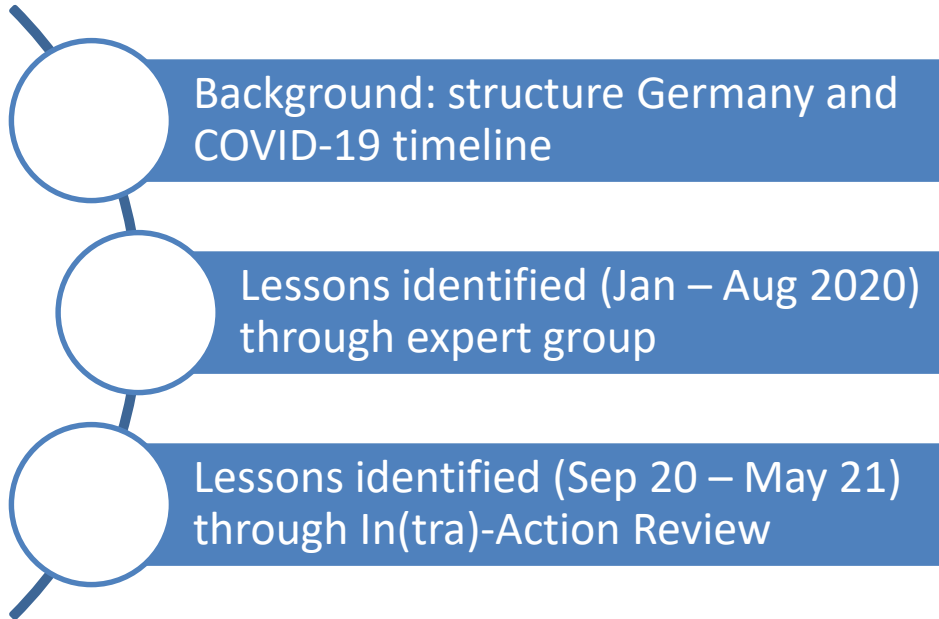


COVID-19 Response at IHR-designated Airports in Germany – Lessons Identified So Far

CAPSCA EUR-MID/9 Virtual Meeting
8 December 2021
Juliane Seidel, Robert Koch Institute



