

Austrian One Health approach to tackling foodborne outbreaks

- Presentations by the delegation of Austria

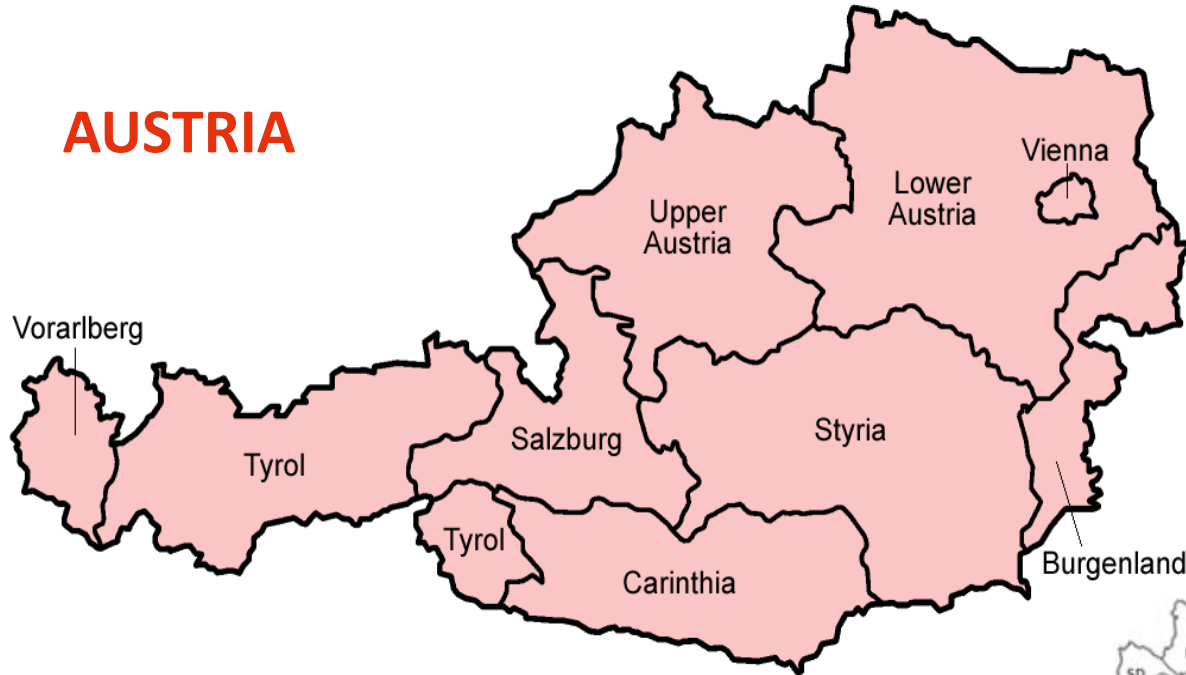
Florian Fellingner
One Health Conference
Vienna, 11-13 June 2024

Agenda

- **Part I: Food Borne Outbreak Investigation and Crisis Management in Austria**
 - Administrative structure
 - Legal framework
 - Challenges & benefits

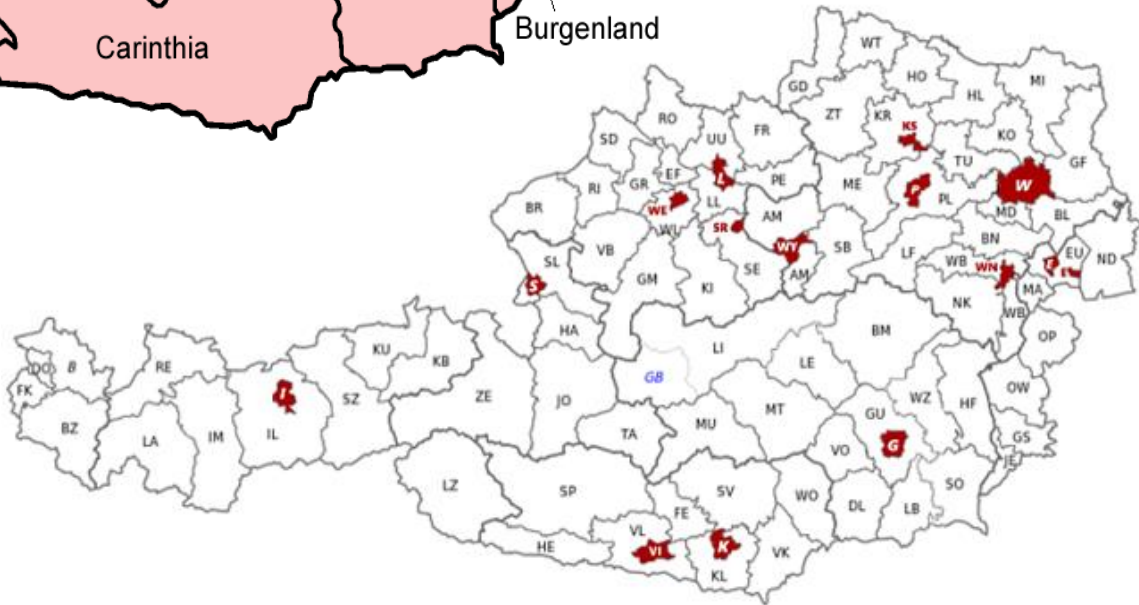
- **Part II: Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety**
 - Centre for Foodborne Infectious Diseases
 - National Reference Laboratories

