehrleistet-schutz-der-oesterreichischen-bevoelkerung]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

2.3 REAL-TIME SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

2.3.1 Indicator and event-based surveillance and reporting systems

2.3.1a

Is there evidence that the country is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease?

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance and evidence that the data is being analyzed on a daily basis = 2,
Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance, but no evidence that the data are being analyzed on a daily basis = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of Austria conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease. The National Crisis and Disaster Management (SKKM) at the Federal Ministry of Interior coordinates crisis response among regional governments (mainly responsible for organising crisis and disaster management), as well as other relevant authorities and rescue organizations. [1] The Federal Alarm Center (FAC), part of the Operations and Coordination Center (EKC) within the SKKM serves as a constant national contact point and information hub for the country. [1, 2] According to the the Ministry of Interior website, "actions to combat, eliminate and mitigate the effects of disasters which have occurred or are imminent (i.e. disaster relief) fall primarily within the responsibility of the Bundesl nder. The provincial acts define the command and control structures at the level of the Municipalities, Districts, and Federal Provinces. The Federal

authorities have complementary tasks." [3] However, there is no evidence on the Ministry of Interior website that the FAC or SKKM conducts evidence-based surveillance. [4] There is no further information available about Austria conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease on the website of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, or that of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [5, 6].

[1] Federal Ministry of Interior. "Civil Protection in Austria Disaster Relief of the Federal Provinces". [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204_english/skkm/relief.aspx]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Interior. "Civil Protection in Austria". [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204_english/skkm/start.aspx]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Interior. "Crisis and Disaster Management (Krisis und Katastrophenmanagement)". [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/skkm/start.aspx]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Interior. [https://www.bmi.gv.at/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria. [https://www.sozialministerium.at/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [https://www.bmnt.gv.at/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

2.3.1b

Is there publicly available evidence that the country reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the WHO within the last two years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of Austria having reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the World Health Organization (WHO) within the last two years. The most recent WHO Disease Outbreak News listing for Austria at the time of research dated from 2017. [1] On 7 June 2017, the WHO reported that Austria was among several countries which had reported an unusual increase in hepatitis A cases, particularly among men who have sex with men. [2] No further information on PHEICs occurring in Austria in 2018 or 2019 was found on the WHO website, or that of the Federal Ministry of Social Welfare, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [3, 4] Specifically, the Disease Outbreak News from 2021, 2020, and 2019 do not include any notification for a potential PHEIC by Austria. [5, 6]

[1] World Health organization. "Disease outbreak news: Austria." [https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/aut/en/] Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] World Health organization. 7 Jun 2017. Disease outbreak news. "Hepatitis A outbreaks mostly affecting men who have sex with men – European Region and the Americas." [http://www.who.int/csr/don/07-june-2017-hepatitis-a/en/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] World Health organization. [http://www.who.int/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria. [https://www.sozialministerium.at/]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] World Health organization. "Disease Outbreak News (DONs)". [https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/]. Accessed 1 April 2021.

[6] World Health organization. Previous Disease Outbreak News. "Emergencies preparedness, response: 2019". [https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2019/en/]. Accessed 1 April 2021.

2.3.2 Interoperable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting systems

2.3.2a

Does the government operate an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and the sub-national level?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and sub-national levels. The Federal Ministry of labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection operates an electronic reporting surveillance system for infectious diseases (Epidemiologisches Meldesystem, EMS). [1] Under the Epidemic Act (No. 186/1950), medical professionals are required to report infectious disease cases to the regional level health authorities, with the data then passed to the central authorities. [2, 3] Medical laboratories are required to report infectious disease cases through this system, submitting data either through the web portal or through dedicated software. [1, 4] Doctors are encouraged to use EMS through the same web portal, national electronic healthcare system, but may also submit paper forms. [1] The system is accessible to relevant authorities at the national, regional and local levels. [1] In 2020, contact laboratories in each federal state were charged with management of individual laboratories' applications for certificates providing access to EMS. [5]

[1] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Legal basis and reporting of communicable diseases" ("Rechtliche Grundlagen und Meldung &bertragbarer Krankheiten") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Rechtliches.html>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl Nr. 186 / 1950. "Epidemic Law", ("Epidemiegesetz"). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Gesundheit Austria. "COVID-19 Data Platform: The epidemiological reporting system", ("Datenplattform COVID-19: Das Epidemiologische Meldesystem"). [<https://datenplattform-covid.goeg.at/EMS>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Health. BGBl II No. 184 / 2013. "Ordinance of the Federal Minister of Health regarding electronic laboratory reports in the register of notifiable diseases", ("Verordnung des Bundesministers für Gesundheit betreffend elektronische Labormeldungen in das Register anzeigepflichtiger Krankheiten"). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20008483>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "COVID-19 - Technical information for laboratory software and electronic doctor notification in EMS (interface descriptions)", ("COVID-19 - Technische Informationen für Laborsoftware und elektronische Arztmeldung ins EMS (Schnittstellenbeschreibungen)"). [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Rechtliches/COVID-19-Technisches-f%C3%BCr-Labor-und-%C3%84rzte.html>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

2.3.2b

Does the electronic reporting surveillance system collect ongoing or real-time laboratory data?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that the electronic reporting surveillance system in Austria collects ongoing, real-time laboratory data. The Federal Ministry for labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection operates an electronic reporting surveillance system for infectious diseases (EMS). [1] Under the Epidemic Act (No. 186/1950), medical institutions including laboratories are required to urgently report notifiable pathogens via the EMS. [2] Since 2014, laboratories have been required to report

data electronically, using either special software or a web portal. [2, 3] Data uploaded is added directly into the EMS, with no manual processing, through regional health authorities. [4] In 2020, contact laboratories in each federal state were charged with management of individual laboratories' applications for certificates providing access to EMS. [5] As part of the system, all laboratories are obliged by law to report laboratory test results for all notifiable diseases without time lags. [6]

[1] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Legal basis and reporting of communicable diseases" ("Rechtliche Grundlagen und Meldung &bertragbarer Krankheiten")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Rechtliches.html>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Gesundheit Austria. "COVID-19 Data Platform: The epidemiological reporting system", ("Datenplattform COVID-19: Das Epidemiologische Meldesystem"). [<https://datenplattform-covid.goeg.at/EMS>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Health. BGBl II No. 184 / 2013. "Ordinance of the Federal Minister of Health regarding electronic laboratory reports in the register of notifiable diseases", ("Verordnung des Bundesministers für Gesundheit betreffend elektronische Labormeldungen in das Register anzeigepflichtiger Krankheiten").

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20008483>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Frequently asked questions about the Epidemiological Reporting System (EMS)." ("Häufige Fragestellungen in Bezug auf das Epidemiologische Meldesystem (EMS).") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:f4822e6a-b997-4ac1-b052-f87a59ebfacf/H%C3%A4ufige%20Fragen%20zum%20EMS.pdf>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "COVID-19 - Technical information for laboratory software and electronic doctor notification in EMS (interface descriptions)", ("COVID-19 - Technische Informationen für Laborsoftware und elektronische Arztmeldung ins EMS (Schnittstellenbeschreibungen)").

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Rechtliches/COVID-19-Technisches-f%C3%BCr-Labor-und-%C3%84rzte.html>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[6] Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI). "Epidemiological Reporting System (EMS; a register according to the Epidemic Law §4)". [<https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/epidemiological-reporting-system-ems-a-register-according-to-the-epidemic-law-%C2%A74/>] Accessed 17 September 2021.

2.4 SURVEILLANCE DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

2.4.1 Coverage and use of electronic health records

2.4.1a

Are electronic health records commonly in use?

Electronic health records are commonly in use = 2, Electronic health records are not commonly in use, but there is evidence they are used = 1, No evidence electronic health records are in use = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Electronic health records are commonly in use. Austria's electronic health records system, Elektronische Gesundheitsakte (ELGA), was progressively introduced from 2015, starting in hospitals and care homes, then pharmacies and doctors' surgeries, with staged rollout of this system and a separate "e-medication" system tracking drug data across the regions of Austria completed in November 2019. [1, 2] Under the Health Telematics Law (No. 111/2012) and the ELGA Ordinance (No.106/2015), the records of all individuals covered by the country's health insurance system are automatically included in ELGA, but all users are free to opt out either entirely or from individual services, as well as delete individual records. [3, 4, 5] Users can access their health records, including correspondence, test results and prescriptions, through a web portal. [5] As

of February 2020, 8 million patients, or over 75% of the population, had used ELGA since introduction, with 10 000 visits to the portal per month, and 297 000 de-registrations (3.4%) had been recorded. [1, 6] 185 inpatient facilities used the system, covering 92% of acute hospital beds, and over 80% of medical correspondence and test results was stored in the system, with 33 million records stored in total. [6]

[1] Elektronische Gesundheitsakte. "ELGA at a glance." ("ELGA im Ãöberblick.") [<http://www.elga.gv.at/elga-die-elektronische-gesundheitsakte/elga-im-ueberblick/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Elektronische Gesundheitsakte. 15 May 2018. "State-of-play on the implementation of the Austrian EHR system ELGA". [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/ehealth/docs/ev_20180515_co08b_en.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 111/2012 of 14 December 2012. "Federal Law on Data Security Measures in the Processing of Electronic Health Data and Genetic Data (Health Telematics Law 2012). (Bundesgesetz betreffend DatensicherheitsmaÃŸnahmen bei der Verarbeitung elektronischer Gesundheitsdaten und genetischer Daten (Gesundheitstelematikgesetz 2012).)

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20008120>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 106/2015 of 5 December 2015. "Ordinance of the Federal Minister of Health for the implementation and further development of ELGA (ELGA Ordinance 2015)", ("Verordnung der Bundesministerin fÃ¼r Gesundheit zur Implementierung und Weiterentwicklung von ELGA (ELGA-Verordnung 2015)"). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20009157>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Health Austria. "ELGA: e-findings", ("e-befund"). [<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/elga/was-ist-elga/e-befund>] Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Elektronische Gesundheitsakte. February 2020. "Current ELGA operating figures", ("""). [<http://www.elga.gv.at/elga-die-elektronische-gesundheitsakte/zahlen-daten-fakten/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.4.1b

Does the national public health system have access to electronic health records of individuals in their country?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly available evidence that the national public health system has access to electronic health records of individuals. Under a social insurance healthcare model as reformed between 2013 and 2019, the Austrian healthcare system has become more unified than previous years through the institution of the Austrian Social Health Insurance Fund (OGK), which from 1 January 2020 united nine previous regional health insurance funds, as well as separate funds for state workers and the self-employed. [1, 2] The social health insurance system has historically been responsible for health care outside hospitals, and OGK maintains links with private clinics under the new system. [1, 3] While the federal government is responsible for legislation and setting policy direction for the healthcare system, including regarding hospitals, implementation is the responsibility of regional authorities, responsible for provision of hospital services. [1, 4] The Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection is in charge of overseeing the healthcare sector as a whole and mediating between the various actors. [1] Under the 2012 Health Telematics Law (BGBl No. 111/2012), participation of health providers in the ELGA (Elektronische Gesundheitsakte) eHealth records system is mandatory, but citizens may opt out. [5] In addition, access to an individual's records is limited to the subject and the health professionals responsible for their treatment and care; access by national and regional authorities and insurance providers is restricted and enforceable by penal provisions. [5] There is no evidence of any exception to these rules for public health emergencies such as pandemics. [5, 6, 7] However, the Federal Ministry of Health, regional health authorities and insurance providers are the shareholders in ELGA GmbH, the company charged with operation and development of the eHealth record system. [7] ELGA was rolled out in

hospitals from 2015, and across Austrian regions in stages in 2018 and 2019. [7]

- [1] Federal Ministry for Health. 2019. "The Austrian Health Care System".
[https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:6102a229-7b92-44fd-af1f-3aa691900296/BMASGK_The-Austrian_Health-Care-System__KeyFacts__WEB.PDF]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [2] Austrian Social Insurance. 27 December 2019. "21 becomes 5 - Social Insurance NEW at a glance", ("Aus 21 werden 5 – Sozialversicherung NEU im Überblick").
[<https://www.sozialversicherung.at/cdscontent/?contentid=10007.853102&portal=svportal>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [3] Austrian Social Health Insurance Fund. "Health centers of the Austrian Health Insurance Fund in Vienna", ("Gesundheitszentren der Österreichischen Gesundheitskasse in Wien").
[<https://www.gesundheitskasse.at/cdscontent/?contentid=10007.836490&portal=oegkwportal>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [4] Salzburg Region. "Hospitals in Salzburg Region", ("Krankenanstalten im Land Salzburg").
[<https://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/gesundheits/einrichtungen/krankenanstalten-2>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [5] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 111/2012. Federal Law on Data Security Measures in the Processing of Electronic Health Data and Genetic Data (Health Telematics Law 2012). (Bundesgesetz betreffend Datensicherheitsmaßnahmen bei der Verarbeitung elektronischer Gesundheitsdaten und genetischer Daten (Gesundheitstelematikgesetz 2012).) Federal Legal Information System.
[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20008120>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [6] Gesundheit.gv.at. "Who is not allowed to access ELGA health data?" ("Wer darf nicht auf ELGA-Gesundheitsdaten zugreifen?") [<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/elga/faq/datenschutz>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [7] Elektronische Gesundheitsakte. 15 May 2018. "State-of-play on the implementation of the Austrian EHR system ELGA". [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/ehealth/docs/ev_20180515_co08b_en.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

2.4.1c

Are there data standards to ensure data is comparable (e.g., ISO standards)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

The electronic health records system uses data standards to ensure data is comparable. Austria's electronic health records system, Elektronische Gesundheitsakte (ELGA), covers over 75% of the population, although all users may choose to opt out of the service either entirely or partially. [1, 2] The Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care, and Consumer Protection, regional health authorities and insurance providers are joint shareholders in ELGA GmbH, the company charged with operation and development of the eHealth record system. [2] ELGA makes use of Object Identifiers (OIDs), which are globally unique information identifiers in accordance with ISO/IEC 9834-1:2012. [3, 4, 5] In addition, all data stored within ELGA are in line with ISO 27000 security standards. [6]

- [1] Elektronische Gesundheitsakte. "ELGA at a glance." ("ELGA im Überblick.") [<http://www.elga.gv.at/elga-die-elektronische-gesundheitsakte/elga-im-ueberblick/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [2] Elektronische Gesundheitsakte. 15 May 2018. "State-of-play on the implementation of the Austrian EHR system ELGA". [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/ehealth/docs/ev_20180515_co08b_en.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [3] Elektronische Gesundheitsakte. 2017. "ELGA's Overall Architecture." ("ELGA-Gesamtarchitektur.") [https://www.elga.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente_PDF_MP4/Technisches/ELGA_Gesamtarchitektur_2.30b.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [4] Health Level Seven International. "OID Registry." [<http://www.hl7.org/oid/index.cfm>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [5] International Organization for Standardization. 2012. "ISO/IEC 9834-1:2012." [<https://www.iso.org/standard/58055.html>].

Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Elektronische Gesundheitsakte (ELGA). "Data protection and data security in ELGA." ("Datenschutz und Datensicherheit bei ELGA.") [<https://www.elga.gv.at/faq/datenschutz-und-datensicherheit/index.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.4.2 Data integration between human, animal, and environmental health sectors

2.4.2a

Is there evidence of established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human, and wildlife surveillance to share data (e.g., through mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

A data-sharing mechanism is in place for the ministries responsible for animal, human and wildlife surveillance. Under the 2005 Federal Law on Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents, a range of government bodies are responsible in the field, chiefly the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (human and animal health), and the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (agriculture and the environment), as well as the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), a separate body responsible for supporting the two ministries in health issues relating to both humans and animals. [1, 2, 3, 4] The Federal Law on Surveillance of Zoonoses mandates the creation of a Federal Commission for the Surveillance and Control of Zoonoses (BKZoon) under the Ministry for Social Affairs, which is to consist of representatives from the aforementioned ministries, as well as the Ministry of Defense, the AGES, and Commissions for Zoonoses established in each of the country's constituent regions. [1] The BKZoon's mandate, as set out in 2006 regulations, includes oversight of data sharing between ministries related to zoonoses; this is in line with Article 3 of the Federal Law on Surveillance of Zoonoses. [5] Despite this, neither the Federal Law, nor the BKZoon Regulations, include any details on how exactly data is to be shared between ministries. [1, 5] The Federal Law does contain requirements for zoonosis outbreak reports on to be developed by the BKZoon, as well as for annual trends reports on zoonoses, which are to be submitted to the European Commission. [1] These reports are published on the AGES website, although at the time of research the most recent report available dated from 2018. [6] In addition, Article 8 of the Law on Animal Diseases (adopted 1909, last amended 2019) specifies that the Ministry of Social Affairs may share its data on animal diseases with the BMNT and the AGES, though it does not create a special mechanism to do so. [7] No evidence of a website for the BKZoon was found.

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl No. 128 / 2005. "On Surveillance of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents", ("Zur Überwachung von Zoonosen und Zoonoseerregern").

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004373>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Animal Health", ("Tiergesundheit"). [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Tiergesundheit.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. 17 April 2020. "Department II / 6: Animal Products", ("Abteilung II / 6 Tierische Produkte"). [https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/ministerium/aufgaben-struktur/sektion_II-landwirtschaft_laendliche-Entwicklung/abt_II_6.html]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Agency for Health and Food Safety. "Animal Feed", ("Futtermittel").

