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Coordinated Effort for the Surveillance of Zoonotic Influenza in Austria

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Introduction

Within the framework of United for Surveillance (2023-2025; EU4Health Program, Project ID 101102070) and other international initiatives, Austria has enhanced its surveillance efforts for zoonotic influenza through a series of targeted activities coordinated by the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza (NRL-AI).

Objectives

- To strengthen zoonotic influenza surveillance in Austria by:
- I. Monitoring genetic evolution of endemic Swine- and Avian Influenza Viruses, respectively SIV and AIV.
 - II. Improving communication between human and animal health sectors.
 - III. Raising disease awareness to increase testing.

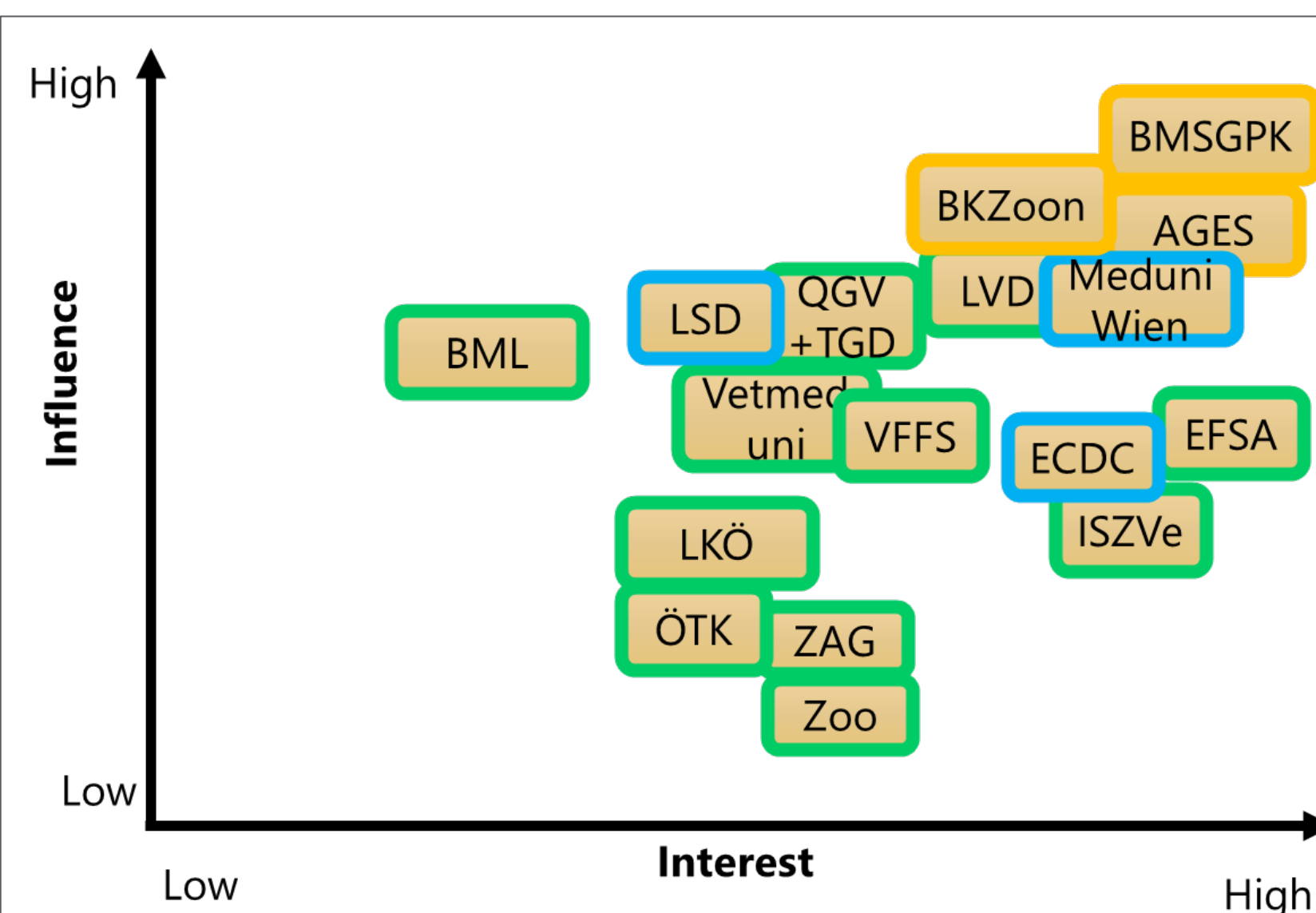
Methods

Identified stakeholders (SHs)