AUSTRIA



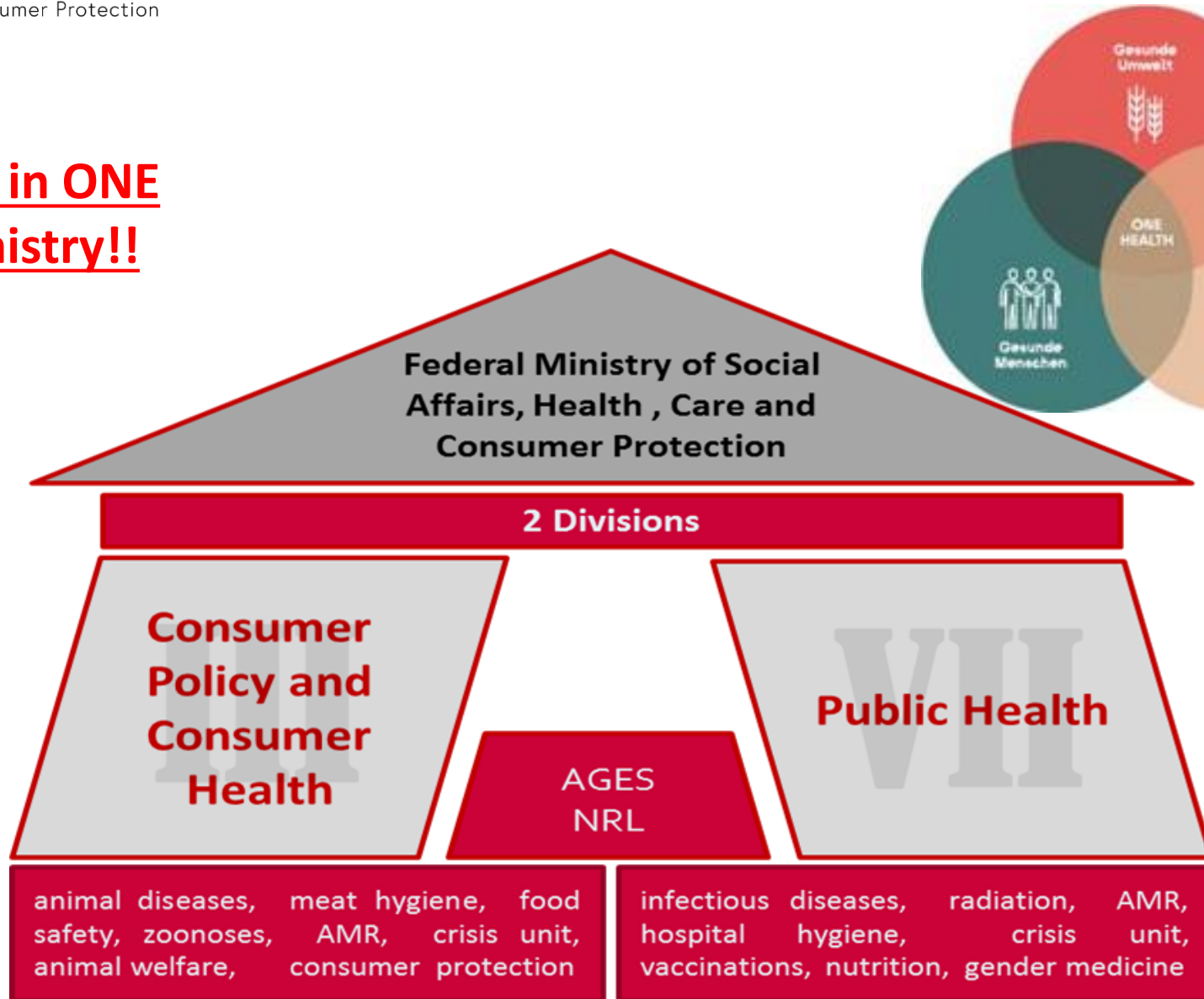
**9 Federal Provinces
(Federal States)
of Austria**