[<https://www.ages.at/themen/tierernaehrung/futtermittel/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. BGBl No. 380 / 2006. "Regulations on the Federal Commission for the Surveillance and Control of Zoonoses. (Geschäftsordnung der Bundeskommission zur Überwachung und Bekämpfung von Zoonosen). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20005022>].

Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Agency for Health and Food Safety. "Zoonosis reports", ("Zoonosenberichte"). [<https://www.ages.at/service/service-oeffentliche-gesundheit/berichte-folder-und-formulare/zoonosenberichte/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[7] Imperial Council of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Law TGBL. Nr. 177/1909 of 6 August 1909. "Concerning defence against and eradication of animal diseases." ("Betreffend die Abwehr und Tilgung von Tierseuchen.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010172>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.4.3 Transparency of surveillance data

2.4.3a

Does the country make de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, or similar)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Austria makes de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, or similar). Austria only makes de-identified health surveillance data on disease outbreaks publicly available on an annual basis; more frequently updated data is not made available. The Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection has a section of its website dedicated to statistics on notifiable infectious diseases, which includes annual reports for the years 1995-2018 and a preliminary annual report for 2019. [1] In 2021, the Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care, and Consumer Protection released its raw statistics on infectious diseases for the first and second quarters of 2020, noting its urgency and importance despite its regular publication of 'Annual statistics of notifiable infectious diseases since 1990'. It is however, important to note that despite the regular annual update of de-identified infectious disease documents and the recently available documents for 2020, the data is typically unchanged for a full 12 months and in case of the latter, for 3 months. Even so, the last available 2020 infectious disease statistics do not include data past September 2020, 6 months from the time of writing in April 1, 2021. [1] The previous 2018 report details the number of cases of 60 different infectious diseases, broken down by the Bundesland (top-level administrative sub-division) where they occurred. [1] The Ministry's website also has an A-Z list of major diseases, with articles on each (including anthrax, Ebola, influenza, tuberculosis and the plague). [2] These articles contain general information about prevalence, including some statistics. [2]

[1] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Epidemiology of communicable diseases in Austria: Statistics and cases", ("Epidemiologie übertragbarer Krankheiten in Österreich: Statistiken und Fallzahlen"). [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Statistiken-und-Fallzahlen.html>]. Accessed 1 April 2021.

[2] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Communicable diseases A-Z", ("Infektionskrankheiten A-Z.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.4.3b

Does the country make de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports (or other formats) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

COVID-19 surveillance reports are regularly published. The Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection makes de-identified surveillance data, including daily case count and mortality rates, available through an online data platform [1] Data for the platform is provided by the country's electronic reporting surveillance system (EMS), where it is entered by health professionals in line with the 1950 Epidemic Law. [1, 2] Since data is reported to the EMS electronically, the COVID-19 surveillance data is updated hourly. [2] In addition to the public display platform, research institutions may apply for accreditation to access COVID-19 surveillance data on the EMS for research purposes. [3]

[1] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Official COVID-19 Dashboard", ("Amtliches Dashboard COVID-19"). [<https://info.gesundheitsministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 14 April 2020. "Official COVID-19 Dashboard & Explanatory Notes", ("ErlÃ¤t;uterungen"). [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Coronavirus/Official-COVID-19-Dashboard---Explanatory-Notes.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "COVID-19 Data platform", "Datenplattform COVID-19"). [<https://datenplattform-covid.goeg.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.4.4 Ethical considerations during surveillance

2.4.4a

Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There are regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities. Data collected by the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection through the electronic reporting surveillance system (EMS) are protected by data protection standards approved by the country's Data Protection Authority, responsible for data protection standards, including for health data. [1, 2] Article 4 of the Epidemic Law, details the type of data to be collected, and authorities permitted to access the system under a range of circumstances, and also requires the Ministry of Social Affairs to ensure confidential data transmission. [3] In line with Article 4 requirements, the EMS is accessible only through authorized access to an electronic portal, which requires authentication and records all log-ins; article 4 requires that access be revoked once it is no longer needed. [1, 3] Further, in line with Article 4 stipulations that access to data be limited to required needs, doctors and laboratories with the right to enter data into the system are not able to view existing entries. [1, 3] No personal information is passed on to other state bodies or healthcare providers; under Article 4a, data are to be transferred to a separate statistical system following anonymisation. [1, 3] In addition, the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals is safeguarded by the 2016 European Union General Data Protection Regulation. [4, 5]

[1] Federal Ministry for labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. "Frequently asked questions about the Epidemiological Reporting System (EMS)." ("Häufige Fragestellungen in Bezug auf das Epidemiologische Meldesystem (EMS).") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:f4822e6a-b997-4ac1-b052-f87a59ebfac/H%C3%A4ufige%20Fragen%20zum%20EMS.pdf>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Data Protection Authority. 20 May 2020. "FAQ on data protection and coronavirus (COVID-19)", ("FAQ zum Thema Datenschutz und Coronavirus (COVID-19)"). [https://www.dsb.gv.at/documents/22758/23115/faq_zum_thema_datenschutz_und_coronavirus_covid-19_stand_20_5_2020.pdf/134da7e3-beb0-4ba3-858b-aec2c24c550f]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl Nr. 186 / 1950. "Epidemic Law", ("Epidemiegesetz").

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Official Journal of the European Union. 27 April 2016. "Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)". [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32016R0679&from=EN>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Data protection", ("Datenschutz"). [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Ministerium/Rechtliches-und-Foerderungen/Datenschutz.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.4.4b

Is there legislation and/or regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of health data include cyber security considerations. Data collected by the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection through the electronic reporting surveillance system (EMS) are protected by data protection standards approved by the country's Data Protection Authority, responsible for data protection standards, including for health data. [1, 2] The Epidemic Law, which safeguards the confidentiality of identifiable health information generated through health surveillance activities, does not explicitly refer to cyber attacks. [4] However, under Article 4, require the Ministry for Social Affairs to adopt "suitable, up-to-date precautions" to prevent deletion, amendment or access to the data by unauthorized users, and to ensure confidential transmission of data through up-to-date encryption methods. [3] In addition, as a member of the European Union, Austria is subject to the 2016 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), effective since 2018. [4] This extensive regulation includes specific provisions to protect data against cyber attacks, including a requirement that data held by state authorities must be overseen by a dedicated data protection officer who is proficient in dealing with cyber attacks, and a requirement to inform all individuals affected by a data breach within 72 hours. [4] The Ministry of Social Affairs has a dedicated data protection officer in place in line with GDPR. [5]

[1] Federal Ministry for labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. "Frequently asked questions about the Epidemiological Reporting System (EMS)." ("Häufige Fragestellungen in Bezug auf das Epidemiologische Meldesystem (EMS).") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:f4822e6a-b997-4ac1-b052-f87a59ebfacf/H%C3%A4ufige%20Fragen%20zum%20EMS.pdf>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Data Protection Authority. 20 May 2020. "FAQ on data protection and coronavirus (COVID-19)", ("FAQ zum Thema Datenschutz und Coronavirus (COVID-19)"). [https://www.dsb.gv.at/documents/22758/23115/faq_zum_thema_datenschutz_und_coronavirus_covid-19_stand_20_5_2020.pdf/134da7e3-beb0-4ba3-858b-aec2c24c550f]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl Nr. 186 / 1950. "Epidemic Law", ("Epidemiegesetz"). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Official Journal of the European Union. 27 April 2016. "Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)". [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32016R0679&from=EN>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Data protection", ("Datenschutz"). [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Ministerium/Rechtliches-und-Foerderungen/Datenschutz.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.4.5 International data sharing

2.4.5a

Has the government made a commitment via public statements, legislation and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region?

Yes, commitments have been made to share data for more than one disease, Yes, commitments have been made to share data only for one disease = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Austria has committed to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region for more than one disease. As a member of the European Union, Austria shares surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region. All EU and EEA countries are part of the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control's Early Warning and Response System (EWRS). The EWRS enables sharing of data for risk assessment and management to ensure "timely, efficient and coordinated public health action", and to notify EU member states on outbreaks for coordinated measures. [1] Article 9 of Chapter IV of the European Union (EU) Decision on Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health requires the European Commission to transmit any information relevant to coordinating measures against public health threats. [2] Under Austria's 1950 Epidemic Law, the federal ministry responsible for health is the country's World Health Organization contact point and required to report in line with relevant regulations. [2] While the Epidemic Law does not specifically mention the EWRS, under article 4 on surveillance of notifiable diseases, the federal ministry responsible for health operates an epidemiological surveillance system in order to fulfill Austria's reporting requirements under EU law. [3] However, access to the EWRS website remains restricted to "the competent Public Health Authorities of the EU/EEA Member States, which have been designated officially by the government of their country as members of the EWRS, and the competent service of the European Commission". [4]

[1] European Center for Disease Prevention and Control. "Early Warning and Response System (EWRS)."

[<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/early-warning-and-response-system-ewrs>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] European Parliament and Council. Decision No 1082/2013/EU of 22 October 2013. "On Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health and Repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC". Official Journal of the European Union.

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/preparedness_response/docs/decision_serious_crossborder_threats_22102013_en.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl Nr. 186 / 1950. "Epidemic Law", ("Epidemiegesetz").

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] European Commission. "EWRS 2021 Early Warning and Response System". [<https://ewrs.ecdc.europa.eu/>] Accessed April 1, 2021.

2.5 CASE-BASED INVESTIGATION

2.5.1 Case investigation and contact tracing

2.5.1a

Is there a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency?

Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems, but only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has a national system in place to provide support (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) at the sub-national level to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency. Article 5 of Austria's Epidemic Law (1950), provides for all competent health authorities (federal, regional and local level) to conduct surveys and medical examinations to determine the type of disease and its prevalence in the event of an epidemic. [1] District (local-level) health authorities are empowered to require medical staff, employers, and family members of established patients to provide information to contribute to this process, although there is no specific provision for contact tracing in this clause. [1] The federal ministry responsible for health is empowered to mobilise Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) staff as experts for the investigation of outbreaks affecting several of the country's nine top-level territorial divisions (Bundesländer), including to establish contact with the contacts of disease patients. [1] However, Article 5 does not specify how the federal AGES staff and Bundesland or district-level health authorities, with no stipulation on any training and support. [1] Article 4 of the Epidemic Law charges Bundesland health offices and district-level health authorities with investigation of outbreaks and surveying of disease occurrence, including reporting of notifiable diseases to the central electronic disease reporting system. [1] Further provision for mobilisation of support services in epidemic response is given in Article 27, permitting district health authorities to employ epidemic doctors, and mobilisation of law enforcement bodies, who may be directed to assist with the provisions of article 5 (including contact tracing) but not Article 4 (local-level surveying of disease occurrence). [1] There are also provisions for contact tracing under the 2015 Ebola Emergency Plan (section 2.3), which specifies that all contacts of every patient must be established, by authorities as empowered under Article 43 of the Epidemic Act. [2] This Article stipulates that all surveys and precautions described in the Epidemic Law are to be primarily implemented by the relevant district-level health authority, with Bundesland authorities involved for situations affecting multiple districts, and federal authorities for situations in multiple Bundesländer. [1] There is no evidence of support for expansion of contact tracing on the website of AGES or the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [3, 4]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl Nr. 186 / 1950. "Epidemic Law". ("Epidemiegesetz").

[https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.")

[https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. [https://www.ages.at/]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria. [https://www.sozialministerium.at/]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.5.1b

Does the country provide wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention?

Yes, both economic support and medical attention are provided = 2, Yes, but only economic support or medical attention is provided = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria provides economic support to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, but there is no evidence that it provides medical attention. Under article 7 of the Epidemic Law (1950), patients of a notifiable disease may be ordered to isolate themselves, or required to undergo isolation organized by the authorities, and under article 17, persons suspected to be contagious may be required to isolate, and are prohibited from any work in food production. [1] Under article 43 (as amended 14 May 2020), notices on isolation in connection with a possible SARS CoV-2 infection may be issued by telephone. [1, 2] Further, under article 11, the production of food in areas affected by a range of serious transmissible diseases (including scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhus and bacterial food poisoning, but not COVID-19) is prohibited, and under article 20, businesses in areas affected by such diseases may be ordered to close if deemed necessary. [1] Under article 32, both natural and legal persons are entitled to compensation for earnings lost due to isolation imposed upon them under articles 7 or 17, or a prohibition from work in serving food or closure of a business under article 20. [1] Under article 36, these and other compensation costs, as well as the costs of isolating patients and suspected cases in specific facilities, are to be borne by the federal budget. [1] However, there is no provision in the Epidemic Law for medical assistance to be provided to persons in isolation during an epidemic; the only relevant provision is that persons who cannot be isolated at home should be isolated either in an appropriate medical facility or in transportable barrack hospitals (article 7). [1] No further evidence of specific provisions for medical treatment for persons in isolation during a pandemic was found online, including on the website of the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [3] Health authority websites providing advice for persons in self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic instruct the affected to seek medical attention by telephoning a hotline number. [4, 5, 6]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl Nr. 186 / 1950. "Epidemic Law", ("Epidemiegesetz").

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl I Nr. 43 / 2020 of 14 May 2020. "Federal law amending the 1950 epidemic law and the pharmacy law (16th COVID-19 law)", ("Bundesgesetz, mit dem das Epidemiegesetz 1950 und das Apothekengesetz geändert werden (16. COVID-19-Gesetz)"). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/i/2020/43>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. 6 August 2020. "FAQ: Tests and Quarantine", ("FAQ: Testungen und Quarantäne"). [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Coronavirus---Haeufig-gestellte-Fragen/FAQ--Testungen-und-Quarantaene.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. 22 July 2020. "Coronavirus FAQ", ("FAQ Coronavirus"). [<https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/coronavirus/faq-coronavirus/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Austrian Health Insurance Fund. [Information about coronavirus", ("Informationen zum Corona-Virus"). [<https://www.gesundheitskasse.at/cdscontent/content.xhtml?contentid=10007.857807&portal=oegkportal>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.5.1c

Does the country make de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria makes de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 available on government websites. On its website, the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection provides detailed data on the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, including regularly updated figures for confirmed cases, deaths, hospitalizations, recoveries and tests. [1, 2] However, these statistics do not refer to contact tracing. [1, 2] There is no evidence of figures related to contact tracing on the central government website, the website of the Agency for Health and Food Safety or the website of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [3, 4, 5]

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 7 August 2020. "Coronavirus." ("Coronavirus.") [https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Neuartiges-Coronavirus-(2019-nCov).html]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 7 August 2020. "Official COVID19 Dashboard." ("Amtliches Dashboard COVID19.") [https://info.gesundheitsministerium.at/]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[3] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 22 July 2020. "Coronavirus." ("Coronavirus.") [https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/coronavirus/]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[4] Government of the Republic of Austria. "Together against the coronavirus. The most important information and how we protect ourselves." ("Gemeinsam gegen das Coronavirus. Die wichtigsten Infos und wie wir uns schützen.") [https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/public.html]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. 7 August 2020. "Current coronavirus figures." ("Aktuelle Zahlen zum Corona-Virus.") [https://bmi.gv.at/news.aspx?id=4A7171477A51625143334D3D]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

2.5.2 Point of entry management

2.5.2a

Is there a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency?

Yes, plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, but plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency. Responsibility for contact tracing under the 1950 Epidemic Act is assigned to federal, regional and local-level health authorities, primarily local-level. [1] A list in article 3 of agencies and organizations required to notify health authorities of any cases of notifiable infectious diseases does not include the border authorities or police. [1] No information on contact tracing activity by border authorities was found on the website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Ministry of Social Assistance, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [2, 3, 4] There are no provisions for involvement of border authorities in the Ministry of Social Security's July 2020

methodology for tracing SARS CoV-2 infections. [5]

- [1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl Nr. 186 / 1950. "Epidemic Law", ("Epidemiegesetz"). [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265]. Accessed 5 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry of the Interior. "Border police and border control", ("Fremden polizei und Grenzkontrolle"). [https://www.bmi.gv.at/202/Fremdenpolizei_und_Grenzkontrolle/]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. [https://www.sozialministerium.at/]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. [https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 30 July 2020. "Official work methodology for SARS-CoV-2 contact persons: contact tracing", ("Behördliche Vorgangsweise bei SARS-CoV-2 Kontaktpersonen: Kontaktpersonennachverfolgung"). [https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:3cab84f4-126f-46fc-9120-34fcfc463450/Beh%C3%B6rdliche%20Vorgangsweise%20bei%20SARS-CoV-2%20Kontaktpersonen_Kontaktpersonennachverfolgung%20(Stand%2014.04.2020)_FINAL.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.6 EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKFORCE

2.6.1 Applied epidemiology training program, such as the field epidemiology training program, for public health professionals and veterinarians (e.g., Field Epidemiology Training Program [FETP] and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians [FETPV])

2.6.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Applied epidemiology training program (such as FETP) is available in country
- Resources are provided by the government to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs (such as FETP)

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Applied epidemiology training programs are available in Austria, and the country has supported citizens in receiving such training abroad. The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) is an associate training center under the European center for Disease Control and Prevention's Fellowship programs, which offer two applied public health programs on consisting of a two-year fellowship for public health professionals, who are assigned to training sites with disease surveillance, epidemiology and public health centers. [1, 2] The AGES Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance is recognized by the EU program for field epidemiology (EUPIET) since 2002. [3] The AGES Department of Clinical Molecular Biology was recognized by the EU program for public health microbiology (EUPHEM) in 2017. [4] In 2017, AGES assisted Austrian citizens in receiving EPIET fellowships to participate in applied epidemiology training abroad. [5] However, no evidence of more recent participation was found in the AGES annual report for 2018, or on the Agency's website. [6]

[1] European center for Disease Prevention and Control. "Introduction to EPIET/EUPHEM".