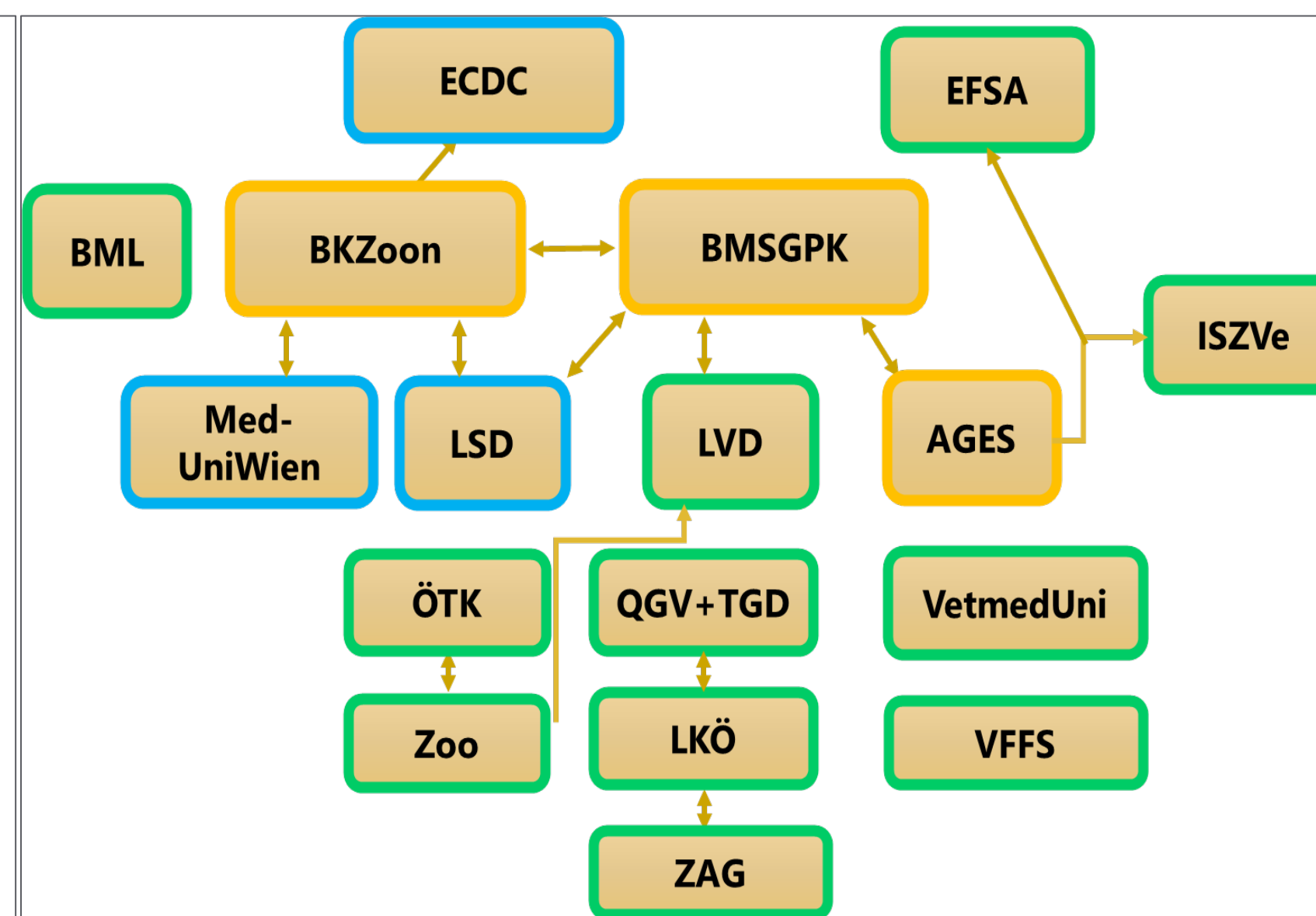
● Animal Health ● Human Health ● One Health