94 Districts of Austria



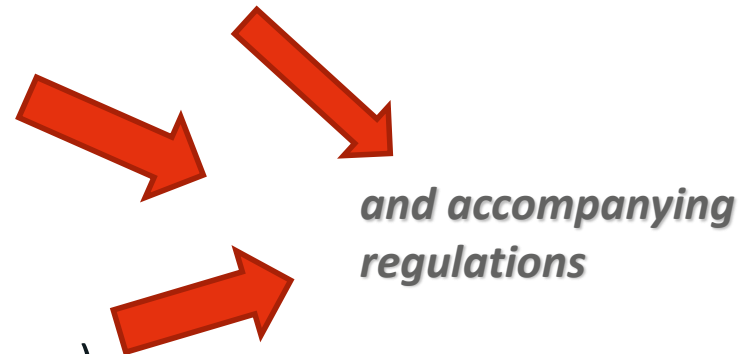
Administrative structure in Austria

ALL in ONE
Ministry!!



Legal Framework for handling of zoonoses and food borne outbreaks in AT

- **Zoonoses Act** (“umbrella” – in force since 01.01.2006)
- **Epidemics Act** (human side)
- **Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act**
- **Feed Act** (Federal Ministry resp. for Agriculture)



Zoonoses Act

Regulates:


- the **organization of the monitoring/surveillance of zoonoses and zoonotic agents,**
- the **epidemiological investigation** of foodborne outbreaks and
- the **exchange of information** on zoonoses and zoonotic agents.

Implements:

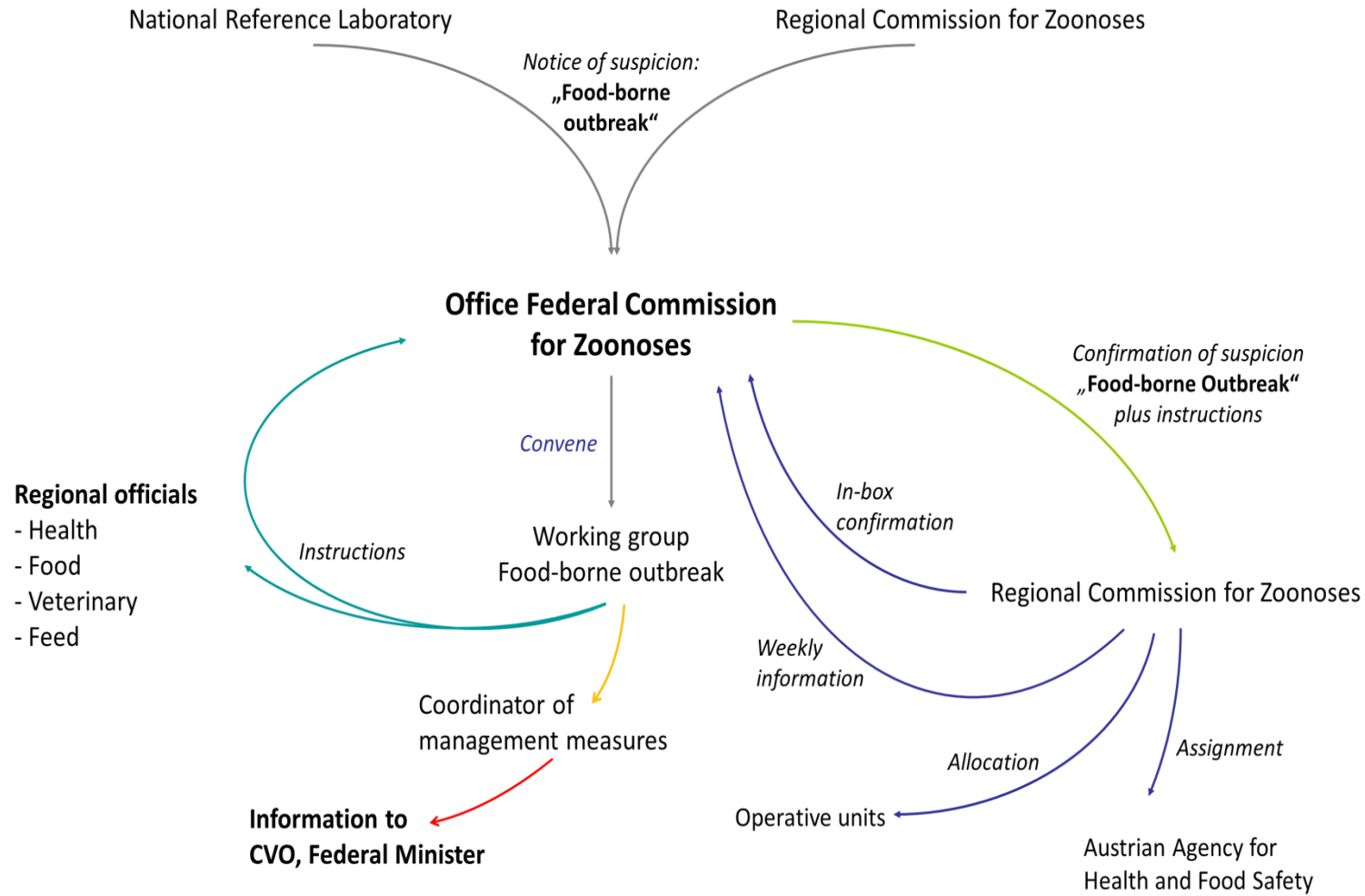
- **Federal Zoonoses Commission**
 - exchange of general information and, if necessary, specific data
 - ensure the effective and continuous cooperation of the work areas concerned
 - in determining the necessary measures and reporting on foodborne disease outbreaks across national borders
- Coordination of zoonosis in the federal states = Governor is responsible
- National Reference Laboratories;
- List of zoonoses and zoonotic agents....