[https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/epiet-euphem/about/intro]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] European center for Disease Prevention and Control. [https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/epiet-euphem/institutes]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] European center for Disease Prevention and Control. 2018. "Agency for Health and Food Safety." ("Agentur für

Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit - EPIET.") [<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/agentur-fur-gesundheit-und-ernahrungssicherheit-epiet>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] European center for Disease Prevention and Control. 31 August 2018. "Agency for Health and Food Safety." ("Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit - EUPHEM.") [<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/agentur-fur-gesundheit-und-ernahrungssicherheit-euphem-0>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 31 August 2018. "2017 Annual Report." ("2017 Jahresbericht.") [https://www.ages.at/download/0/0/1e37d9a9a30184964e2f479ea7bd424ab5e989d8/fileadmin/AGES2015/AGES_Jahresbericht_2017.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 31 January 2020. "2018 Annual Report." ("2018 Jahresbericht.") [<https://www.ages.at/service/service-presse/pressemeldungen/ages-jahresbericht-2018/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.6.1b

Are the available field epidemiology training programs explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals or is there a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

The available field epidemiology training programs are explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals. The European center for Disease Prevention and Control, which operates the European program for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) at the Austrian Agency for Food and Health includes veterinary medicine in the list of professional fields eligible for application to the training program in 2019. [1]

[1] European center for Disease Prevention and Control. 15 July 2019. "Call for application for cohort 2020 ECDC Fellowship program EPIET and EUPHEM paths, EU-track". [<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/work-us/call-application-cohort-2021-ecdc-fellowship-programme-epiet-and-euphem-paths-eu>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

2.6.2 Epidemiology workforce capacity

2.6.2a

Is there public evidence that the country has at least 1 trained field epidemiologist per 200,000 people?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

Completed JEE assessments; Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

Category 3: Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic

3.1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING

3.1.1 National public health emergency preparedness and response plan

3.1.1a

Does the country have an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential?

Evidence that there is a plan in place, and the plan is publicly available = 2, Evidence that the plan is in place, but the plan is not publicly available OR, Disease-specific plans are in place, but there is no evidence of an overarching plan = 1, No evidence that such a plan or plans are in place = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Austria has an overarching national public health emergency response plan addressing multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential is in place and is publicly available. The Epidemic Law (adopted 1950, last updated 2020) outlines instructions related to a number of diseases, including the reporting obligations for notifiable diseases, screening measures, and measures to be introduced during pandemics (such as isolation of infected individuals, disinfection, disposal of infected corpses, destruction of infected animals, restrictions on public gatherings, restrictions on certain business activities, travel restrictions, and hiring of extra medical personnel). [1] In addition to this, Austria has published specific plans for pandemics of influenza and ebola. The current version of the Influenza Pandemic Plan was adopted in 2006 and describes, among other things, the role of public services and particular hospitals, vaccination protocols, medication, and patient transport. [2] Two January 2020 media articles report that the national Influenza Pandemic Plan is undergoing revision to address the coronavirus pandemic, but no more up-to-date information on this process was found. [3, 4] On the basis of the national Influenza Pandemic Plan, three of Austria's nine constituent regions (Styria, Tyrol and Vienna) have published their own influenza plans. [5, 6, 7] A national Ebola Emergency Plan was published in 2015 as a response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. [8] Furthermore, two of Austria's nine constituent regions (Carinthia and Styria) have published their own general pandemic plans. [9, 10]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.")

[https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[3] Medin Live. 30 January 2020. "Austrian pandemic plan is currently being revised", ("Österreichischer Pandemieplan wird derzeit überarbeitet"). [<https://www.medinlive.at/gesundheitspolitik/oesterreichischer-pandemieplan-wird-derzeit-ueberarbeitet>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[4] Vienna Online. 30 January 2020. "Information about coronavirus to be integrated into the Vienna pandemic plan", ("Infos über Coronavirus werden in Wiener Pandemieplan integriert"). [<https://www.vienna.at/infos-ueber-coronavirus-werden-in-wiener-pandemieplan-integriert/6504387>]. Accessed 5 August 2020.

[5] Medical Directorate of Styria. 2008. "Influenza Pandemic Plan for the Land of Styria." ("Influenza-Pandemie-Planung für das Land Steiermark.")

[https://www.gesundheit.steiermark.at/cms/dokumente/11682672_72561200/e6b3918c/IPPL_Steiermark_08_2Auflage.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

- [6] Medical Directorate of Tyrol. "Influenza Pandemic Plan." ("Influenza-Pandemieplan.") [https://www.tirol.gv.at/fileadmin/themen/gesundheit-vorsorge/lds-sanitaetsdirektion/downloads/Influenza/Pandemieplan_Wirtschaftskammer.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [7] Medical Directorate of Vienna. 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan for Vienna." ("Influenza-Pandemieplanung für Wien.") [<https://www.wien.gv.at/gesundheit/sandirektion/pdf/pandemieplan.pdf>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [8] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [9] Medical Directorate of Carinthia. 26 June 2017. "Carinthian Infection Protection Framework Plan." ("Kärntner Rahmenplan Infektionsschutz.") [<https://www.ktn.gv.at/DE/sitemap/KTN/Themen-AZ/Details?thema=151&detail=742>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [10] Medical Directorate of Styria. 2016. "Styrian Epidemic Plan." ("Steirischer Seuchenplan.") [https://www.gesundheit.steiermark.at/cms/dokumente/11681099_72561200/51debcea/SP2016final.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.1.1b

If an overarching plan is in place, has it been updated in the last 3 years?

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria's overarching national public health emergency response plan has been updated in the last 3 years. The Epidemic Law outlines instructions related to a number of diseases, as well as reporting obligations, quarantine measures and the restrictions to which infected persons are subject. [1] The law was first adopted in 1950 and has since been amended 17 times, including once in 2018 and four times in 2020 so far, in relation to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. [1] The most recent amendment, introduced on 7 July 2020, added a clause stating that claims for remuneration of earnings lost as a result of measures taken in relation to the current coronavirus pandemic must be submitted within three months of the measures being introduced. [2]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. I Nr. 62/2020. "Amending the 1950 Epidemic Law." ("Mit dem das Epidemiegesetz 1950 geÃ¤ten;ndert wird.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2020_I_62/BGBLA_2020_I_62.html]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.1.1c

If an overarching plan is in place, does it include considerations for pediatric and/or other vulnerable populations?

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria's overarching national public health emergency response plan includes considerations for pediatric and other vulnerable populations. The Epidemic Law (adopted 1950, last amended 2020) outlines instructions related to a number of diseases, as well as reporting obligations, quarantine measures and the restrictions to which infected persons are subject. [1] The law has several clauses relating specifically to children, as well as some pertaining to vulnerable people in general. Article 3 states that principals of state and private schools and pre-schools are obliged to notify the authorities of suspected cases of

notifiable diseases among pupils or staff. Article 9 states that schools, pre-schools and similar establishments can exclude individuals who live in an area or building where a notifiable disease has occurred. Article 18 states that in the case of an outbreak of a notifiable diseases the authorities can order the closure of schools, pre-schools and similar establishments, and the affected establishments must comply with the order immediately. Article 17 states that the authorities can order vaccinations or the provision of prophylactic medicine for particular vulnerable individuals. Article 5a states that during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic the authorities can conduct screening programs for particular population groups and professional groups who are at particularly high risk of infection.

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.")
[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.1.1d

Does the country have a publicly available plan in place specifically for pandemic influenza preparedness that has been updated since 2009?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH)

3.1.2 Private sector involvement in response planning

3.1.2a

Does the country have a specific mechanism(s) for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of specific mechanisms for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response. Article 3 of the Epidemic Law (published 1950, last updated 2016) mandates the following groups to notify the authorities of notifiable diseases that they detect, diagnose or suspect: doctors, heads of medical facilities, laboratories, midwives, school principals, pre-school principals, owners of rented accommodation, owners of businesses in the hospitality sector and pathologists. [1] Articles 27 and 27a of the same law allow the authorities to hire "epidemic doctors" and other qualified professionals if extra capacity is required to respond to an outbreak. The law also contains several articles allowing the authorities to restrict the activities of private businesses. However, the Epidemic Law does not outline any more substantial mechanisms for engaging with the private sector. [1] The Influenza Pandemic Plan (adopted 2006) refers to using private clinics' capacities in the case of a health emergency, but it does not go into detail about potential partnerships with the private sector [2]. The Ebola Emergency Plan (adopted 2015) does not outline any measures related to cooperation with the private sector. [3] No evidence of mechanisms for engaging with the private sector was found the websites of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety or the Ministry of Internal Affairs. [4, 5, 6]

- [1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.") [https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [5] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.1.3 Non-pharmaceutical interventions planning

3.1.3a

Does the country have a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic?

Yes, a policy, plan and/or guidelines are in place for more than one disease = 2, Yes, but the policy, plan and/or guidelines exist only for one disease = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Austria has a policy in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions, and it is applicable to all infectious diseases. The Epidemic Law (adopted 1950, last amended 2020) contains numerous provisions for non-pharmaceutical interventions. [1] The law does not outline specific criteria for these interventions' introduction, but article 6 states that in all cases (and suspected cases) of notifiable diseases, the necessary measures must be taken without delay, until the risk of infection has passed. Measures include isolation of infected persons (article 7), disinfection (article 8), exclusion of individuals from educational establishments (article 9), restrictions on use of public swimming pools and bodies of water (article 10), restrictions on businesses providing food (article 11), restrictions on entering private spaces (article 12), restrictions on treatment of corpses (article 13), extermination of animals (article 14), restrictions on public gatherings (article 15), social distancing requirements (article 15), surveillance of particular persons (article 17), closure of educational establishments (article 18), restrictions on door-to-door selling (article 19), restrictions on the operations of private companies (article 20), labelling the places where infected persons reside (article 21), evacuation of residential buildings (article 22), restrictions on the circulation of particular objects (article 23), restrictions on the movement of persons (article 24), restrictions on crossing Austria's border (article 25) and restrictions on public transport (article 26). [1] Article 40 introduces a fine of up to EUR 1,450 (US\$ 1,715) for violations of any of these rules. [1] Austria has not published a specific plan to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has passed several laws, introducing several of the restrictions mentioned in the Epidemic Law, including restrictions on public gatherings and mandatory closure of many businesses and public spaces. [2, 3, 4, 5]

- [1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [2] Government of the Republic of Austria. "Legal basis." ("Rechtliche Grundlagen.") [https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/coronavirus_in_oesterreich/Rechtliche-Grundlagen.html]. Accessed 6 August 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 7 August 2020. "Coronavirus – Legal matters."

("Coronavirus - Rechtliches.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Coronavirus---Rechtliches.html>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[4] Austria Presse Agentur. "Coronavirus in Austria: An overview of all of the government's measures." ("Coronavirus in Österreich: Alle Maßnahmen der Regierung im Überblick.") [<https://www.vienna.at/coronavirus-in-oesterreich-alle-massnahmen-der-regierung-im-ueberblick/6554258>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[5] International Monetary Fund. "Policy Responses to COVID-19." [<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.2 EXERCISING RESPONSE PLANS

3.2.1 Activating response plans

3.2.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence that the country has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year?

- Is there evidence that the country has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

In the past year, Austria has activated its national emergency response plan for an infectious disease, but there is no public evidence that it has completed a national-level exercise focused on a biological threat. Although there is no evidence that the Austrian government has formally announced the activation of an emergency response plan, Austria has put in place numerous measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From 16 March people were forbidden from leaving their homes except to work (if they could not work from home), to buy essentials, to help others, or to go for short strolls. [1, 2] Correspondingly, from 16–17 March educational establishments, places of worship, bars, restaurants, cafés and non-essential shops were forced to close. [1, 2] Austria has passed several laws in relation to the pandemic, including the introduction of amendments to the Epidemic Law. [3, 4] The World Health Organization does not list Austria as having conducted or planning to conduct any simulation exercises. [5]

[1] Austria Presse Agentur. "Coronavirus in Austria: An overview of all of the government's measures." ("Coronavirus in Österreich: Alle Maßnahmen der Regierung im Überblick.") [<https://www.vienna.at/coronavirus-in-oesterreich-alle-massnahmen-der-regierung-im-ueberblick/6554258>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] International Monetary Fund. "Policy Responses to COVID-19." [<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 7 August 2020. "Coronavirus – Legal matters." ("Coronavirus - Rechtliches.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Coronavirus---Rechtliches.html>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[4] Government of the Republic of Austria. "Legal basis." ("Rechtliche Grundlagen.") [https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/coronavirus_in_oesterreich/Rechtliche-Grundlagen.html]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[5] World Health Organization. "Simulation Exercise." [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.2.1b

Is there evidence that the country in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities?

Yes, the country has developed and published a plan to improve response capacity = 2 , Yes, the country has developed a plan to improve response capacity, but has not published the plan = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has in the past year identified a list of gaps and best practices in pandemic response through an exercise focused on biological threats. None of the World Health Organization's webpages list Austria as ever having conducted an exercise focused on biological threats. [1, 2, 3] There is no evidence that any relevant exercise has been conducted in the past year, or is currently planned, on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety or the Federal Ministry for Internal Affairs. [4, 5, 6] In November 2005 Austria participated in a two-day tabletop simulation exercise organized by the European Union, which tested national and international pandemic preparedness. [7, 8] In March 2006 a hospital in Linz carried out Austria's first large-scale practical pandemic simulation exercise, which involved more than 50 participants, including doctors, the Red Cross and the military. [9]

[1] World Health Organization. "After Action Review." [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/after-action-review>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. "Austria". [<http://www.who.int/countries/aut/en/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization Region Office for Europe. "Austria." [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/austria>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[5] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[7] Austria Presse Agentur. 26 April 2009. "Health Ministry: National Influenza Pandemic Plan protects the Austrian population." ("Gesundheitsministerium: Nationaler Influenza-Pandemieplan gewährleistet Schutz der Österreicher Bevölkerung.") [https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20090426_OTS0031/gesundheitsministerium-nationaler-influenza-pandemieplan-gewaehrleistet-schutz-der-oesterreichischen-bevoelkerung]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[8] European Commission. 30 March 2006. "Pandemic Influenza: Commission publishes evaluators' report on simulation exercise." [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_06_406]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[9] Der Standard. "Pandemic: First large exercise in Austria." ("Pandemie: Erstmals große Übung in Österreich.") [<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2381938/pandemie-erstmals-grosse-uebung-in-oesterreich>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.2.2 Private sector engagement in exercises

3.2.2a

Is there evidence that the country in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has in the past year undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives. None of the World Health Organization's webpages list Austria as ever having

conducted an exercise focused on biological threats. [1, 2, 3] There is no evidence that any relevant exercise has been conducted in the past year, or is currently planned, on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety or the Federal Ministry for Internal Affairs. [4, 5, 6] In November 2005 Austria participated in a two-day tabletop simulation exercise organized by the European Union, which tested national and international pandemic preparedness. [7, 8] In March 2006 a hospital in Linz carried out Austria's first large-scale practical pandemic simulation exercise, which involved more than 50 participants, including doctors, the Red Cross and the military. [9]

[1] World Health Organization. "Simulation Exercise." [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. "Austria". [<http://www.who.int/countries/aut/en/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization Region Office for Europe. "Austria." [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/austria>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[5] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[7] Austria Presse Agentur. 26 April 2009. "Health Ministry: National Influenza Pandemic Plan protects the Austrian population." ("Gesundheitsministerium: Nationaler Influenza-Pandemieplan gewÃ¤t;hrlleistet Schutz der Ã¶sterreichischen BevÃ¶lkerung.")