Outline



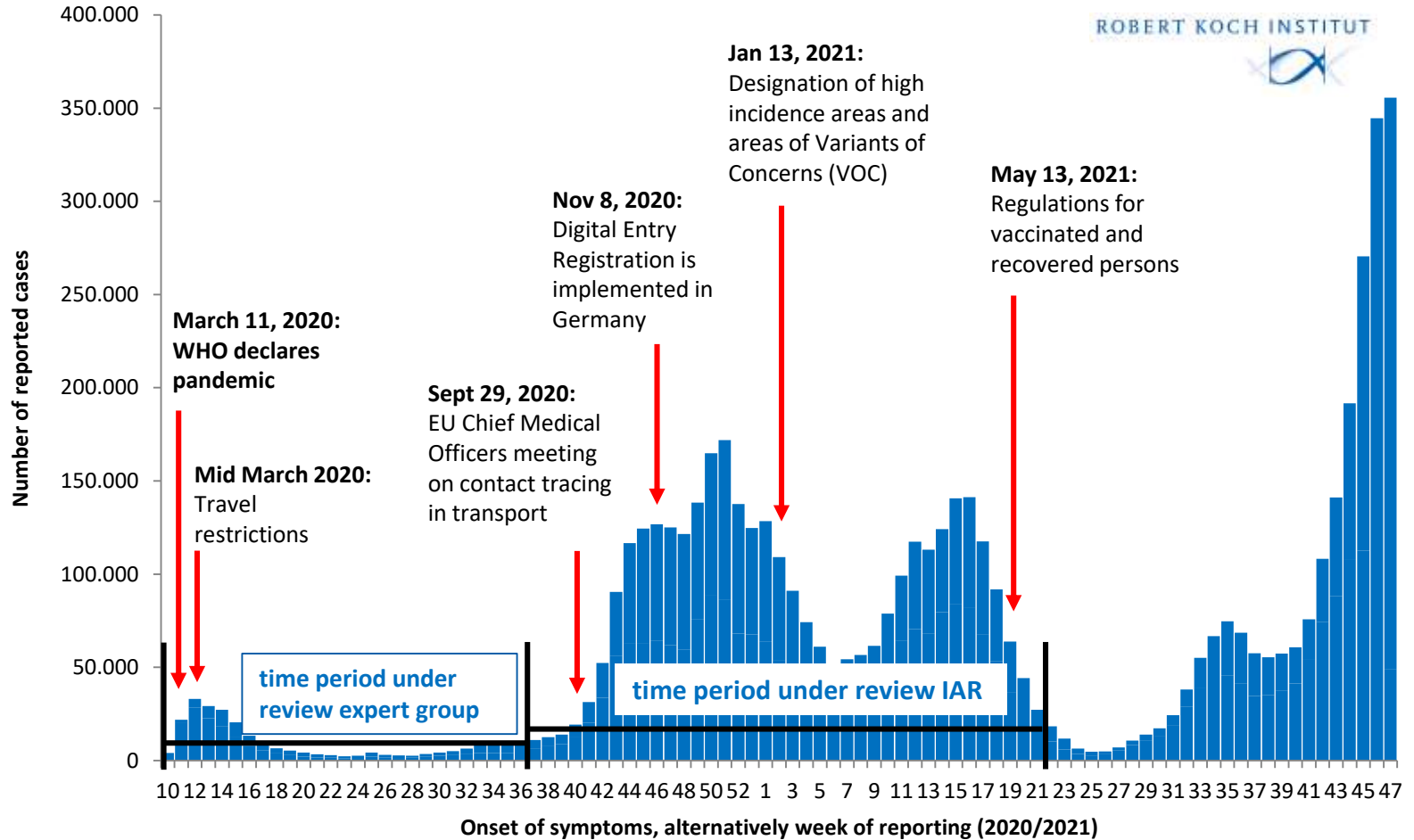


Airports in Germany – structure

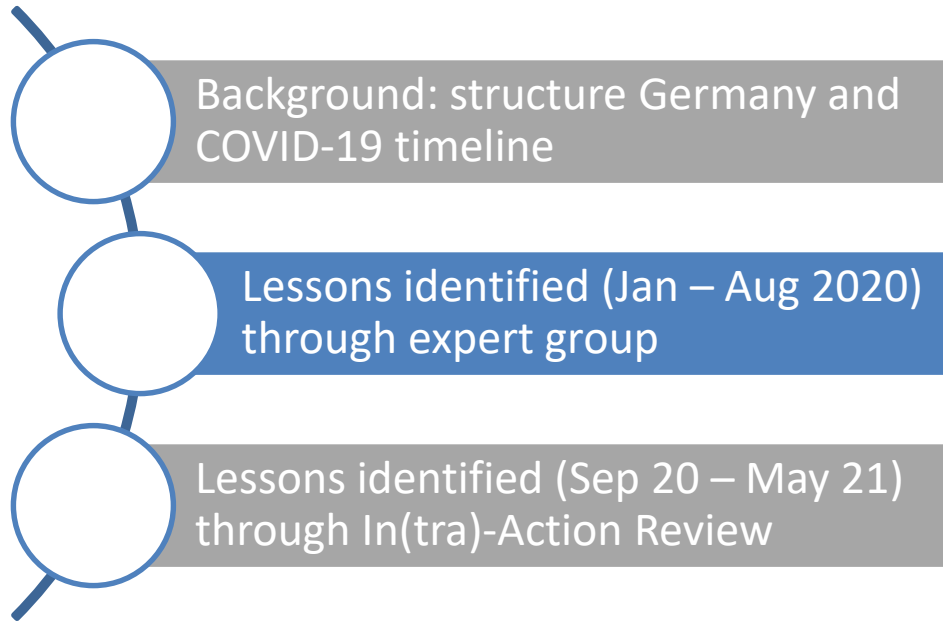
- 16 Federal States → federal and subsidiary distribution of competences in Germany
- 15 international airports, of those 5 IHR designated (red)
- Schengen Area