Federal Zoonoses Commission - Members

**Information
exchange
(at least)
2x / year**

- 
1. Animal Health: Control + Surveillance (3)
 2. Veterinary Public Health (1)
 3. Food affairs (1)
 4. Public Health (1)
 5. Feed (1)
 6. Defense (1)
 7. Austrian Agency AGES (5)
 8. **Heads of provincial commissions** (9)
 - Provincial Chief Veterinary Director
 - Provincial Chief Sanitary Director
 9. Further experts if required (science)

Each member and their deputies have to be appointed by decree



Epidemics Act

- § 1: Notifiable diseases: Suspicion, morbidity and deaths from ... **infectious hepatitis** (hepatitis A, B, C, D, E, G),.... **bacterial and viral food poisoning**, ...
- The responsible Federal Minister for Health has an **electronic register in form of an information network system**
- Special provisions relating to zoonoses: **Laboratories that diagnose zoonotic agents...**, have to send the corresponding isolates to the competent national reference laboratory for further examination
- If there is a **spatially and temporally frequent occurrence of zoonotic agents** in a federal state (9) or regions the **NRLs** are **obliged to report immediately**



Food Safety

BENEFIT „ALL IN ONE NRL“

- Duties of “fo

Own-checks on
presence of
zoonoses /zoono
agents

- All samples are known (human/food)
 - Easy comparison
- Investigations can start immediatly