[https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20090426_OTSO031/gesundheitsministerium-nationaler-influenza-pandemieplan-gewaehrleistet-schutz-der-oesterreichischen-bevoelkerung]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[8] European Commission. 30 March 2006. "Pandemic Influenza: Commission publishes evaluators' report on simulation exercise." [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_06_406]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[9] Der Standard. "Pandemic: First large exercise in Austria." ("Pandemie: Erstmals groÃŸe Ãœbung in Ã-sterreich.") [<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2381938/pandemie-erstmals-grosse-uebung-in-oesterreich>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATION

3.3.1 Emergency response operation

3.3.1a

Does the country have in place an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has an emergency operations center. The coordination of national crisis and disaster management fall within the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [1] The ministry's website does not present definitions of crises or disasters, but it explicitly includes pandemics in its risk matrix. [2] Within the ministry is the Operations and Coordination Center, within which is the Federal Alarm Center (FAC). [1, 3] The FAC serves as a 24-hour information hub and national contact point. [1, 3] Crisis and disaster management is mainly the responsibility of the Austria's nine top-level territorial divisions (Bundesländer), but the Ministry of Internal Affairs coordinates among the Bundesland governments and other relevant authorities and rescue organizations at all administrative levels. [1, 3]

[1] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. "State crisis and disaster management." ("Staatliches Krisen- und Katastrophenmanagement.") [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/SKKM/start.aspx>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. "Disaster management." ("Katastrophenmanagement.") [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Katastrophenmanagement/start.aspx>]. Accessed 25 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. "Federal Alarm Center." ("Bundeswarnzentrale.") [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/SKKM/Bundeswarnzentrale.aspx>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.3.1b

Is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) required to conduct a drill for a public health emergency scenario at least once per year or is there evidence that they conduct a drill at least once per year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that the emergency operations center is required to conduct annual drills for public health emergency scenarios, or that it does so in practice. There is no evidence of such a requirement – or of drills being conducted – on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [1, 2] The coordination of national crisis and disaster management fall within the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [3] Within the ministry is the Operations and Coordination Center (OCC), within which is the Federal Alarm Center (FAC), which serves as Austria's emergency operations center. [3, 4] Every year on the first Saturday in October the FAC tests the sirens used to warn the public of emergencies, but this is simply to check that the equipment is functional, and does not involve wider drills. [5, 6]

[1] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. "State crisis and disaster management." ("Staatliches Krisen- und Katastrophenmanagement.") [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/SKKM/start.aspx>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. "Federal Alarm Center." ("Bundeswarnzentrale.") [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/SKKM/Bundeswarnzentrale.aspx>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[5] Government of the Republic of Austria. 30 April 2020. "Population warning." ("Bevölkerungswarnung.") [https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/gesundheit_und_notfaelle/katastrophenfaelle/2/Seite.29500311.html]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. 2019. "Civil protection alarm test." ("Zivilschutz-Probealarm.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/2019_BMI_Alarm_A4_hoch_V2.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.3.1c

Is there public evidence to show that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted within the last year a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Austria's emergency operations center has conducted a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise related to public health emergency within the last year in Austria. There is no evidence of this on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and

Consumer Protection. [1, 2]

[1] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.4 LINKING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES

3.4.1 Public health and security authorities are linked for rapid response during a biological event

3.4.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there public evidence that public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?
- Are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or other agreements between the public health and security authorities to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Austrian public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event, or that there are publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, memoranda of understanding or other agreements between the public health and security authorities to respond to potential deliberate biological events. There is no evidence of either of these things on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the military or the Civil Protection Association. [1, 2, 3, 4] There is no mention of biological attacks in the Austrian Security Strategy (published 2013), the Guidelines on Risk Management in Disaster Management (published 2018) or the Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations (published 2007). [5, 6, 7]

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[3] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[4] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[5] Government of the Republic of Austria. July 2013. "Austrian Security Strategy." ("Österreichische Sicherheitsstrategie.") [https://bmi.gv.at/502/files/130717_Sicherheitsstrategie_Kern_A4_WEB_barrierefrei.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. December 2018. "Risk Management in Disaster Management. Guidelines." ("Risikomanagement im Katastrophenmanagement. Leitfaden.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/SKKM-Leitfaden_fuer_das_Risikomanagement_Version_1_0.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[7] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. January 2007. "Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations." ("Richtlinie für das Führen im Katastropheneinsatz.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/Richtlinie_fuer_das_Fuehren_im_Kat-Einsatz_Letztfassung_BF_20200122.pdf]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

3.5 RISK COMMUNICATIONS

3.5.1 Public communication

3.5.1b

Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) outline how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs (eg different languages, location within the country, media reach)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of plans, legislation, regulations, strategies or other documents that outline how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communicational needs. The national-level Influenza Pandemic Plan (adopted 2006) and Ebola Emergency Plan (adopted 2015) contain risk communication plans, but do not address how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communicational needs. [1, 2] The Guidelines on Risk Management in Disaster Management, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2018, also addresses risk communication, and states that communication must take into account the specific needs of different audiences, but does not outline any specific measures to do so. [3] The Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2007, briefly notes the importance of communication, but does not outline address populations or sectors with different communicational needs. [4] The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs offers a mobile telephone application called KATWARN Österreich/Austria, which people can download to receive notifications related to risks and crises, but it is only available in German and there is no public evidence that it takes into account populations and sectors with different communicational needs, nor is there any public evidence that the application is governed by a specific plan, strategy, law, regulation or other document. [5, 6] However, during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic the Austrian Integration Fund (a state body responsible for facilitating migrants' integration) provides information about coronavirus and related government measures on its website in 17 languages (Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hungarian, Kurdish, Pashto, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Somali, Turkish and Ukrainian) and via a telephone helpline in some but not all of these languages. [7] There is no further relevant information on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the military or the Civil Protection Association. [8, 9, 10, 11]

[1] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.")

[https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. December 2018. "Risk Management in Disaster Management. Guidelines." ("Risikomanagement im Katastrophenmanagement. Leitfaden.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/SKKM-Leitfaden_fuer_das_Risikomanagement_Version_1_0.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. January 2007. "Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations." ("Richtlinie für das Führen im Katastropheneinsatz.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/Richtlinie_fuer_das_Fuehren_im_Kat-Einsatz_Letzfassung_BF_20200122.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. "KATWARN Österreich/Austria." [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/katwarn/start.aspx>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[6] Google Play. "KATWARN Österreich/Austria." [<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=at.gv.bmi.KATWARN>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[7] Austrian Integration Fund. "Coronavirus Safety Measures in 17 Languages." ("Corona-Sicherheitsmaßnahmen in 17 Sprachen.") [<https://www.integrationsfonds.at/coronainfo/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[8] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[9] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[10] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[11] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

3.5.1 Risk communication planning

3.5.1a

Does the country have in place, either in the national public health emergency response plan or in other legislation, regulation, or strategy documents, a section detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has in place national-level risk communication plans for outbreaks of specific diseases (influenza and ebola), but no risk communication plan for public health emergencies in general. Two national disease-specific plans, the Influenza Pandemic Plan (adopted 2006) and the Ebola Emergency Plan (adopted 2015), each have a chapter dedicated to communication, presenting a strategy for the event of an outbreak. [1, 2]

The Guidelines on Risk Management in Disaster Management, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2018, contains a chapter dedicated to risk communication. [3] This chapter outlines various principles of effective risk communication, but does not detail the specifics of how communication will be handled in an emergency, and does not specifically mention public health (though the document as a whole does). [3]

The Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2007, briefly notes the importance of communication, but does not outline a risk communication strategy. [4]

The only item of legislation pertaining to risk communication is the Agreement on the Distribution and Use of Funds Available for a Warning and Alarm System and Granting Mutual Rights to Use the Facilities of this System, a 1988 agreement between the federal government and the governments of the country's nine constituent regions. [5] This agreement briefly describes the physical nationwide warning and alarm system, but does not outline a strategy for its use. [5]

There is no mention of risk communication in the Epidemic Law (adopted 1950, last amended 2020) or the Security Strategy (adopted 2013). [6, 7]

At the sub-national level, risk communication measures are outlined in Carinthia's and Styria's epidemic plans, Styria's and Vienna's influenza plans and the disaster response laws of Burgenland, Lower Austria, Salzburg, Tyrol, Upper Austria, Vienna and Vorarlberg. [8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18] There is no coverage of risk communication in Tyrol's influenza plan, Carinthia's disaster law or Styria's disaster law. [19, 20, 21]

The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs offers a mobile telephone application called KATWARN Österreich/Austria, which people can download to receive notifications related to risks and crises, but there is no public evidence that this is

governed by a specific plan, strategy, law, regulation or other document. [22]

- [1] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.") [https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.") [https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. December 2018. "Risk Management in Disaster Management. Guidelines." ("Risikomanagement im Katastrophenmanagement. Leitfaden.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/SKKM-Leitfaden_fuer_das_Risikomanagement_Version_1_0.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. January 2007. "Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations." ("Richtlinie für das Führen im Katastropheneinsatz.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/Richtlinie_fuer_das_Fuehren_im_Kat-Einsatz_Letztfassung_BF_20200122.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [5] Austrian Federal Government and the Governments of Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna. Agreement BGBl. Nr. 87/1988. "Agreement on the Distribution and Use of Funds Available for a Warning and Alarm System in Accordance with Article 4 Part 2 of the Disaster Fund Law BGBl. Nr. 396/1986 and Granting Mutual Rights to Use the Facilities of this System." ("über die Aufteilung und Verwendung der nach § 4 Z 2 des Katastrophenfondsgesetzes 1986, BGBl. Nr. 396, zur Verfügung stehenden Mittel für ein Warn- und Alarmsystem sowie die Einrüumung wechselseitiger Benütigungsrechte an den Anlagen dieses Systems.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10000925]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [6] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [7] Government of the Republic of Austria. July 2013. "Austrian Security Strategy." ("Österreichische Sicherheitsstrategie.") [https://bmi.gv.at/502/files/130717_Sicherheitsstrategie_Kern_A4_WEB_barrierefrei.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [8] Medical Directorate of Carinthia. 26 June 2017. "Carinthian Infection Protection Framework Plan." ("Kürntner Rahmenplan Infektionsschutz.") [https://www.ktn.gv.at/DE/sitemap/KTN/Themen-AZ/Details?thema=151&detail=742]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [9] Medical Directorate of Styria. 2016. "Styrian Epidemic Plan." ("Steirischer Seuchenplan.") [https://www.gesundheit.steiermark.at/cms/dokumente/11681099_72561200/51debcea/SP2016final.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [10] Medical Directorate of Styria. 2008. "Influenza Pandemic Plan for the Land of Styria." ("Influenza-Pandemie-Planung für das Land Steiermark.") [https://www.gesundheit.steiermark.at/cms/dokumente/11682672_72561200/e6b3918c/IPPL_Steiermark_08_2Auflage.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [11] Medical Directorate of Vienna. 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan for Vienna." ("Influenza-Pandemieplanung für Wien.") [https://www.wien.gv.at/gesundheitsdirektion/pdf/pandemieplan.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [12] Parliament of Burgenland. Law LGBl. Nr. 5/1986. "On averting and combatting disasters." ("Über die Abwehr und Bekümpfung von Katastrophen.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrBgl&Gesetzesnummer=10000189]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [13] Parliament of Lower Austria. Law LGBl. Nr. 70/2016. "On disaster assistance." ("Katastrophenhilfegesetz.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrNO&Gesetzesnummer=20001126]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [14] Parliament of Salzburg. Law LGBl Nr 3/1975. "On averting and combatting disasters." ("Über die Abwehr und Bekümpfung von Katastrophen.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrSbg&Gesetzesnummer=10000235>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[15] Parliament of Tyrol. Law LGBl. Nr. 33/2006. "On disaster management in Tyrol." ("Über das Katastrophenmanagement in Tirol.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrT&Gesetzesnummer=20000180>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[16] Parliament of Upper Austria. Law Oöml; KatSchG. "On enacting provisions for disaster control in Upper Austria." ("Mit dem Bestimmungen über den Katastrophenschutz in Oberösterreich erlassen werden.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LROO&Gesetzesnummer=20000459>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[17] Parliament of Vienna. Law W-KKG. "On measures to manage disasters, major loss events and complex loss events, as well as the establishment of a crisis management system." ("Über Maßnahmen zur Bew¨tigung von Katastrophen, Großschadensereignissen und komplexen Schadensereignissen sowie die Einrichtung eines Krisenmanagements." [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrW&Gesetzesnummer=20000075>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[18] Parliament of Vorarlberg. Law LGBl.Nr. 47/1979. "On assistance in disaster situations." ("Über die Hilfe in Katastrophenf¨llen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrVbg&Gesetzesnummer=20000269>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[19] Medical Directorate of Tyrol. "Influenza Pandemic Plan." ("Influenza-Pandemieplan.")

[https://www.tirol.gv.at/fileadmin/themen/gesundheit-vorsorge/lds-sanitaetsdirektion/downloads/Influenza/Pandemieplan_Wirtschaftskammer.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[20] Parliament of Carinthia. Law LGBl Nr 66/1980. "On measures to combat the effects of disasters." ("Über Maßnahmen zur Bek¨mpfung von Katastrophenfolgen.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=10000076>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[21] Parliament of Styria. Law LGBl. Nr. 62/1999. "On averting and combatting disasters." ("Über die Abwehr und Bek¨mpfung von Katastrophen.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrStmk&Gesetzesnummer=20000308>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[22] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. "KATWARN Österreich/Austria."

[<https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/katwarn/start.aspx>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

3.5.1c

Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) designate a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a plan, strategy, regulation or law that designates a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency. There is no such provision in the Influenza Pandemic Plan, the Ebola Emergency Plan, the Guidelines on Risk Management in Disaster Management, the Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations, the Epidemic Law or the Security Strategy. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] There is no evidence of such a designation on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the military or the Civil Protection Association. [7, 8, 9, 10]

[1] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie fÄr Ästerreich.")

[https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>].

Accessed 11 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. December 2018. "Risk Management in Disaster Management. Guidelines." ("Risikomanagement im Katastrophenmanagement. Leitfaden.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/SKKM-Leitfaden_fuer_das_Risikomanagement_Version_1_0.pdf]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. January 2007. "Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations." ("Richtlinie für das Führen im Katastropheneinsatz.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/Richtlinie_fuer_das_Fuehren_im_Kat-Einsatz_Letztfassung_BF_20200122.pdf]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[5] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[6] Government of the Republic of Austria. July 2013. "Austrian Security Strategy." ("Österreichische Sicherheitsstrategie.") [https://bmi.gv.at/502/files/130717_Sicherheitsstrategie_Kern_A4_WEB_barrierefrei.pdf]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[7] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[8] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[9] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[10] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

3.5.2 Public communication

3.5.2a

In the past year, is there evidence that the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or disinformation?

Public health system regularly shares information on health concerns = 2, Public health system shares information only during active emergencies, but does not regularly utilize online media platforms = 1, Public health system does not regularly utilize online media platforms, either during emergencies or otherwise = 0

Current Year Score: 2

In the past year, the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns. On its website, the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) provides detailed information about the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, including regularly updated figures for confirmed cases, deaths, hospitalizations, recoveries and tests, as well as information about preventive measures, government restrictions and the virus in general. [1, 2] Information about the virus and related measures is also provided on the website of the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), on central government website Oesterreich.gov.at, on tourist-oriented website Austria.info and on the website of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [3, 4, 5, 6] The BMSGPK also regularly posts information about the ongoing pandemic and other issues on Facebook and Twitter, as do head of government Sebastian Kurz and head of state Alexander Van der Bellen. [7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12] Prior to the coronavirus pandemic reaching Austria in early 2020, the BMSGPK regularly shared information about health matters, including measles vaccinations, blood donation, the dangers of excessive antibiotic use, and a ban on smoking in restaurants. [13]

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 7 August 2020. "Coronavirus." ("Coronavirus.") [[https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Neuartiges-Coronavirus-\(2019-nCov\).html](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Neuartiges-Coronavirus-(2019-nCov).html)]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 7 August 2020. "Official COVID19 Dashboard." ("Amtliches Dashboard COVID19.") [<https://info.gesundheitsministerium.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

- [3] Agency for Health and Food Safety. 22 July 2020. "Coronavirus." ("Coronavirus.") [https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/coronavirus/]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [4] Government of the Republic of Austria. "Together against the coronavirus. The most important information and how we protect ourselves." ("Gemeinsam gegen das Coronavirus. Die wichtigsten Infos und wie wir uns schützen.") [https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/public.html]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [5] Austria.info. 6 August 2020. "Up-to-date Information on the Coronavirus Situation." [https://www.austria.info/en/service-and-facts/coronavirus-information]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. 7 August 2020. "Current coronavirus figures." ("Aktuelle Zahlen zum Corona-Virus.") [https://bmi.gv.at/news.aspx?id=4A7171477A51625143334D3D]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "@sozialministerium." Facebook. [https://www.facebook.com/sozialministerium/]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [8] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "@bmsgpk." Twitter. [https://twitter.com/bmsgpk]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [9] Sebastian Kurz. "@sebastiankurz.at." Facebook. [https://www.facebook.com/sebastiankurz.at/]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [10] Sebastian Kurz. "@sebastiankurz." Twitter. [https://twitter.com/sebastiankurz]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [11] Alexander Van der Bellen. "@vanderbellen." Twitter. [https://twitter.com/vanderbellen]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [12] Alexander Van der Bellen. "@alexandervanderbellen." Facebook. [https://www.facebook.com/alexandervanderbellen]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [13] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Archive 2019. News items from 2019." ("Archiv 2019. Newsmeldungen aus dem Jahr 2019.") [https://www.sozialministerium.at/Services/News-und-Events/Archiv-2019.html].

3.5.2b

Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years?

No = 1, Yes = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that senior leaders have shared disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years. There is no evidence of this in Austrian or international media outlets. There has however been one case of a senior leader making a potentially misleading statement. In late March 2020 Austria's head of government, Sebastian Kurz, said in an interview that "soon all of us will know someone who has died of coronavirus". [1] Some opposition politicians and media outlets have alleged that the evidence at the time did not support this prediction, which they allege was deliberately intended to spread fear, so as to scare people into taking the virus seriously and complying with preventive rules and recommendations. [2, 3, 4, 5] Kurz's claim was allegedly based on an unpublished paper of uncertain provenance, which predicted infection rates and death rates much higher than the models used by the health ministry's simulation expert. [5] There is no further evidence on international and national news outlets.