Abbreviation	Institution
BML	Ministry of Agriculture
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
ISZVe	European Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza
LKÖ	Austrian Chamber of Agriculture
LVD	Federal Veterinary Directorate
QGV	Austrian Poultry Health Service
ÖTK	Austrian Veterinary Chamber
TGD	Animal Health Service
VFFS	Association of Supporters of Pig Medicine
ZAG	Austrian Poultry Industry
Zoo	Zoo Schönbrunn
Vetmeduni	University of Veterinary Medicine
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
LSD	Federal Health Directorate
Meduniwien	University of Human Medicine
AGES	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety
BKZoon	National Committee for Zoonoses
BMSGPK	Ministry of Health

Stakeholder Analysis



Surveillance System Mapping



Stakeholder Workshop

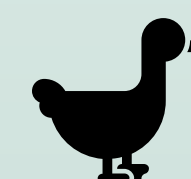


Prioritization of Pilot Studies



Pilot studies

Active Surveillance in Wild Birds



Project: **Constance 2** (part of the **Sentinel Wild Birds** project) 

Participating countries:  Austria,  Germany,  Switzerland

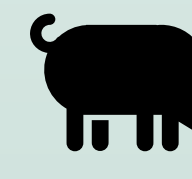
Location: **Lake Constance**

Target species: **waterfowls** and **gull species** + **environmental** samples

Sample type: **oropharyngeal & cloacal swabs** + **faeces & lake mussels**

Surveillance Austria (October-December 2024): **38 birds**  **62 analysed samples**  **All negative**


Surveillance in Domestic Pigs

Project: **United4Surveillance (Austria)** 

SHs: **national reference laboratory - AGES** (coordinator), **animal health services, veterinary university, public and private labs**

Target species: **domestic pigs**

Sample type: **nasal swabs, lungs**

Surveillance Austria (April 2023-December 2024): **165 analysed samples** **65 SIV-positive samples**  **50 sequenced samples**

Surveillance in Mammals other than Pigs



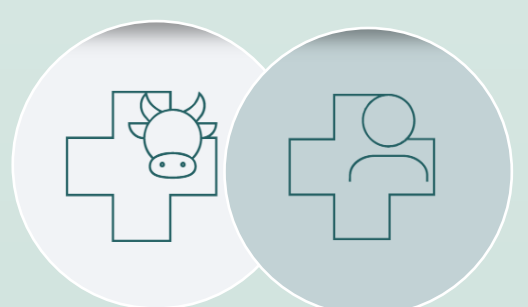
Project: national monitoring + **United4Surveillance (Austria)**

SHs: **national reference laboratory - AGES** (coordinator), **VetmedUni**

Target species: **wild mammals + domestic mammals other than pigs**

Surveillance Austria (Since 2022-December 2024): **613 analysed samples** **1 AIV-positive (red fox)** **4 SIV-positive (wild boars)**

Improving collaboration between veterinary & public health authorities



Project: national initiatives + **United4Surveillance (Austria)**

Horizon Scanning for Zoonotic Influenza

SHs: **Ministry of Health (VET), AGES (MED and VET)**

 **Monitor and report** on the international influenza epidemiological situation in **humans and animals**

One Health Group for the Surveillance of Zoonotic Influenza (OHFLÜ)

SHs: **Ministry of Health (MED and VET), National Reference Centre for Influenza (MED), AGES (MED and VET+NRL-AI)**

 Establish a **formal communication workflow** between MED and VET on zoonotic influenza surveillance

 Identify strategies to enhance **zoonotic influenza surveillance**

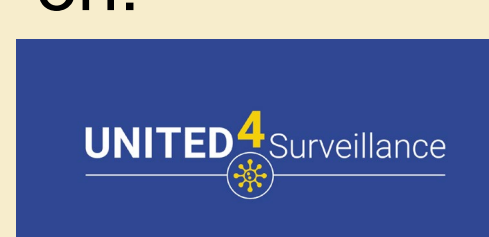
Conclusion

This coordinated effort highlights the importance of a multi-sectoral approach to manage zoonotic disease surveillance and provides a platform for national and international knowledge exchange, data sharing and rapid response to emerging threats.


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For more information on:



For more information on:

Sentinel Wild Birds 



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