... (Food)
ected,
alyzed,
compared in
NRL

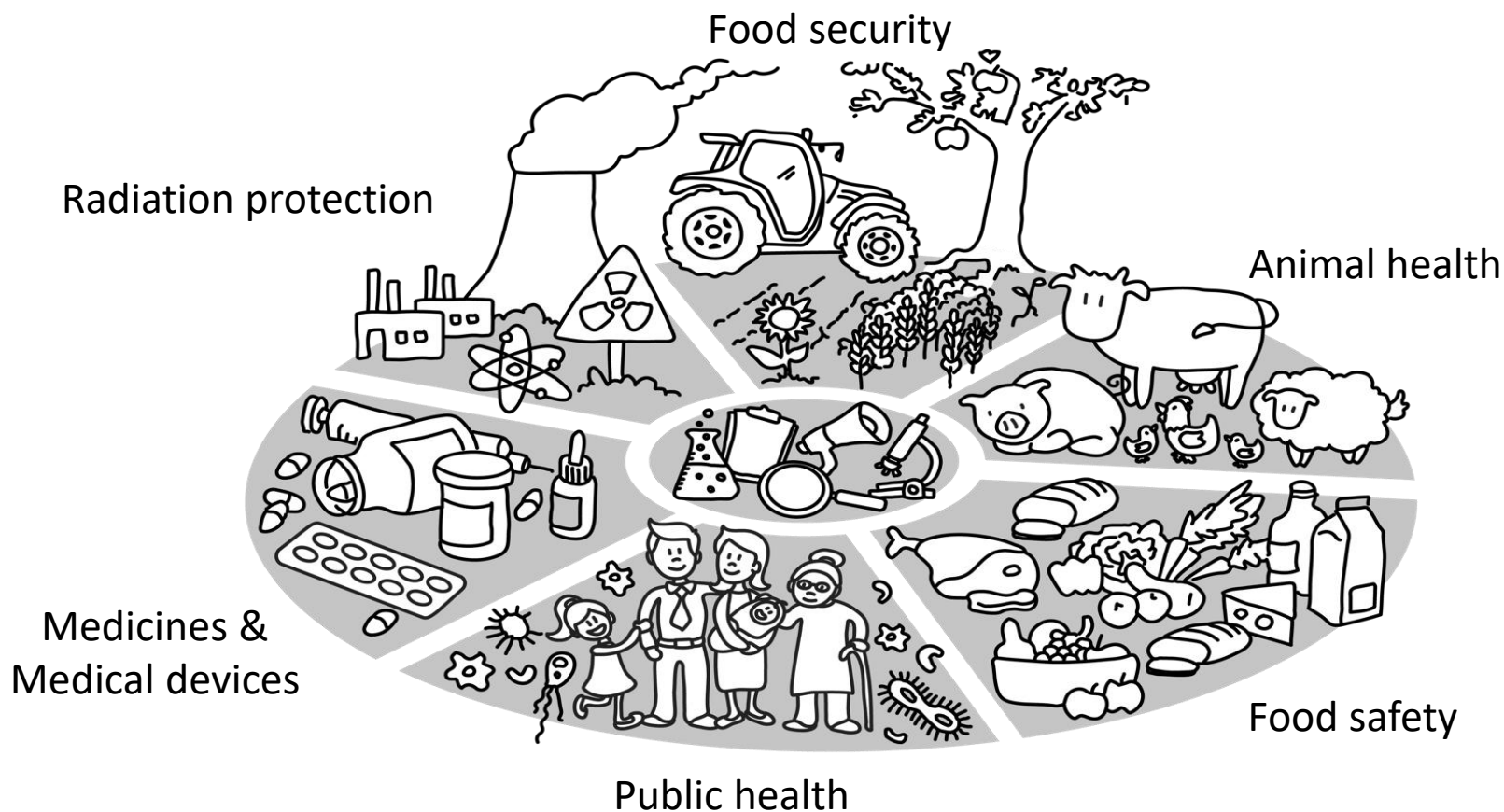
- If “food business operator” does not fulfill the obligation:

- Laboratories which investigate presence of zoonoses / zoonotic agents shall immediately, but no later than 2 days, send isolates to the NRL (anonymized - with reference to product group).

Part II: Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety

- Centre for Foodborne Infectious Diseases
- National Reference Laboratories

„AGES stands for protecting the health of humans, animals, plants and soil and for food security.“



LOCATIONS



Vienna

Possingergasse 38, 1160 Vienna
Spargelfeldstr. 191, 1220 Vienna
Traisengasse 5, 1200 Vienna
Währinger Str. 25a, 1096 Vienna

Linz

Wieningerstr. 8, 4020 Linz

Mödling

Robert-Koch-Gasse 17
2340 Mödling

Innsbruck


Technikerstr. 70, 6020 Innsbruck


Salzburg

Innsbrucker Bundesstraße 47
5020 Salzburg


Graz


Beethovenstr. 6, 8010 Graz
Zinzendorfg. 27/2, 8010 Graz


Core Unit Molecular Biology 


Supply/waste management 


National Reference Laboratories

for Antibiotic Resistances, Campylobacter, Listeria,
Noroviruses, Shigella, Salmonella, Botulism,
Staphylococci, *E. coli*, Yersinia 