[1] Kleine Zeitung. "Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz: 'Soon all of us will know someone who has died of coronavirus'." ("Bundeskanzler Sebastian Kurz: 'Bald wird jeder von uns jemanden kennen, der an Corona gestorben ist'.") [https://www.kleinezeitung.at/politik/innenpolitik/5793215/Bundeskanzler-Sebastian-Kurz_Bald-wird-jeder-von-uns-jemanden]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[2] Eric Frey. 27 April 2020. "Kurz's fearmongering has achieved its purpose." ("Kurz' Angstmache hat ihren Zweck erfÃ¼lt.") Der Standard. [https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000117145972/kurz-angstmache-hat-seinen-zweck-erfuellt]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[3] Kurier. 27 April 2020. "Remove all restrictions? We would have had a second wave within two months." ("Alle

Beschränkungen aufheben? 'Hätten innerhalb von zwei Monaten eine zweite Welle'.")
[https://kurier.at/politik/inland/alle-beschaenkungen-aufheben-haetten-innerhalb-von-zwei-monaten-eine-zweite-welle/400825709]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[4] Der Standard. 27 April 2020. "Minutes of the Corona Taskforce meeting about a lack of fear in the population." ("Sitzungsprotokoll der Taskforce Corona über zu wenig Angst in der Bevölkerung.")
[https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000117131591/sitzungsprotokoll-der-taskforce-corona-ueber-zu-wenig-angst-in-der]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[5] Österreichischer Rundfunk. 27 April 2020. "Outcry over rumored fear strategy." ("Aufregung über kolportierte Angststrategie.") [https://orf.at/stories/3163480/]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

3.6 ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

3.6.1 Internet users

3.6.1a

Percentage of households with Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 87.75

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

3.6.2 Mobile subscribers

3.6.2a

Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

Input number

Current Year Score: 119.78

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

3.6.3 Female access to a mobile phone

3.6.3a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to a mobile phone

Input number

Current Year Score: 0

2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

3.6.4 Female access to the Internet

3.6.4a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to the Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 2.0

2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

3.7 TRADE AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

3.7.1 Trade restrictions

3.7.1a

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0 , No = 1

Current Year Score: 0

There is evidence that Austria has in the past year issued a restriction on the export or import of medical goods without international or bilateral support. On 14 March 2020, in light of the pandemic, the European Union (EU), of which Austria is a member, adopted Regulation 2020/402, under which special authorization was required to export personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, goggles, face shields and overalls) out of the EU. [1] On 23 April 2020 this was superseded by a new regulation, numbered 2020/568, under which authorization was required to export personal protective equipment out of the EU, except to Albania, Andorra, Bosnia, the Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Iceland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia and Switzerland. [2] On 26 May 2020 this rule expired, and special authorization was no longer required. [3] There is further no evidence of such restrictions on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs or the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. [4, 5, 6, 7]

[1] European Commission. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/402 of 14 March 2020. "Making the exportation of certain products subject to the production of an export authorisation." [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R0402]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[2] European Commission. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568 of 23 April 2020. "Making the exportation of certain products subject to the production of an export authorisation." [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0568]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs. "Personal protective equipment." ("Persönliche Schutzausrüstung.") [https://www.bmdw.gv.at/Themen/International/Au%C3%9Fenwirtschaftskontrollen/exportkontrolle-online/Antragstellung-Export/PSA-Antragstellung.html]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [https://www.sozialministerium.at/]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs [https://www.bmdw.gv.at/]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[7] Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

3.7.1b

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that Austria has in the past year issued a restriction on the export or import of non-medical goods without international or bilateral support. There is no evidence of such restrictions on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs or the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. [1, 2, 3, 4]

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs [<https://www.bmdw.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

3.7.2 Travel restrictions

3.7.2a

In the past year, has the country implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has in the past year, without international or bilateral support, implemented a ban on travellers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak. During the ongoing coronavirus pandemic Austria has unilaterally introduced significant restrictions on entering the country, but there is no evidence that it has unilaterally introduced any outright bans. Since March 2020 people arriving from certain locations, and people of certain nationalities, have only been allowed to enter the country if they present a certified negative coronavirus test result and/or undergo a period of self-isolation upon arrival (the specific requirements and the countries affected have varied over the course of the pandemic). [1, 2, 3] In addition, Austria has banned direct flights and trains from certain places, starting in March with Italy, South Korea and Iran. [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9] There is no evidence of Austria unilaterally banning arrival from any specific country on the website of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection or the World Health Organization. [10, 11, 12, 13] However, on 17 March the 27 member states of the European Union (EU) agreed to ban entry into the EU from all other countries (except for EU citizens, British citizens and people who live in the EU or the United Kingdom). [14] Since then the EU ban has been periodically reviewed, and entry has been allowed from certain countries. [15]

[1] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. 28 July 2020. "Coronavirus. Entering Austria." ("Corona-Virus. Einreise nach Österreich.") [<https://bmi.gv.at/news.aspx?id=6848727832704B4B752F633D>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[2] Österreichischer Rundfunk. 12 March 2020. "More and more countries close their borders." ("Immer mehr Länder machen Grenzen dicht.") [<https://orf.at/stories/3157596/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

- [3] Der Standard. 26 July 2020. "New rules for entering Austria apply from Monday." ("Neue Regeln für die Einreise nach Österreich gelten ab Montag.") [<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000118981517/zahl-der-infizierten-in-st-wolfgang-erhoeht-sich-auf-44>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [4] Österreichischer Rundfunk. 6 March 2020. "Flight ban for South Korea, northern Italy and Iran." ("Flugstopp nach Südkorea, Norditalien und in Iran.") [<https://orf.at/stories/3156909/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [5] Deutsche Presse-Agentur. 12 March 2020. "How travel destinations react to the corona crisis." ("Wie Reise Länder auf die Corona-Krise reagieren.") [<https://www.zeit.de/news/2020-03/09/wie-reiselaender-auf-die-corona-krise-reagieren>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [6] Aviation Net Online. 13 March 2020. "Austria bans flights from Spain, France and Switzerland." ("Österreich verbietet Flüge aus Spanien, Frankreich und der Schweiz.") [<https://www.austrianaviation.net/detail/oesterreich-verbietet-fluege-aus-spanien-frankreich-und-der-schweiz/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [7] Kleine Zeitung. 24 April 2020. "Continued landing ban for aircraft from coronavirus crisis countries." ("Weiterhin Landeverbot für Flugzeuge aus Coronavirus-Krisenländern.") [https://www.kleinezeitung.at/oesterreich/5805178/Oesterreich_Weiterhin-Landeverbot-fuer-Flugzeuge-aus]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [8] Der Standard. 30 June 2020. "Anschöber extended landing ban for right risk countries." ("Anschöber verlängerte Landverbote für acht Risikoländer.") [<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000118409817/anschöber-verlaengerte-landverbote-fuer-acht-risikolaender>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [9] Die Presse. 14 July 2020. "Austria bans flight landings from the Western Balkans." ("Österreich verbietet Landungen von Flügen aus dem Westbalkan.") [<https://www.diepresse.com/5839206/osterreich-verbietet-landungen-von-flugen-aus-dem-westbalkan>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [10] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [11] Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [12] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [13] World Health Organization. [<http://www.who.int/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [14] Deutsche Welle. 18 March 2020. "EU closes borders to foreigners to halt coronavirus spread: What to know." [<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-closes-borders-to-foreigners-to-halt-coronavirus-spread-what-to-know/a-52824499>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [15] Deutsche Welle. 30 June 2020. "EU agrees to reopen borders to 14 countries, extends travel ban for US tourists." [<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-agrees-to-reopen-borders-to-14-countries-extends-travel-ban-for-us-tourists/a-53986435>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

Category 4: Sufficient and robust health sector to treat the sick and protect health workers

4.1 HEALTH CAPACITY IN CLINICS, HOSPITALS, AND COMMUNITY CARE CENTERS

4.1.1 Available human resources for the broader healthcare system

4.1.1a

Doctors per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 516.97

2017

WHO; national sources

4.1.1b

Nurses and midwives per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 708.99

2017

WHO; national sources

4.1.1c

Does the country have a health workforce strategy in place (which has been updated in the past five years) to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has a national health workforce strategy in place to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce to address these shortcomings. There is no evidence of such a strategy on the website of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, HealthCare and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK), the Federal Ministry for Labor, Family and Youth, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW). [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] However, in accordance with article 13 of Law 218/1975 on the Employment of Foreigners, the BMSGPK and the BMDW annually publish a list of shortage occupations, and foreigners in these occupations are subject to a simplified immigration procedure if they wish to work in Austria. [6, 7] For 2020 the listed strategies include several medical professions, such as opticians, nurses, occupational therapists, speech therapists, biomedical analysts, radiologists, physiotherapists, orthoptists, x-ray assistants, clinical psychologists and psychotherapists. [8] In addition, Austria has several sub-national workforce strategies that address identified shortages in the health sector,

along with other fields. [9, 10]

- [1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry for Labor, Family and Youth. [<https://www.bmafj.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [3] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs [<https://www.bmdw.gv.at/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [6] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 218/1975 of 20 March 1975. "On the Employment of Foreigners." ("Mit dem die Beschäftigung von Ausländern geregelt wird.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008365>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [7] Migration.gv.at. "Professionals in shortage occupations." ("Fachkräfte in Mangelberufen.") [<https://www.migration.gv.at/de/formen-der-zuwanderung/dauerhafte-zuwanderung/fachkraefte-in-mangelberufen/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [8] Migration.gv.at. "Nationwide shortage occupations." ("Bundesweite Mangelberufe.") [<https://www.migration.gv.at/de/formen-der-zuwanderung/dauerhafte-zuwanderung/bundesweite-mangelberufe/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [9] Government of Carinthia. May 2015. "Employment and Qualification Strategy 2020+ for Carinthia." ("Beschäftigungs- und Qualifizierungsstrategie 2020+ für Kärnten.") [<https://www.ktn.gv.at/DE/sitemap/KTN/Themen-AZ/Details?thema=3&subthema=149&detail=727>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [10] Government of Upper Austria. February 2019. "Workplace Upper Austria 2030. Strategy to Secure Skilled Workers for Upper Austria." ("Strategie zur Sicherung der Fachkräfte für den Standort Oberösterreich.") [https://www.arbeitsplatz-oberoesterreich.at/fileadmin/user_upload/BizupWebsite/News/News-Bi/2019/Q1/Arbeitsmarktstrategie2030_Druckversion_komplett.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [11] Vienna Workers' Advancement Fund. "Vienna Qualification Plan 2030." ("Qualifikationsplan Wien 2030.") [<https://www.waff.at/qualifikationsplan-wien-2030/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

4.1.2 Facilities capacity

4.1.2a

Hospital beds per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 727

2018

WHO/World Bank; national sources

4.1.2b

Does the country have the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in patient isolation units located within the country. A news article from 2014 reports that Vienna's Kaiser Franz Josef Hospital (since renamed Favoriten Clinic) has an isolation unit suitable for isolating and treating ebola patients. [1] The article includes several photographs of the unit and reports that it can only be entered through a kind of air lock, which prevents air and pathogens from escaping the room. [1] The article further reports that medical staff enter the room in sealed protective suits, which are disinfected after they leave. [1] There is no mention of this isolation unit on the webpage of Favoriten Clinic's Department for Infectious and Tropical Medicine, but news reports from January and February 2020 report coronavirus patients being kept at the the hospital's isolation unit. [2, 3, 4] A June 2019 news article also reports the existence of an isolation unit suitable for housing ebola patients at Innsbruck University Clinic. [5]

[1] Die Presse. 2014. "Ebola isolation unit: Vienna would be prepared." ("Ebola-Isolierstation: Wien wäre vorbereitet.") [https://www.diepresse.com/3857995/ebola-isolierstation-wien-ware-vorbereitet]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[2] Favoriten Clinic. "Medical Department for Infectious and Tropical Medicine." ("Medizinische Abteilung mit Infektions- und Tropenmedizin.") [https://klinik-favoriten.gesundheitsverbund.at/leistung/4-medizinische-abteilung-mit-infektions-und-tropenmedizin/]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[3] Heute. 26 January 2020. "Coronavirus in Vienna: Now the hospital speaks." ("Coronavirus in Wien: Jetzt spricht das Spital.") [https://www.heute.at/s/coronavirus-in-wien-jetzt-spricht-das-spital-56072106]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[4] Heute. 27 February 2020. "Here Viennese corona patients are put in a special clinic." ("Hier wird Corona-Wiener in Spezialklinik überstellt.") [https://www.heute.at/s/hier-wird-corona-wiener-in-spezialklinik-uberstellt-56531820]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[5] Wiener Zeitung. 19 June 2019. "Innsbruck clinic practises ebola emergency." ("Innsbrucker Klinik übt Ebola-Notfall.") [https://www.wienerzeitung.at/nachrichten/chronik/oesterreich/2014731-Innsbrucker-Klinik-uebte-Ebola-Notfall.html]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

4.1.2c

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence that the country has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?

- Is there evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak or that it has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years.

There is no evidence of an existing or draft plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [1, 2]

Though news articles from January and February 2020 report covid-19 patients being kept in an isolation unit at Favoriten Clinic, in Vienna, there is no evidence to suggest that Austria expanded its isolation capacity from pre covid-19 capacity (prior to March 2020) in response to the pandemic. [3, 4] Media reporting does not provide details of the isolation unit, and there is no mention of this unit on the webpage of Favoriten Clinic's Department for Infectious and Tropical Medicine, but a news article from 2014 reports this hospital (then named Kaiser Franz Josef Hospital) having an isolation unit that can only be

entered through special air lock that prevents air and pathogens from escaping the room. [3, 4, 5, 6] This article describes the unit as suitable for isolating and treating ebola patients, and further reports that medical staff enter the room in sealed protective suits, which are disinfected after they leave. [6] The article contains several photographs of the unit. [6]

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 18 March 2021.

[2] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 6 August 2020.

[3] Heute. 26 January 2020. "Coronavirus in Vienna: Now the hospital speaks." ("Coronavirus in Wien: Jetzt spricht das Spital.") [<https://www.heute.at/s/coronavirus-in-wien-jetzt-spricht-das-spital-56072106>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[4] Heute. 27 February 2020. "Here Viennese corona patients are put in a special clinic." ("Hier wird Corona-Wiener in Spezialklinik überstellt.") [<https://www.heute.at/s/hier-wird-corona-wiener-in-spezialklinik-uberstellt-56531820>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[5] Favoriten Clinic. "Medical Department for Infectious and Tropical Medicine." ("Medizinische Abteilung mit Infektions- und Tropenmedizin.") [<https://klinik-favoriten.gesundheitsverbund.at/leistung/4-medizinische-abteilung-mit-infektions-und-tropenmedizin/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[6] Die Presse. 2014. "Ebola isolation unit: Vienna would be prepared." ("Ebola-Isolierstation: Wien wäre vorbereitet.") [<https://www.diepresse.com/3857995/ebola-isolierstation-wien-ware-vorbereitet/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

4.2 SUPPLY CHAIN FOR HEALTH SYSTEM AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

4.2.1 Routine health care and laboratory system supply

4.2.1a

Is there a national procurement protocol in place which can be utilized by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs?

Yes for both laboratory and medical supply needs = 2, Yes, but only for one = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

There a national procurement protocol in place that can be utilized by the health and agriculture ministries to acquire laboratory supplies and medical supplies for routine needs. The Law on the Award of Contracts (adopted 2018, last amended 2019) establishes federal procurement protocols that apply to all acquisitions by ministries, including the ministries responsible for health and agriculture (the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism). [1] The Federal Procurement Agency has a website for public procurement purposes, with a dedicated category called "medicine and laboratory", which currently has listings for diagnostic tests, hospital beds, negative-pressure wound therapy equipment and fluoroscopes, among other things. [2]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. I Nr. 65/2018. "On the award of contracts." ("Über die Vergabe von Aufträgen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20010295>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

[2] Federal Procurement Agency. "Current calls." ("Aktuelle Ausschreibungen.") [<https://www.bbg.gv.at/information/aktuelle-ausschreibungen/>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

4.2.2 Stockpiling for emergencies

4.2.2a

Does the country have a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

There is evidence that Austria has a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency. Austria has a stockpile of medical supplies, including personal protective equipment and medical countermeasures. In 2016 Austria's public health authorities reported that they had adequate stockpiles of protective masks and protective suits, as well as antiviral drugs and 80 barrels of the neuraminidase inhibitor Tamiflu, and so were prepared for a pandemic. [1] In March 2020, as the covid-19 pandemic was gaining ground in Austria, the head of government of Upper Austria (one of the country's nine constituent regions) confirmed that Upper Austria had a stockpile of 40,000 protective masks, which had been acquired in 2006. [2] Similarly, in March 2020, it was reported that Lower Austria (another of Austria's nine regions) had adequate supplies of protective masks. [3] In July 2020, the government reported that it had adequate supplies of antiviral drugs. [4] Furthermore, during the covid-19 pandemic Austria has had access to the European Union's RescEU stockpile, which contains medical supplies such as ventilators, personal protective equipment, vaccines and therapeutics, but there is no evidence that this stockpile will remain in place after the covid-19 pandemic is over. [5]

[1] Paul Donnerbauer. 10 March 2016. "Is Austria sufficiently prepared for the outbreak of a pandemic?" ("Ist Österreich auf den Ausbruch einer Pandemie genügend vorbereitet?"). Vice. [https://www.vice.com/de/article/ex8wem/ist-oesterreich-auf-den-ausbruch-einer-pandemie-genuegend-vorbereitet-147]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Markus Staudinger and Robert Stammler. 19 March 2020. "40,000 stored protective masks are ready for use." ("40.000 gelagerte Schutzmasken sind bereit für den Einsatz.") [https://www.nachrichten.at/oberoesterreich/gute-nachrichten-40000-schutzmasken-aus-lager-im-muehlviertel-freigegeben;art4,3242080]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Christine Haiderer. 18 March 2020. "Lower Austria's healthcare system in corona times." ("Das NÖ– Gesundheitswesen in Coronazeiten.") Niederösterreichische Nachrichten. [https://tab.noen.at/niederösterreich/politik/coronavirus-das-noe-gesundheitswesen-in-coronazeiten-niederösterreich-redaktionsfeed-coronavirus-gesundheitswesen-196779597]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Österreichischer Rundfunk. 1 July 2020. "US government buys up the bulk of Remdesivir production." ("US-Regierung kauft Remdesivir-Produktion weitgehend auf.") [https://orf.at/stories/3171847/]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[5] European Commission. 19 March 2020. "COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment." [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_476]. Accessed 18 March 2021.

