



**DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)**

**Health and Food Audits and Analysis**

**DG SANTE Directorate F:  
Veterinary Medicinal Product Regulation audits  
and other  
AMR related work**

**AMR Hands-on Training for Farmers and Veterinarians  
24 June 2025, Kilkea Castle, County Kildare**

*Iwona Decewicz, DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE)  
Unit F5 Health Protection, auditor/project leader  
ECDC/DG SANTE AMR One Health joint country visits*

# DG Health and Food Safety – DG SANTE

Our mission:

*"Making healthy and safe EU citizens the engine of sustainable economic growth"*

In practice, our mission requires that we:

- improve and protect human health
- ensure that all food and medicinal products are safe
- protect animal health and welfare, and plant health

*Next presentation:* How the work of DG SANTE Directorate F contributes to these general objectives?

# AMR a collective responsibility



# Why train veterinarians and farmers?

## key players

- successful implementation of the EU rules
- high standard of animal husbandry
- care to prevent disease
- prudent use of antimicrobials

## Training Aims

- inform about new obligations
- facilitate peer-learning/ networking on good practices
- facilitate transition to reduced use of antimicrobials
- encourage dissemination of knowledge

# Regulation (EU) 2019/6 Veterinary Medicinal Products

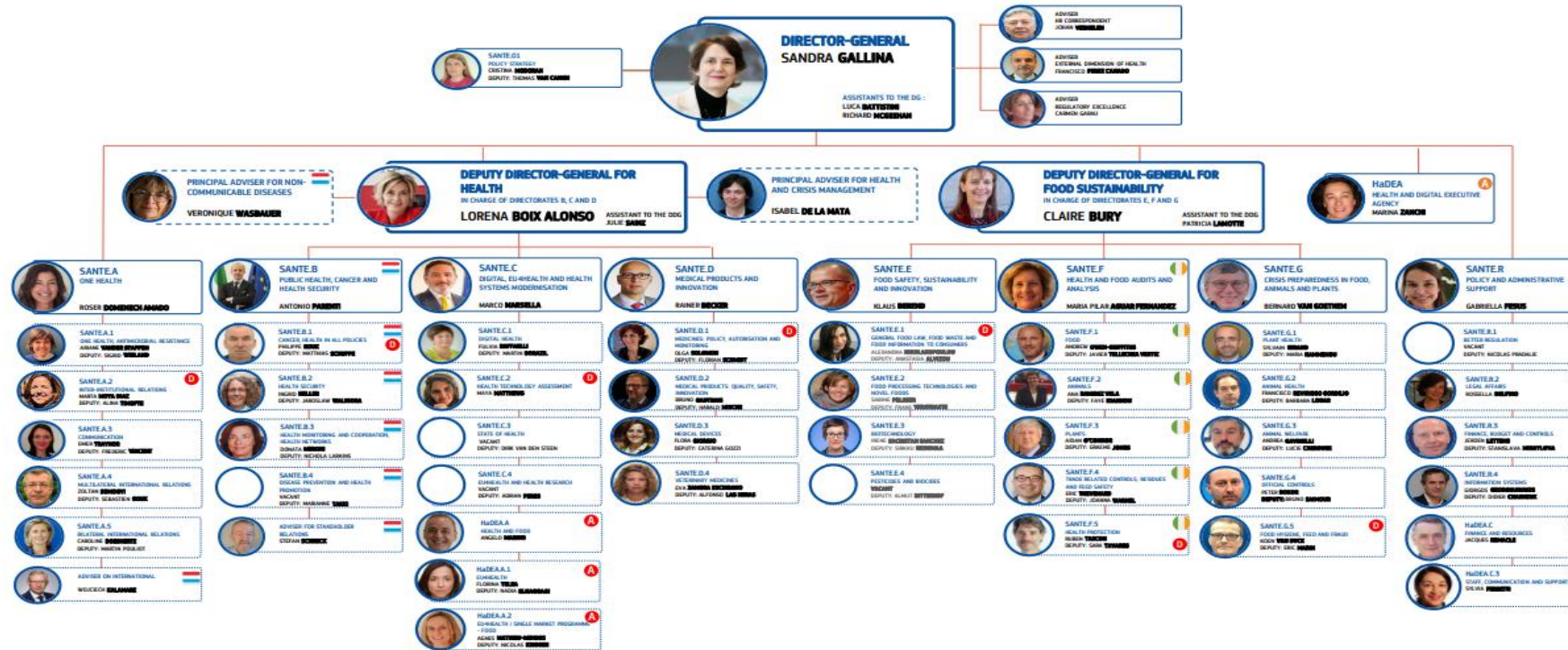


# WHO is SANTE F?



**DG SANTE** Directorate-General  
For Health & Food Safety

COMMISSIONER: OLIVÉR VÁRHELYI



- D DEPUTISING FOR THE DIRECTOR
- A MIRROR ENTITY IN AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY

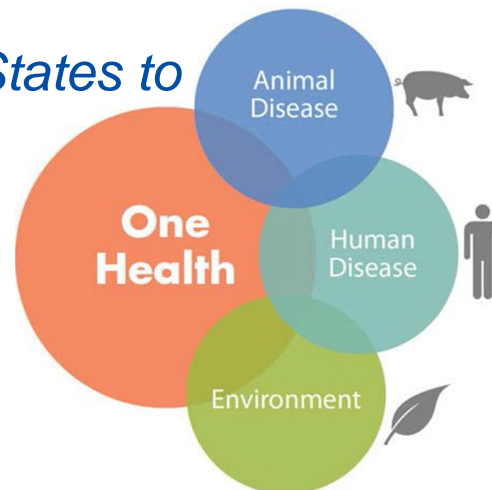
ENTITIES LOCATED IN LUXEMBOURG  
ENTITIES LOCATED IN IRELAND (GRANGE)  
SECONDED MANAGER: ANNIUKKA OJALA, SECONDED TO THE CABINET OF EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT MINZATU

DATE OF EFFECT: 1/6/2025

# SANTE F:

## Health and food audits and analysis: AMR related work

- Part of DG SANTE based in Ireland (Grange, Co. Meath)
- Unit F5: Health Protection
- 2025 Work Programme published Health and food audits and analysis programme 2025  
– page 21 ‘One Health’:  
*Ireland and four other Member States to receive a VMP audit in 2025*



# F5 AMR workstreams:

## Previous:

- **Fact finding missions on prudent use of antimicrobials in animals (2016, 2019) – 2 overview reports**



- **Overview report on non-EU Countries Policies and measures (2017)**



- **Review of National Action Plans (2022) – overview report (One Health perspective)**

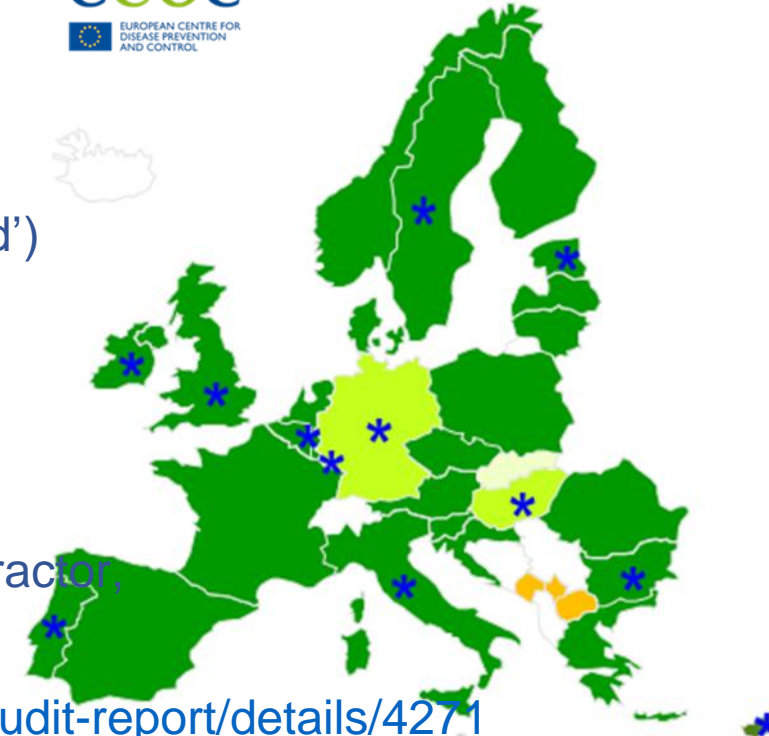
## Current:

- **One Health country visits with ECDC (Member States) and ECDC and EFSA (Western Balkans) - Objective: to support the development and/or review of national AMR strategies → Ireland in 2019**
- **Audits: monitoring of AMR in certain foods of animal origin and food-producing animals** → Ireland in 2023
- **Audits: controls on Veterinary Medicinal Products (scope limited to AMR related issues in veterinary settings)** → Ireland in May 2025

# AMR One Health joint country visits



- Completed
- Cancelled during pandemic
- \* Jointly with DG SANTE/F



- **Advisory** not regulatory! **Voluntary** in the EU.
- Developed from ECDC country visits (large coverage in EU) and SANTE F prudent use fact-finding missions (but more ‘strategy orientated’) with limited **environmental** aspects also covered  
→ **joint visits since 2017**
- Team composition: **ECDC & SANTE F** supported by **National Experts** (also from *Ireland*)
- **New, since 2023: EU- candidate countries** with ECDC, ECDC contractor, EFSA and National Experts
- **Ireland in October 2019:** <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4271>

*‘The veterinary components of iNAP almost exclusively concentrate on farmed animals, as this sector is considered a priority. There are plans to include companion animals and horses in its next iteration. The iNAP initiatives linked directly to prudent use of antimicrobials are generally voluntary and many are stakeholder-driven. Despite this, there are clear cases of farmers not being receptive to the initiatives proposed by the stakeholders to reduce the use of antimicrobials, in particular in relation to the routine use of medicated feed in the pig producers. However, given that new EU legislation will become applicable in early 2022, there are no plans to strengthen the national regulatory framework on the prescription and use of antimicrobials. The Irish authorities are trying to find the right balance between compulsory and voluntary measures in order*

*to maintain good cooperation with the vast majority of the stakeholders and have an influence in the antimicrobials prescribing patterns’*



# Audits: AMR monitoring



- **Objective:** to evaluate the implementation of the rules laid down by EU legislation on the harmonised monitoring and reporting of AMR in zoonotic and commensal bacteria from certain food and food producing animals
- Requirements of **Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1729** (applicable between 2021 and 2027)
- In collaboration with **EFSA** regarding reported data
- **Ireland in January 2023:** (1<sup>st</sup> audit of the 'new' series)  
<https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4626>



slaughterhouses  
and  
poultry farms



laboratory performance  
reporting to EFSA



Meat at retail



**NEW!**  
imported non-EU meat at  
border control posts

*‘Overall, the report concludes that the official monitoring and reporting framework developed by the Irish competent authorities, which is supported by a well performing national reference laboratory, can achieve the objectives of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1729. Nevertheless, this framework still needs to cater for the representativeness of the samples taken at border control posts.*

<sup>10</sup>The report contains one recommendation to the Irish competent authorities aimed at enhancing the implementation of control measures in place.’

# Audits: AMR focused Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs) audits

- **Objective:** to assess official controls on certain provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 concerning antimicrobials (AM)
- Focusing on aspects which have an impact on AMR. For instance:
  - use of AM for **prophylaxis/metaphylaxis** only under certain conditions
  - **no use of AM for growth promotion** or to **compensate for poor hygiene**, no use of AM on the **‘reserved’** list (Regulation (EU) 2022/1225), *if applicable, national legislation* restricting the use of AMEG Cat A & B
  - **record** keeping requirements etc.

**2023:** Denmark and Poland (all reports published)

**2024:** The Netherlands, Poland (follow up audit) and Greece (all reports published)

**2025:** Italy (January), Spain (March, report published), **Ireland** (May), Portugal (June), Bulgaria (December)

\* <sup>1</sup>To search for a report: go to <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report>, → ‘Search’ → ‘Advanced’ → choose country and time period (also possible with ‘key words’ = AMR, VMP)



# Thank you



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