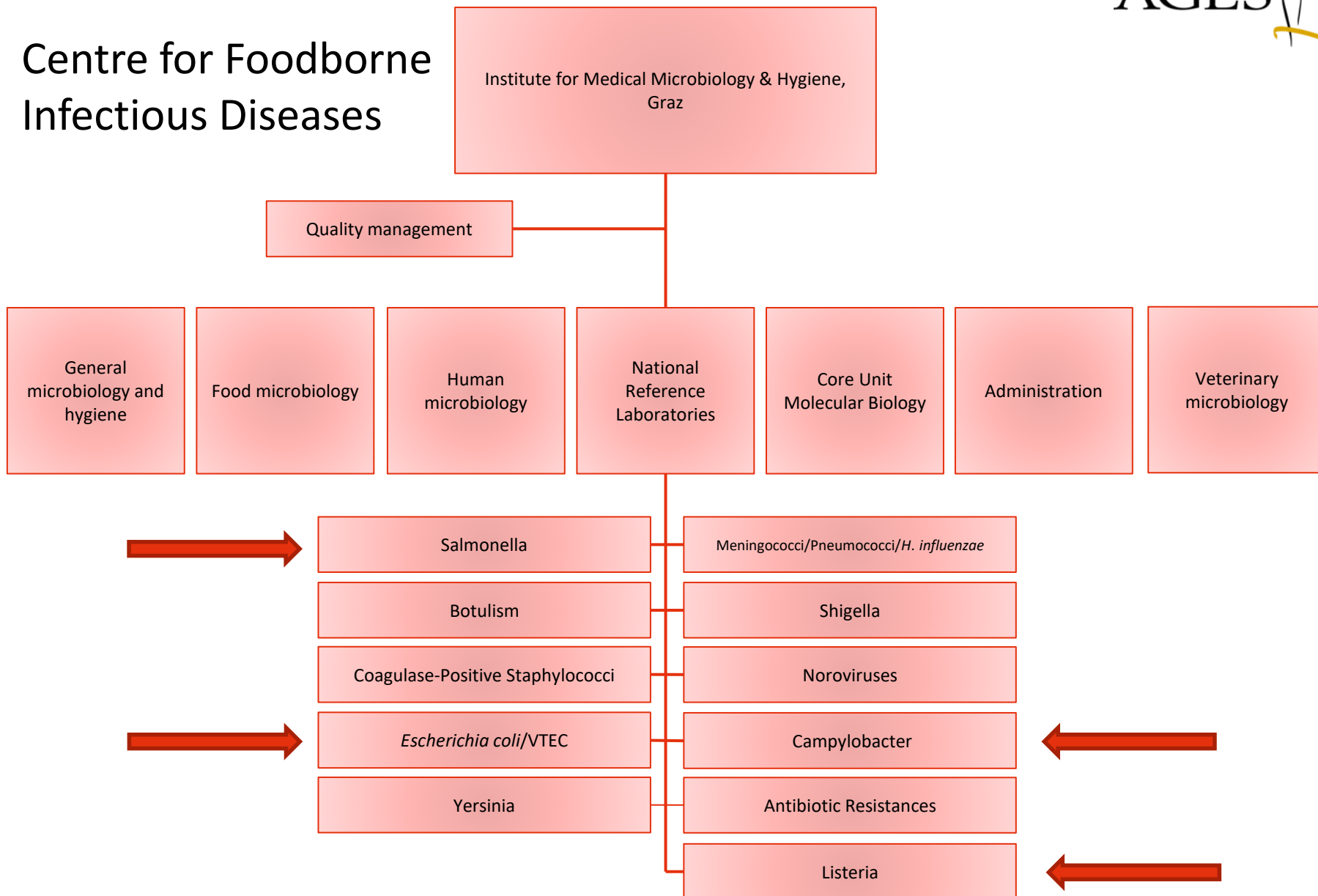
Food microbiology 

Water inspection 

Veterinary microbiology 

Human microbiology 

Centre for Foodborne Infectious Diseases



National Reference Laboratories

- **all-in-one concept**
 - solve diagnostic problems that involve the same pathogen
 - use of harmonized protocols
 - efficient use of infrastructure in a small country (no redundancy)
 - reduce administrative expenses
 - single contact person for the responsible authorities
 - collection of strains from different origins
 - streamlining foodborne outbreak investigations