4.2.2b

Does the country have a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Austria has stockpiles of laboratory supplies for national use during a public health emergency. There is no evidence of such stockpiles on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the military or the Civil Protection Association. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] In March 2020, in the context of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, it was reported that

there was a shortage of reagents in Austria. [6, 7] However, in April 2020 it was reported that Austria's laboratories had an adequate supply of reagents and other components necessary to carry out testing for covid-19, with the capacity to carry out 15,000 PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests per day. [8] During the COVID-19 pandemic, Austria has had access to the European Union's RescEU stockpile, which contains laboratory supplies, but there is no evidence that this stockpile will remain in place after the covid-19 pandemic is over. [5]

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Austria Presse Agentur. 27 March 2020. "Bundesländer want to increase their test capacity, but materials are scarce." ("Bundesländer wollen Testkapazitäten ausbauen: Material jedoch knapp.") [<https://www.vienna.at/bundeslaender-wollen-testkapazitaeten-ausbauen-material-jedoch-knapp/6570261>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[7] Österreichischer Rundfunk. 29 March 2020. "The 'eye of the needle' in testing." ("Das „Nadelöhr“ bei den Testungen.") [<https://orf.at/stories/3159619/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[8] Austria Presse Agentur. 24 April 2020. "Austria can carry out 15,000 PCR tests daily." ("Österreich kann täglich 15.000 PCR-Tests durchführen.") [<https://www.vienna.at/oesterreich-kann-taeglich-15-000-pcr-tests-durchfuehren/6597547>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] European Commission. 19 March 2020. "COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment." [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_476]. Accessed 18 March 2021.

4.2.2c

Is there evidence that the country conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency. There is no mention of such checks in the 1950 Epidemic Law, the 2006 Influenza Pandemic Plan or the 2015 Ebola Emergency Plan. [1, 2, 3] There is no evidence of such checks on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the armed forces, or the Civil Protection Association. [4, 5, 6, 7]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 18 March 2021.

[2] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.") [https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 618 March 2021.

[3] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 18 March 2021.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed

18 March 2021.

[5] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 18 March 2021.

[6] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 18 March 2021.

[7] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at>]. Accessed 18 March 2021.

4.2.3 Manufacturing and procurement for emergencies

4.2.3a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Austria has plans, agreements, or mechanisms to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity or procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) during public health emergencies.

There is no evidence of relevant plans, agreements or mechanisms in the Epidemic Law, the Influenza Pandemic Plan or the Ebola Emergency Plan, or on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Internal Affairs, the military, the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs or the Civil Protection Agency. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] However, in March 2020, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the federal government ordered 83 million pairs of gloves, 32 million surgical masks, 22 million filtering facepiece (FFP) masks, 405,000 sets of overalls, 40,000 plastic shoe covers, 30,500 pulse oximeters and 210 ventilators, as well as large quantities of disinfectant from German and Italian vendors. Nonetheless, there is no evidence of a pre-existing mechanism in place for such procurement. [9] In April 2020, the government made a deal for the formation of a consortium of Austrian firms to manufacture FFP masks, aimed at producing 100,000–500,000 masks per day. [10] In addition, in order to facilitate domestic production of personal protective equipment (PPE), in March 2020 Austria's standards organization, Austrian Standards, made the standards for PPE production publicly available free of charge. [11]

Austria has been part of the European Union (EU) Joint Procurement Agreement for Medical Countermeasures, which ensures that member states have access to medical countermeasures from abroad if necessary when a serious cross-border threat to health is registered. The agreement aims to "secure more equitable access to specific medical countermeasures and improved security of supply", as well as balancing prices for EU member states. It is also designed to ensure acquisition of vaccines, antivirals and medical countermeasures for serious cross-border threats to health [12].

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.")

[https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [6] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs [<https://www.bmdw.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [8] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [9] Addendum. 31 March 2020. "The shopping list." ("Die Einkaufsliste.") [<https://www.addendum.org/coronavirus/masken-oesterreich/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [10] Österreichischer Rundfunk. 4 April 2020. "Masks made in Austria come from Vorarlberg." ("Masken „made in Austria“ kommen aus Vorarlberg.") [<https://vorarlberg.orf.at/stories/3042503/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [11] Austrian Standards. 20 March 2020. "Coronavirus: standards for production of personal protective equipment are now accessible for free." ("Coronavirus: Standards für Produktion von persönlicher Schutzausrüstung jetzt kostenlos verfügbar.") [<https://www.austrian-standards.at/de/newsroom/pressemeldungen/coronavirus-standards-fuer-produktion-von-persoenlicher-schutzausruestung-jetzt-kostenlos-verfuegbar>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [12] European Commission. "Joint Procurement Of Medical Countermeasures". [https://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/joint_procurement_en]. Accessed 3 September 2020

4.2.3b

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has any plans or agreements to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity or procure laboratory supplies for national use during public health emergencies. There is no evidence of relevant plans or agreements in the Epidemic Law, the Influenza Pandemic Plan or the Ebola Emergency Plan, or on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Internal Affairs, the military, the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs or the Civil Protection Agency. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] In March 2020 it was reported that during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic the authorities of each of Austria's nine constituent regions are responsible for contracting private laboratories to carry out testing, though they are assisted in coordination by the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Austrian Society for Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Chemistry, and the federal government bears all costs. [9] In March and April it was reported that some laboratories in Austria had an adequate supply of reagents, but others did not, and there were difficulties in procuring it. [9, 10, 11]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.")

[https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [6] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs [<https://www.bmdw.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [8] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [9] Österreichischer Rundfunk. 29 March 2020. "The 'eye of the needle' in testing." ("Das „Nadelöhr“ bei den Testungen.") [<https://orf.at/stories/3159619/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [10] Austria Presse Agentur. 27 March 2020. "Bundesländer want to increase their test capacity, but materials are scarce." ("Bundesländer wollen Testkapazitäten ausbauen: Material jedoch knapp.") [<https://www.vienna.at/bundeslaender-wollen-testkapazitaeten-ausbauen-material-jedoch-knapp/6570261>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [11] Austria Presse Agentur. 24 April 2020. "Austria can carry out 15,000 PCR tests daily." ("Österreich kann täglich 15.000 PCR-Tests durchführen.") [<https://www.vienna.at/oesterreich-kann-taeglich-15-000-pcr-tests-durchfuehren/6597547>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

4.3 MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT

4.3.1 System for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) during a public health emergency

4.3.1a

Does the country have a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) for national use during a public health emergency (i.e., antibiotics, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a plan, program, or guidelines for dispensing medical countermeasures for national use during a public health emergency in Austria. Articles 94d and 94e of the Law on the Manufacture and Marketing of Medicinal Products (adopted 1983, last amended 2020) describe the special provisions that come into effect during public health emergencies: if the necessary supply of medicinal products to the population would otherwise be seriously jeopardized, the minister responsible for health can order the distribution of stockpiled medical countermeasures to pharmacies, medicinal product suppliers and other distributors. [1] However, the law does not give any outline how medical countermeasures would be dispensed. [1] There are no details on dispensing medical countermeasures in the 2006 Influenza Pandemic Plan or the 2015 Ebola Emergency Plan. [2, 3] There is no evidence of a relevant plan, program, or guidelines on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the military or the Civil Protection Association. [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 185/1983 of 2 March 1983. "On the manufacture and marketing of medicinal products." ("Über die Herstellung und das Inverkehrbringen von Arzneimitteln.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010441>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.") [https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>].

Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[7] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[8] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

4.3.2 System for receiving foreign health personnel during a public health emergency

4.3.2a

Is there a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence of a public plans to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to public health emergencies. As a member of the European Union, Austria has access to the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, which, among other things, provides support during public health emergencies. Within the ECDC agreement, there is insufficient evidence of a system for Austria to facilitate the arrival of health personnel to support such emergencies through the ECDC or the EU [1]. However, Austria has a number of bilateral agreements in place establishing support systems to send personnel in the case of an emergency. These 12 bilateral agreements foresee the provision of health personnel during emergencies (with Albania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland). [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13] Many of these agreements contain provisions on the legal basis and practicalities of entering and staying in the country, including visa considerations and acceptance of medical certifications. Within the scope of these agreements, the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Federal Alarm center serves as a contact point for co-ordination and co-operation [14]. No further evidence of specific guidelines for receiving health personnel on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the military, the Civil Protection Association or the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. [14, 15, 16, 17, 18].

[1] European center for Disease Prevention and Control. "ECDC activities on epidemic intelligence and outbreak response." [<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/what-we-do/ecdc-activities-epidemic-intelligence-and-outbreak-response>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] National Council of Austria. 2011. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Albania on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Republik Albanien über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20007357>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] National Council of Austria. 2006. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Croatia on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Republik Kroatien über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004867>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] National Council of Austria. 2000. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Czech Republic on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Vertrag zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Tschechischen Republik über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001085>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] National Council of Austria. 1992. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Bundesrepublik Deutschland über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10005818>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] National Council of Austria. 1998. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Hungary on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Republik Ungarn über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011105>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[7] National Council of Austria. 2005. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und dem Haschemitischen Königreich Jordanien über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004215>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[8] National Council of Austria. 1995. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und dem Fürstentum Liechtenstein über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010922>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[9] National Council of Austria. 2013. "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on mutual assistance in the event of natural disasters". ("Abkommen zwischen der Regierung der Republik Österreich und der Regierung der Republik Moldau über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Naturkatastrophen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbI/III/2013/226/20130813>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[10] National Council of Austria. 2019. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Russian Federation on mutual assistance with disasters human-caused emergencies and cooperation in their prevention". ("ABKOMMEN ZWISCHEN DER REGIERUNG DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH UND DER REGIERUNG DER RUSSISCHEN FÖDERATION.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2019_III_49/COO_2026_100_2_1628875.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[11] National Council of Austria. 1998. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Slovak Republic on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents". ("VERTRAG ZWISCHEN DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH UND DER SLOWAKISCHEN REPUBLIK ÜBER DIE ZUSAMMENARBEIT UND DIE GEGENSEITIGE HILFELEISTUNG BEI KATASTROPHEN.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011136>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[12] National Council of Austria. 1998. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Slovenia on co-operation for prevention and mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents". ("ABKOMMEN ZWISCHEN DER REGIERUNG DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH UND DER REGIERUNG DER REPUBLIK SLOWENIEN ÜBER DIE ZUSAMMENARBEIT BEI DER VORBEUGUNG UND GEGENSEITIGEN HILFELEISTUNG BEI KATASTROPHEN ODER SCHWEREN UNGLÜCKSFÄLLEN.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011108>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[13] National Council of Austria. 2002. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Swiss Confederation on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents". ("ABKOMMEN ZWISCHEN DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH UND DER SCHWEIZERISCHEN EIDGENOSSENSCHAFT ÜBER DIE GEGENSEITIGE HILFELEISTUNG BEI KATASTROPHEN ODER SCHWEREN UNGLÜCKSFÄLLEN.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001838>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

August 2020.

[14] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[15] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[16] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[17] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[18] Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

4.4 HEALTHCARE ACCESS

4.4.1 Access to healthcare

4.4.1a

Does the constitution explicitly guarantee citizens' right to medical care?

Guaranteed free = 4, Guaranteed right = 3, Aspirational or subject to progressive realization = 2, Guaranteed for some groups, not universally = 1, No specific provision = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

4.4.1b

Access to skilled birth attendants (% of population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 98.4

2016

WHO/World Bank/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

4.4.1c

Out-of-pocket health expenditures per capita, purchasing power parity (PPP; current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1078.72

2017

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

4.4.2 Paid medical leave

4.4.2a

Are workers guaranteed paid sick leave?

Paid sick leave = 2, Unpaid sick leave = 1, No sick leave = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

4.4.3 Healthcare worker access to healthcare

4.4.3a

Has the government issued legislation, a policy, or a public statement committing to provide prioritized healthcare services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that the government has issued legislation, a policy or a public statement committing to provide prioritized healthcare services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency. There is no such a provision in the Epidemic Law, the Influenza Pandemic Plan or the Ebola Emergency Plan. [1, 2, 3] There is no evidence of such a provision on the website of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Association of Social Insurance Providers or the Austrian Medical Association. [4, 5, 6]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.")

[https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Association of Social Insurance Providers. [<https://www.sozialversicherung.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Austrian Medical Association. [<https://www.aerztekammer.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

4.5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

4.5.1 Communication with healthcare workers

4.5.1a

Is there a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency. The Guidelines on Risk Management in Disaster Management, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2018, contains a chapter dedicated to risk communication. [1] This chapter outlines various principles of effective risk communication, but does not detail the specifics of how communication will be handled in an emergency, and does not specifically mention public health (though the document as a whole does). [1] The Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2007, briefly notes the importance of communication, but does not mention an emergency communication system. [2] There is no mention of a communication system in the Epidemic Law (adopted 1950, last amended 2020). [3] There is no evidence of a generalized or healthcare-specific emergency communication system on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Civil Protection Association. [4, 5, 6] Two national disease-specific plans, the Influenza Pandemic Plan (adopted 2006) and the Ebola Emergency Plan (adopted 2015), each have a chapter dedicated to communication, presenting a strategy for communication in the event of an outbreak, but neither refers to a dedicated system. [7, 8]

- [1] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. December 2018. "Risk Management in Disaster Management. Guidelines." ("Risikomanagement im Katastrophenmanagement. Leitfaden.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/SKKM-Leitfaden_fuer_das_Risikomanagement_Version_1_0.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. January 2007. "Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations." ("Richtlinie für das Führen im Katastropheneinsatz.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/Richtlinie_fuer_das_Fuehren_im_Kat-Einsatz_Letztfassung_BF_20200122.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [3] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [6] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.") [https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [8] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

4.5.1b

Does the system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during an emergency encompass healthcare workers in both the public and private sector?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a system for public health officials and healthcare workers, including healthcare workers in both the public and private sector, to communicate during a public health emergency. The Guidelines on Risk Management in Disaster Management, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2018, contains a chapter dedicated to risk communication. [1] This chapter outlines various principles of effective risk communication, but does not detail the specifics

of how communication will be handled in an emergency, and does not specifically mention public health (though the document as a whole does). [1] The Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2007, briefly notes the importance of communication, but does not mention an emergency communication system. [2] There is no mention of a communication system in the Epidemic Law (adopted 1950, last amended 2020). [3] There is no evidence of a generalized or healthcare-specific emergency communication system on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Civil Protection Association. [4, 5, 6] Two national disease-specific plans, the Influenza Pandemic Plan (adopted 2006) and the Ebola Emergency Plan (adopted 2015), each have a chapter dedicated to communication, presenting a strategy for communication in the event of an outbreak, but neither refers to a dedicated system. [7, 8]

- [1] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. December 2018. "Risk Management in Disaster Management. Guidelines." ("Risikomanagement im Katastrophenmanagement. Leitfaden.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/SKKM-Leitfaden_fuer_das_Risikomanagement_Version_1_0.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. January 2007. "Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations." ("Richtlinie für das Führen im Katastropheneinsatz.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/Richtlinie_fuer_das_Fuehren_im_Kat-Einsatz_Letztfassung_BF_20200122.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [3] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [6] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.") [https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 7 August 2020.
- [8] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 7 August 2020.

4.6 INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES AND AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

4.6.1 Healthcare associated infection (HCAI) prevention and control programs

4.6.1a

Is there evidence that the national public health system is monitoring for and tracking the number of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) that take place in healthcare facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Austria's national public health system is monitoring for and tracking the number of healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) that take place in healthcare facilities. The collection of data on HCAIs is an obligation of all hospitals in Austria, as per the Law on Hospitals and Health Resorts (adopted 1957, last amended 2020). [1] Since 2003 the University Clinic for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Control at the Medical University of Vienna has been designated national reference center for nosocomial infections and antibiotic resistance, in which capacity it runs the Austrian Nosocomial

Infections Surveillance System, which monitors 19 indicators at 60 healthcare facilities around the country. [2] The health ministry has published reports on HCAs in Austria for each year 2013-2018. [3]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 1/1957. "On hospitals and health resorts." ("Über Kranken- und Kuranstalten.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010285>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Medical University of Vienna. "Reference center." ("Referenzzentrum.")

[<https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/hp/krankenhausthygiene/forschung-lehre/aniss-surveillance/referenzzentrum/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 3 August 2020. "Reports on healthcare-associated infections in Austria." ("Berichte über Gesundheitssystem-assoziierte Infektionen in Österreich.")

[<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Antimikrobielle-Resistenzen-und-Gesundheitssystem-assoziierte-Infektionen/Gesundheitssystem-assoziierte-Infektionen/Berichte.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

4.7 CAPACITY TO TEST AND APPROVE NEW MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

4.7.1 Regulatory process for conducting clinical trials of unregistered interventions

4.7.1a

Is there a national requirement for ethical review (e.g., from an ethics committee or via Institutional Review Board approval) before beginning a clinical trial?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is a national requirement for ethical review before beginning clinical trials. As laid out in the Law on Hospitals and Health Resorts (adopted 1957, last amended 2020) and the Law on the Manufacture and Marketing of Medicinal Products (adopted 1983, last amended 2020), ethics committees (ECs) are responsible for the independent evaluation of research projects involving patients or human test subjects, providing opinions on questions of medical ethics. [1, 2] The evaluation is based on legal, ethical and scientific considerations. [1, 2] ECs consist of 9 members: a doctor, a medical specialist, a representative of the relevant healthcare institution, a lawyer, a pharmacist, a patient representative, a representative of an organization of vulnerable groups (such as the elderly or the disabled), a person with biometric expertise and a person with a professional background in ethics. [2] There are 26 independent ECs in Austria, one for each of Austria's nine constituent regions and a several for smaller local areas. For multi-center drug trials, 7 so-called "leading ECs" may provide a single opinion: the EC of the Medical University of Vienna, the EC of the City of Vienna, the EC of the Medical University of Innsbruck, the EC of the Medical University of Graz, the EC of Lower Austria, the EC of Upper Austria, and the EC of Salzburg. [3]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 1/1957. "On hospitals and health resorts." ("Über Kranken- und Kuranstalten.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010285>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 185/1983 of 2 March 1983. "On the manufacture and marketing of medicinal products." ("Über die Herstellung und das Inverkehrbringen von Arzneimitteln.")

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010441>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] European Network of Research Ethics Committees. "National information: Austria" [<http://www.eurecnet.org/information/austria.html>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

4.7.1b

Is there an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures (MCM) to treat ongoing epidemics?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures to treat ongoing pandemics. There is no mention of such a process in the Law on the Manufacture and Marketing of Medicinal Products (adopted 1983, last amended 2020), which regulates clinical trials, or in the Epidemic Law (adopted 1950, last amended 2020), which addresses measures during epidemics. [1, 2] There is no evidence of such a process on the website of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research or the Agency for Health and Food Safety. [3, 4, 5, 6] However, a March 2020 article quotes Markus Zeitlinger, head of the University Clinic for Clinical Pharmacology at the Medical University of Vienna, as saying that due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic ethic committees and authorities have promised to approve clinical trials related to the virus "as unbureaucratically as possible". [7]

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 185/1983 of 2 March 1983. "On the manufacture and marketing of medicinal products." ("Über die Herstellung und das Inverkehrbringen von Arzneimitteln.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010441>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Federal Office for Safety in Healthcare. [<https://www.basg.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[7] Addendum. 22 March 2020. "A medicine from Vienna that could save lives." ("Ein Medikament aus Wien, das Leben retten könnte.") [<https://www.addendum.org/coronavirus/medikament-covid-19/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

4.7.2 Regulatory process for approving medical countermeasures

4.7.2a

Is there a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures (MCM) for humans?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures for humans. Approving new medicines, medical devices and vaccines for humans is the responsibility of the Federal Office for Safety in Health Care, which

is under the authority of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [1] Within the framework of the authorisation procedure, the countermeasure's efficacy, safety and quality are assessed. Authorisation is granted for five years, following which medical countermeasures are re-assessed and the authorization may be renewed.

[1] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. "About us." ("Über Uns.") [<https://www.basg.gv.at/ueber-uns/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

4.7.2b

Is there an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures (MCM) for human use during public health emergencies?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures for human use during public health emergencies. Articles 94d and 94e of the Law on the Manufacture and Marketing of Medicinal Products describe the special provisions that come into effect during public health emergencies: if the necessary supply of medicinal products to the population would otherwise be seriously jeopardized, the minister responsible for health can make certain exceptions to the law's provisions, for example permitting the release of medicinal products onto the market without the usual authorization or registration procedures. [1] The law defines "medicinal products" as including medical countermeasures such as vaccines, antimicrobial drugs and antiviral drugs, but not diagnostic or protective devices.

[1] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. Federal Law BGBl. Nr. 185/1983 of 2 March 1983. "On the manufacture and marketing of medicinal products." ("Über die Herstellung und das Inverkehrbringen von Arzneimitteln.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010441>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

Category 5: Commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms

5.1 INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR) REPORTING COMPLIANCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

5.1.1 Official IHR reporting

5.1.1a

Has the country submitted IHR reports to the WHO for the previous calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

World Health Organization

5.1.2 Integration of health into disaster risk reduction

5.1.2a

Are epidemics and pandemics integrated into the national risk reduction strategy or is there a standalone national disaster risk reduction strategy for epidemics and pandemics?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has a national disaster risk reduction strategy that covers epidemics and pandemics. The Guidelines on Risk Management in Disaster Management, published by the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2018, include "human pathogens (e.g. influenza, SARS, norovirus)" in its list of possible dangers in appendix 9, noting "epidemics/pandemics" as a possible result thereof. [1] In section 3.2.3 the document also lists pandemics as a type of scenario that requires a national-level response. [1] The document makes no further specific references to epidemics or pandemics. [1] The document explicitly includes risk reduction and risk avoidance in its conception of risk management, with section 3.6 in particular focused on these. [1] Section 3.6 does not explicitly mention epidemics, but includes several general risk reduction measures that may be applicable to them, including risk maps, hazard maps, awareness raising and monitoring. [1] There is no evidence of any further national risk reduction strategies on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the military or the Civil Protection Agency. [2, 3, 4, 5] No risk reduction elements are included in the Epidemic Law (1950), the Influenza Pandemic Plan (2006), the Ebola Emergency Plan (2015) or the Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations (2007). [6, 7, 8, 9]

[1] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. December 2018. "Risk Management in Disaster Management. Guidelines." ("Risikomanagement im Katastrophenmanagement. Leitfaden.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/SKKM-Leitfaden_fuer_das_Risikomanagement_Version_1_0.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[4] Armed Forces of the Republic of Austria. [<https://www.bundesheer.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[5] Civil Protection Association. [<http://zivilschutzverband.at>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[6] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl. Nr. 186/1950. "Epidemic Law." ("Epidemiegesetz.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010265>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[7] Federal Ministry for Health and Women. November 2006. "Influenza Pandemic Plan. Strategy for Austria." ("Influenza Pandemieplan. Strategie für Österreich.") [https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10141862_7749020/aa67f5d4/pp_inetversion12_061.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[8] Federal Ministry of Health. April 2015. "Ebola Emergency Plan." ("Ebola Notfallplan.") [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Ebola.html>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[9] Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. January 2007. "Guideline for Leading Disaster Operations." ("Richtlinie für das Führen im Katastropheneinsatz.") [https://www.bmi.gv.at/204/Download/files/Richtlinie_fuer_das_Fuehren_im_Kat-Eneinsatz_Letztfassung_BF_20200122.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

5.2 CROSS-BORDER AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

5.2.1 Cross-border agreements

5.2.1a

Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Austria has cross-border agreements on to public health emergencies with neighboring countries and as part of a regional group, and there is no evidence of gaps in implementation. As a member of the European Union (EU), Austria has access to the European center for Disease Prevention and Control, which, among other things, provides support during public health emergencies. [1] In addition, within the EU, the Health Security Committee provides a platform for the health ministries of member states to co-ordinate national responses to cross-border public health emergencies. [2, 3] Furthermore, Austria has bilateral agreements on mutual assistance for "disasters and serious accidents" with seven of its eight neighbours (Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland) as well as with nearby Croatia. [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11] These agreements do not give specific definitions of what constitutes a disaster and do not explicitly mention public health emergencies, but do mention "medical aid" among the forms of assistance that can be provided.

[1] European center for Disease Prevention and Control. "ECDC activities on epidemic intelligence and outbreak response." [https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/what-we-do/ecdc-activities-epidemic-intelligence-and-outbreak-response]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] European Commission. "Health Security Committee members." [https://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/risk_management/hsc/members_en]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] European Parliament and Council of the European Union. Decision No 1082/2013/EU of 22 October 2013. "On serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC." [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02013D1082-20131105]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[4] National Council of Austria. 2000. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Czech Republic on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("VERTRAG ZWISCHEN DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH UND DER TSCHECHISCHEN REPUBLIK ÜBER DIE GEGENSEITIGE HILFELEISTUNG BEI KATASTROPHEN ODER SCHWEREN UNGLÜCKSFÄLLEN.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001085]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[5] National Council of Austria. 1992. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Bundesrepublik Deutschland über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10005818]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[6] National Council of Austria. 1998. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Hungary on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Republik Ungarn über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.") [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011105]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[7] National Council of Austria. 1995. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und dem Fürstentum

Liechtenstein über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.”)

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010922>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[8] National Council of Austria. 1998. “Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Slovak Republic on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents.” (“Vertrag zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Slowakischen Republik über die Zusammenarbeit und die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen.”)

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011136>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[9] National Council of Austria. 1998. “Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Slovenia on co-operation for prevention and mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents.” (“ABKOMMEN ZWISCHEN DER REGIERUNG DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH UND DER REGIERUNG DER REPUBLIK SLOWENIEN ÜBER DIE ZUSAMMENARBEIT BEI DER VORBEUGUNG UND GEGENSEITIGEN HILFELEISTUNG BEI KATASTROPHEN ODER SCHWEREN UNGLÜCKSFÄLLEN.”)

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011108>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[10] National Council of Austria. 2002. “Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Swiss Confederation on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents.” (“ABKOMMEN ZWISCHEN DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH UND DER SCHWEIZERISCHEN EIDGENOSSENSCHAFT ÜBER DIE GEGENSEITIGE HILFELEISTUNG BEI KATASTROPHEN ODER SCHWEREN UNGLÜCKSFÄLLEN.”)

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001838>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[11] National Council of Austria. 2006. “Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Croatia on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents.” (“ABKOMMEN ZWISCHEN DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH UND DER REPUBLIK KROATIEN ÜBER DIE GEGENSEITIGE HILFELEISTUNG BEI KATASTROPHEN ODER SCHWEREN UNGLÜCKSFÄLLEN.”)

[<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004867>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

5.2.1b

Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to animal health emergencies?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Austria has cross-border agreements on animal health emergencies as part of a regional group, and there is no evidence of gaps in implementation. As a member of the European Union (EU), Austria is entitled to request assistance from the EU's Veterinary Emergency Team. [1, 2] The members of this team are experts in “veterinary sciences, virology, wildlife, laboratory testing, risk management and other relevant areas”. [1] At the time of writing (2020), there have never been any interventions in Austria, but there have been in numerous other countries. [3]

[1] European Commission. “Veterinary Emergency Team”. [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/emergency-team_en]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] European Commission. Decision No 2007/142/EC of 28 February 2007. “Establishing a Community Veterinary Emergency Team to assist the Commission in supporting Member States and third countries in veterinary matters relating to certain animal diseases.” [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32007D0142>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] European Commission. “EU Veterinary Emergency Team missions.”

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_emergency_cvet_experts_missions.pdf]. Accessed 9 August

2020.

5.3 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

5.3.1 Participation in international agreements

5.3.1a

Does the county have signatory and ratification (or same legal effect) status to the Biological Weapons Convention?

Signed and ratified (or action having the same legal effect) = 2, Signed = 1, Non-compliant or not a member = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1b

Has the country submitted confidence building measures for the Biological Weapons Convention in the past three years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1c

Has the state provided the required United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (1540 Committee)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1d

Extent of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 implementation related to legal frameworks and enforcement for countering biological weapons:

Very good (60+ points) = 4, Good (45–59 points) = 3, Moderate (30–44 points) = 2, Weak (15–29 points) = 1, Very weak (0–14 points) or no matrix exists/country is not party to the BWC = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.2 Voluntary memberships

5.3.2a

Does the country meet at least 2 of the following criteria?

- Membership in Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)
- Membership in the Alliance for Country Assessments for Global Health Security and IHR Implementation (JEE Alliance)
- Membership in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)
- Membership in the Australia Group (AG)
- Membership in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Needs to meet at least two of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for five = 1 , Yes for four = 1 , Yes for three = 1 , Yes for two = 1 , Yes for one = 0 , No for all = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Global Health Security Agenda; JE Alliance; Global Partnership; Australia Group; PSI

5.4 JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION (JEE) AND PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES PATHWAY (PVS)

5.4.1 Completion and publication of a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment and gap analysis

5.4.1a

Has the country completed a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) or precursor external evaluation (e.g., GHSA pilot external assessment) and published a full public report in the last five years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.4.1b

Has the country completed and published, within the last five years, either a National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) to address gaps identified through the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment or a national GHSA roadmap that sets milestones for achieving each of the GHSA targets?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.4.2 Completion and publication of a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment and gap analysis

5.4.2a

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.4.2b

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.5 FINANCING

5.5.1 National financing for epidemic preparedness

5.5.1a

Is there evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of specific funding for improvement of capacity for future epidemic response in the past three years. No evidence of such investment was found on the website of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Affairs. [1] The Ministry from 2017 oversaw a reform of the health system involving the enhancement of primary care through the establishment of multi-professional and interdisciplinary primary care units (PVE), with investment of EUR 200m (US\$ 236m). [2, 3] Under a first phase from 2017, a total of EUR 19.8m (US\$ 23.3m) consisting of funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EUR 10m; US\$ 11.8m) and the budgets of Austria's 9 constituent territorial units (EUR 9.8m; US\$ 11.6m) was available for the establishment of PVEs in rural areas across Austria. [4] However, epidemiology was not included in the list of health specialisms to be included in the new PVEs published in April 2019. [2, 5] No further information on health reform efforts relevant to epidemic preparation was found on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, or the Agency for Health and Food Safety. [6, 7] No evidence of relevant expenditure was found in the country's budgets for 2018 and 2019. [8, 9]

- [1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. "Better health through strengthened primary care", ("Mehr Gesundheit durch eine gestärkte Primärversorgung"). [[https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Gesundheitssystem/Gesundheitsreform-\(Zielsteuerung-Gesundheit\)/Mehr-Gesundheit-durch-eine-gestaerkte-Primaerversorgung.html](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Gesundheitssystem/Gesundheitsreform-(Zielsteuerung-Gesundheit)/Mehr-Gesundheit-durch-eine-gestaerkte-Primaerversorgung.html)]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [3] Health Austria. "What does the new primary care bring?", ("Was bringt die neue Primärversorgung?"). [<https://www.gesundheit.gv.at/gesundheitsleistungen/mehrgesundheit/primaerversorgung-neu-was-bringt-sie>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. 30 June 2017. "Rural Development Program (LE 14-20): Investing in Outpatient Health Services", ("Programm für ländliche Entwicklung (LE 14-20): Investitionen in ambulante Gesundheitsdienstleistungen"). [https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:72d470e1-33ac-4680-8301-84e6235cae79/ELER_fact%20sheet_170628_website%20BF.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. April 2019. "Primary care - occupational groups and competence profiles", ("Primärversorgung - Berufsgruppen und Kompetenzprofile"). [[https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Gesundheitssystem/Gesundheitsreform-\(Zielsteuerung-Gesundheit\)/Primaerversorgung---Berufsgruppen-und-Kompetenzprofile.html](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Gesundheitssystem/Gesundheitsreform-(Zielsteuerung-Gesundheit)/Primaerversorgung---Berufsgruppen-und-Kompetenzprofile.html)]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [7] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [8] Federal Ministry of Finance. "Budget 2019 at a glance". [<https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/budget-economic-policy/federal-budget-2018-2019.html>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [9] Federal Ministry of Finance. "Budget 2018 at a glance". [<https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/budget-economic-policy/federal-budget-2018-2019.html>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

5.5.2 Financing under Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) reports and gap analyses

5.5.2a

Does the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report, National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), and/or national GHSA roadmap allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a JEE = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.5.2b

Does the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis and/or PVS assessment allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a PVS = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.5.3 Financing for emergency response

5.5.3a

Is there a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which the country can access in the face of a public health emergency (such as through a dedicated national reserve fund, an established agreement with the World Bank pandemic financing facility/other multilateral emergency funding mechanism, or other pathway identified through a public health or state of emergency act)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Austria has an emergency public financing mechanism in place in case of a public health emergency. However, a COVID-19 Crisis Management Fund was established in 2020. Although as a member of the European Commission Civil Protection Mechanism, Austria can access EU funds to respond to an emergency, this is not specifically reserved for Austria. [1] There is no public evidence of a national-level public financing mechanisms and funds which the country can access in the face of a public health emergency, based on the available information on the websites of the Ministry of labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection of Austria (BMASGK), Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety Ltd (AGES), Ministry of Interior (BMI), Austrian Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (BASG) [2, 3, 4, 5]. The Bundesland (top-level administrative subdivision)-level legislations - for example, the Disaster Prevention and Management Law of Upper-Austria - do not mention a disaster fund that could be accessed in the face of a public health emergency. [6] Austria is not a member of the World Bank (WB) Financing Facility. [7, 8]. A disaster fund is in place, but reserved for use to respond to natural disasters. [9] In March 2020, Austria created the COVID-19 Crisis Management Fund, designed to provide federal ministries with required financing for response to the pandemic, with funds of EUR 28 bn available to be raised from federal loans. [10] The Crisis Management Fund's founding document makes the Ministry of Finance responsible for disbursement of funds, which may be spent on measures in the fields of healthcare, especially in relation to provisions of the 1950 Epidemic Act, Austria's main guiding policy on epidemic response, as well as measures related to support of business and the labor market, public order, and economic stimulation. [10]

[1] European Commission (EC). 2018. "EU Civil Protection Mechanism". [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/startseite/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry of Interior of Austria. [<https://www.bmi.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[5] Federal Office for Safety in Health Care. [<https://www.basg.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[6] Land of Upper Austria. LGBl Nr. 32/2007. "Disaster prevention and Management Law", ("Katastrophenschutzgesetz"). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LROO&Gesetzesnummer=20000459>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[7] International Developmental Association (IDA). "Borrowing countries". [<http://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[8] World Bank. 2018. "Pandemic Financing Facility". [<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/119961516647620597/PEF-Operational-Brief-Dec-2017.pdf>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[9] Ministry of Finance (BMF). Disaster fund (Katastrophenfonds). [<https://www.bmf.gv.at/budget/finanzbeziehungen-zu-laendern-und-gemeinden/katastrophenfonds.html>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[10] Parliament of the Republic of Austria. BGBl Nr. 12 / 2020 of 15 March 2020. "Federal law on the establishment of the COVID-19 Crisis Management Fund", ("Bundesgesetz über die Errichtung des COVID-19-Krisenbewältigungsfonds). [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20011074&FassungVom=2020-12-31>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

5.5.4 Accountability for commitments made at the international stage for addressing epidemic threats

5.5.4a

Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers), in the past three years, have made a public commitment either to:

- Support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support?
- Improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Austrian leaders have committed to supporting other countries in preparing for epidemics in the past three years. There is, however, evidence of relief and response support. In 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, Austrian leaders have committed to supporting other countries' response to the epidemic. In May, the country's Foreign Minister and European Minister visited the Western Balkans, the country's first diplomatic visit since the beginning of the pandemic, visiting Albania, Kosovo and Serbia. [1] The Foreign Minister stated that "Austrian solidarity with the states of the Western Balkans remains intact even in times of crisis"; commenting provision of aid to support the Balkan states' pandemic response, he stated that "with this emergency aid, we are showing the countries of the Western Balkans that they can count on Austria's support through concrete aid on the ground". [1, 2] The Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency commented on provision of funds to help Kosovo procure COVID-19 testing kits that gaps in the Kosovar health system had been exposed, and that "we must prevent further new infections in order to control the spread of the virus" and minimise the negative impact on the economy and employment". [2] However, no further statements from senior leaders on supporting other countries in preparing for epidemics was found on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, or Federal Ministry of International and European Affairs. [3, 4] No evidence of such statements were found on United Nations websites. [5, 6] No evidence of such statements from the country's president or chancellor was found on the positions' respective websites. [7, 8]

[1] Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. 28 May 2020. "Foreign Minister Schallenberg: "Austria supports Kosovo in the Covid-19 pandemic." [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/the-ministry/press/announcements/2020/05/foreign-minister-schallenberg-austria-is-a-strong-and-reliable-partner-of-the-western-balkans-even-in-times-of-crisis/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. 28 May 2020. "Foreign Minister Schallenberg: "Austria supports Kosovo in the Covid-19 pandemic." [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/the-ministry/press/announcements/2020/05/foreign-minister-schallenberg-austria-is-supporting-kosovo-in-the-covid-19-pandemic/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[5] United Nations. "News: Austria". [<https://news.un.org/en/tags/austria?page=1>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[6] United Nations Secretary General. "Austria". [<https://static.un.org/sg/en/countries/austria>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[7] Federal President. [<https://www.bundespraesident.at/en/index>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[8] Federal Chancellery. [<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

5.5.4b

Is there evidence that the country has, in the past three years, either:

- Provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats?
- Requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Austria has in the past three years assisted other countries in improving their capacity to address epidemic threats, and also received financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats.

In April 2020, Austria committed EUR 2m (US\$ 2.36m) to the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Strategic Preparedness and Response plan against the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically contribution EUR 1m (US\$ 1.18m) each to the WHO response in the Eastern Mediterranean and African regions, with EUR 250,000 (US\$ 295,000) earmarked for Palestine. [1] The WHO plan contains a range of measures designed to improve developing countries' capacity to prepare for and respond to the disease, although it does not explicitly address improvement of capacity in advance of future epidemics. [2] Austria has also provided further support in bilateral aid, especially to Balkan states, with the foreign minister stating in May 2020 that the country would remain "a strong and reliable partner for Southeastern Europe even during the crisis". [3] The country provided EUR 250,000 (US\$ 295,000) to Kosovo for the procurement of 9000 virus tests. [3] Austria supported Montenegro in April by assuming the care of a COVID-19 patient. [4] However, there is no evidence that these interventions are designed explicitly to improve epidemic management capacity in the two countries. [3, 4] Further, Austria contributed EUR 100,000 (US\$ 118,000) to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent for response to the 2018 Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [5] Despite these contributions, there is no evidence that Austria has donated funds explicitly for preparation for epidemics before their occurrence; no evidence of this was found on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, or that of the Federal Ministry of International and European Affairs. [6, 7]

The Austrian Development Corporation (ADC)'s recent strategy documents for 2016-2018 and 2019 -2021 do not refer to any plans for improving epidemic threats. [8, 9] The earlier strategy outlines an objective to establish an early warning system in the South Caucasus (covering Armenia and Georgia) for animal epidemics, but no further information on this initiative or any other activity on improving epidemic capacity abroad was found on the ADA website. [8, 10] Upon announcement of a EUR 1m (US\$ 1.18m) contribution to the Red Cross for the Yemen crisis in 2018, the Federal Ministry of International Affairs noted the need to expand provision of safe drinking water in order to avoid a cholera epidemic. [11]

According to the Georgetown Infectious Disease Atlas Global Health Security Tracker, in 2020, Austria committed US\$ 3.37m and disbursed US\$ 2.51m in funding to the WHO, including US\$ 2.17m as a contribution to covid-19 response; however, this source does not detail any previous contributions by the country. [12] According to the same source, Austria received US\$ 16,900 between 2016 and 2019 from a Dutch AIDS NGO. [13]

[1] Austrian Development Corporation. April 2020. "Coronavirus: Austria supports WHO's strategic preparedness and response plan". [<https://www.entwicklung.at/en/ada/news/detail-en/coronavirus-austria-supports-strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-of-who>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. 14 April 2020. "Strategic preparedness and response plan".

[<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

- [3] Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. 28 May 2020. "Foreign Minister Schallenberg: "Austria supports Kosovo in the Covid-19 pandemic." [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/the-ministry/press/announcements/2020/05/foreign-minister-schallenberg-austria-is-supporting-kosovo-in-the-covid-19-pandemic/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [4] Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. 30 April 2020. "Foreign Minister Schallenberg: "Austria supports Montenegro by taking over COVID-19 patient", ("Außenminister Schallenberg: Österreich unterstützt Montenegro durch Übernahme von COVID-19-Patient"). [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/das-ministerium/presse/aussendungen/2020/04/aussenminister-schallenberg-oesterreich-unterstuetzt-montenegro-durch-uebernahme-von-covid-19-patient/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [5] Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. 2 July 2018. "Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Address to the Council of Ministers". ("Ebola-Ausbruch in der Demokratischen Republik Kongo: Vortrag an den Ministerrat"). [https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:412ba457-912f-40b6-a4c4-239f3e7efa8d/24_28_mrv.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [6] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.
- [7] Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. [<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [8] Austrian Development Corporation. 2015. "Three-Year program on Austrian Development Policy 2016–2018". [https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/3_JP/Englisch/2016-2018_3-YP.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [9] Austrian Development Corporation. 2018. "Three-Year program on Austrian Development Policy 2019–2021". [https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/3_JP/Englisch/3JP_2019-2021_EN.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [10] Austrian Development Corporation. [<https://www.entwicklung.at>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [11] Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. 3 July 2018. "Humanitarian crisis in Yemen: Address to the Council of Ministers". ("Humanitäre Krise im Jemen: Vortrag an den Ministerrat"). [https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:0b88b8a9-f107-4d67-8cbf-f7724649512f/24_29_mrv.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [12] Georgetown Infectious Disease Atlas."Global Health Security Tracker: Austria/ Funder". [<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/details/884/funder>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.
- [13] Georgetown Infectious Disease Atlas."Global Health Security Tracker: Austria/ Recipient". [<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/details/884/recipient>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

5.5.4c

Is there evidence that the country has fulfilled its full contribution to the WHO within the past two years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

5.6 COMMITMENT TO SHARING OF GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL DATA AND SPECIMENS

5.6.1 Commitment to sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) in both emergency and nonemergency research

5.6.1a

Is there a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) along with the associated epidemiological data with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Austria has a plan or policy for sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, isolated specimens or associated epidemiological data with international organizations or other countries. There is no evidence of such a plan or policy on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Agency for Health and Food Safety, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research or the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [1, 2, 3, 4] In 2018 Austria signed a declaration of intent to establish cross-border access to genomic data with other signatories. [5] The declaration has been signed by 21 other countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom). [6] The initiative is intended to create the technical infrastructure to facilitate the linking of existing and future genomic databases, so as to improve disease prevention across Europe. [6] However, there is no evidence that this initiative is specifically targeted at sharing epidemiological data, clinical specimens or isolated specimens. In April 2020, in the framework of a research project conducted by the Austrian Academy of Science, the Medical University of Vienna and the Agency for Health and Food Safety, 21 genomes for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (the virus strain that causes covid-19) were sequenced and published. [7] The project ultimately intends to sequence and publish 1,000 viral genomes. [7]

[1] Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. [<https://www.sozialministerium.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[2] Agency for Health and Food Safety. [<https://www.ages.at/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. [<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[4] Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. [<https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[5] European Commission. 11 September 2018. "Greece and Austria are the 15th and 16th EU Member States to sign the Genomics Declaration." [<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/greece-and-austria-are-15th-and-16th-eu-member-states-sign-genomics-declaration>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[6] European Commission. 1 April 2020. "European '1+ Million Genomes' Initiative." [<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-1-million-genomes-initiative>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[7] Medical University of Vienna. 3 April 2020. "First SARS-CoV-2 genomes from Austria published." ("Erste SARS-CoV-2-Genome aus Österreich veröffentlicht.") [<https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/web/ueber-uns/news/detailseite/2020/news-im-april-2020/erste-sars-cov-2-genome-aus-oesterreich-veroeffentlicht/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

5.6.1b

Is there public evidence that the country has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past two years?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no public evidence that Austria has failed to shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past two years. The World Health organization has not reported any non-compliance from Austria, and there is no evidence of non-compliance in Austrian or international and media. [1]

[1] World Health organization. [<http://www.who.int/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

5.6.1c

Is there public evidence that the country has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no public evidence that Austria has failed to share pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years. There is no evidence of Austria either sharing or failing to share pathogen samples, including coronavirus samples, on the World Health Organization's website or in Austrian or international media. [1]

[1] World Health organization. [<http://www.who.int/>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

Category 6: Overall risk environment and vulnerability to biological threats

6.1 POLITICAL AND SECURITY RISK

6.1.1 Government effectiveness

6.1.1a

Policy formation (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1b

Quality of bureaucracy (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1c

Excessive bureaucracy/red tape (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1d

Vested interests/cronyism (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1e

Country score on Corruption Perception Index (0-100, where 100=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 76

2020

Transparency International

6.1.1f

Accountability of public officials (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1g

Human rights risk (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 4

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.2 Orderly transfers of power

6.1.2a

How clear, established, and accepted are constitutional mechanisms for the orderly transfer of power from one government to another?

Very clear, established and accepted = 4, Clear, established and accepted = 3, One of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) is missing = 2, Two of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) are missing = 1, Not clear, not established, not accepted = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.3 Risk of social unrest

6.1.3a

What is the risk of disruptive social unrest?

Very low: Social unrest is very unlikely = 4, Low: There is some prospect of social unrest, but disruption would be very limited = 3, Moderate: There is a considerable chance of social unrest, but disruption would be limited = 2, High: Major social unrest is likely, and would cause considerable disruption = 1, Very high: Large-scale social unrest on such a level as to seriously challenge government control of the country is very likely = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.4 Illicit activities by non-state actors

6.1.4a

How likely is it that domestic or foreign terrorists will attack with a frequency or severity that causes substantial disruption?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.4b

What is the level of illicit arms flows within the country?

4 = Very high, 3 = High, 2 = Moderate, 1 = Low, 0 = Very low

Current Year Score: 4

2020

UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

6.1.4c

How high is the risk of organized criminal activity to the government or businesses in the country?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.5 Armed conflict

6.1.5a

Is this country presently subject to an armed conflict, or is there at least a moderate risk of such conflict in the future?

No armed conflict exists = 4, Yes; sporadic conflict = 3, Yes; incursional conflict = 2, Yes, low-level insurgency = 1, Yes; territorial conflict = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.6 Government territorial control

6.1.6a

Does the government's authority extend over the full territory of the country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.7 International tensions

6.1.7a

Is there a threat that international disputes/tensions could have a negative effect?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

6.2.1 Literacy

6.2.1a

Adult literacy rate, population 15+ years, both sexes (%)

Input number

Current Year Score: 99.9

2008-2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
The Economist Intelligence Unit

6.2.2 Gender equality

6.2.2a

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index score

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.93

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The Economist Intelligence Unit

6.2.3 Social inclusion

6.2.3a

Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.2

2017

World Bank; Economist Impact

6.2.3b

Share of employment in the informal sector

Greater than 50% = 2, Between 25-50% = 1, Less than 25% = 0

Current Year Score: 0

The latest available figures indicate that less than 25% of Austria's employment is in the informal sector. A 2011 report from the World Bank stated that 19.7% of Austria's population was employed in the informal sector according to the latest available figures, from 2007. [1] The statistical databases maintained by the World Bank and the International Labor Organization do not provide statistics on informal employment in Austria. [2, 3, 4] There is no evidence of relevant statistics on the websites of the Statistik Austria (the national statistical agency) the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, the Federal Ministry for Labor, Family and Youth or the Chamber of Labor. [5, 6, 7, 8] In particular, Austria's labor force surveys do not collect information on informal employment. [9]

[1] Mihails Hazans. December 2011. "Informal Workers across Europe. Evidence from 30 European Countries." World Bank. [<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/3681/WPS5912.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] World Bank. "Informal employment (% of total non-agricultural employment)." [<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.ISV.IFRM.ZS?locations=AT>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] International Labor Organization. "Country profiles." [<https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/country-profiles/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[4] International Labor Organization. "Statistics on the informal economy." [<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/informality/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[5] Statistik Austria. [<http://www.statistik.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[6] Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs [<https://www.bmdw.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[7] Federal Ministry for Labor, Family and Youth. [<https://www.bmafj.gv.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[8] Chamber of Labor. [<https://www.arbeiterkammer.at/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[9] Statistik Austria. "Employment status." ("Erwerbstatus.") [http://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/menschen_und_gesellschaft/arbeitsmarkt/erwerbsstatus/index.html]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

6.2.3c

Coverage of social insurance programs (% of population)

Scored in quartiles (0-3, where 3=best)

Current Year Score: 3

2016, or latest available

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

6.2.4 Public confidence in government

6.2.4a

Level of confidence in public institutions

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

6.2.5 Local media and reporting

6.2.5a

Is media coverage robust? Is there open and free discussion of public issues, with a reasonable diversity of opinions?

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

6.2.6 Inequality

6.2.6a

Gini coefficient

Scored 0-1, where 0=best

Current Year Score: 0.31

Latest available.

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

6.3 INFRASTRUCTURE ADEQUACY

6.3.1 Adequacy of road network

6.3.1a

What is the risk that the road network will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.3.2 Adequacy of airports

6.3.2a

What is the risk that air transport will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.3.3 Adequacy of power network

6.3.3a

What is the risk that power shortages could be disruptive?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

6.4.1 Urbanization

6.4.1a

Urban population (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 58.52

2019

World Bank

6.4.2 Land use

6.4.2a

Percentage point change in forest area between 2006–2016

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.44

2008-2018

World Bank; Economist Impact

6.4.3 Natural disaster risk

6.4.3a

What is the risk that the economy will suffer a major disruption owing to a natural disaster?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.5 PUBLIC HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

6.5.1 Access to quality healthcare

6.5.1a

Total life expectancy (years)

Input number

Current Year Score: 81.69

2018

United Nations; World Bank, UNICEF; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME); Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
World Factbook

6.5.1b

Age-standardized NCD mortality rate (per 100 000 population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 329.4

2019

WHO

6.5.1c

Population ages 65 and above (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 19.08

2019

World Bank

6.5.1d

Prevalence of current tobacco use (% of adults)

Input number

Current Year Score: 29.1

2018

World Bank

6.5.1e

Prevalence of obesity among adults

Input number

Current Year Score: 20.1

2016

WHO

6.5.2 Access to potable water and sanitation

6.5.2a

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic water infrastructure

Input number

Current Year Score: 99

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

6.5.2b

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic sanitation facilities

Input number

Current Year Score: 99

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

6.5.3 Public healthcare spending levels per capita

6.5.3a

Domestic general government health expenditure per capita, PPP (current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 4296.75

2018

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

6.5.4 Trust in medical and health advice

6.5.4a

Trust medical and health advice from the government

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from the government , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018

6.5.4b

Trust medical and health advice from medical workers

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from health professionals , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018