COVID-19 timeline with selected events



Outline





Selected measures (Jan – Aug 2020)



Travel-related
guidance and
communication



Use of adapted PLF
(Passenger
Locator Form)



Designation of risk
areas

Image: Siegfried Ippisch, Task Force – Infectious Disease and Airport, Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority
Source: Bundesgesundheitsbl <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00103-021-03297-x>

Results from expert group

Selected challenges



Staff shortages



Implementation of measures
at very short notice



Contact tracing



Control of compliance with
quarantine measures



Establishment of test centres

Selected lessons identified



Strengthening of German
public health service



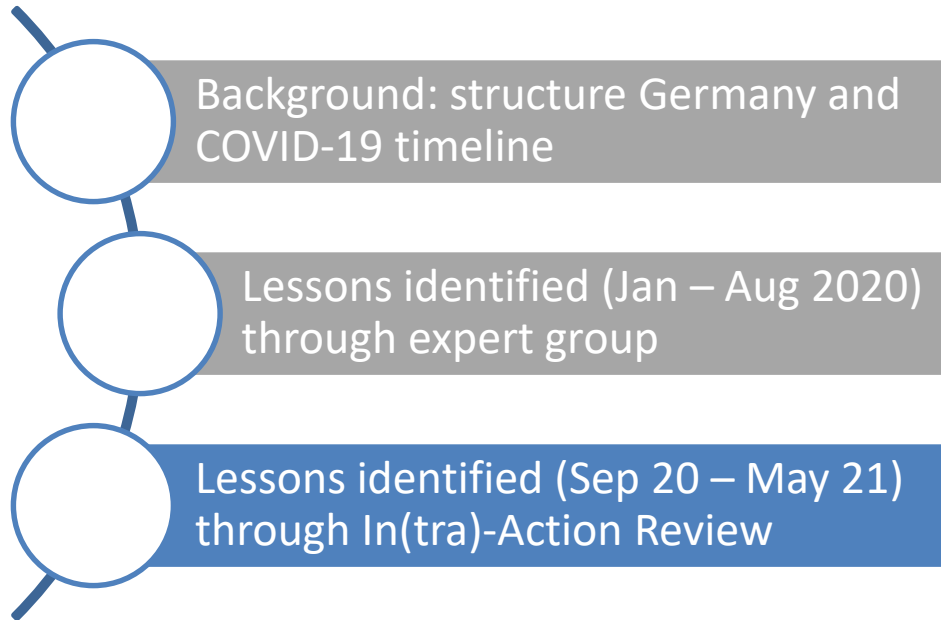
Implementation and use of
digital systems



Consideration of all airports
with international passenger
traffic

Source: Bundesgesundheitsbl <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00103-021-03297-x>

Outline





In(tru)-Action Review at IHR-designated airports in Germany, September 2020 to May 2021

Objectives

- Identify good practices, gaps and challenges in COVID-19 response
- Formulate recommendations

Method

- 3-hour virtual workshop
- WHO guidance (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Country_IAR-2020.1)
- ECDC guidance (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/one-day-action-review-iar-protocol-context-covid-19>)

Stakeholders

- 20 participants from:
 - Competent PH authorities of all 5 IHR-designated airports in Germany
 - Federal Ministry of Health
 - Robert Koch Institute
 - Federal Police
 - Airports (e.g. management, medical services)



Results (1): Selected good practices, gaps and challenges

Good practices

- Digital registration of travellers from risk areas
- Intra- / intersectoral collaboration
- Testing centers at airports
- Increased funding for German public health service

Gaps and challenges

- Limited infrastructure at airports
- Contact tracing in air travel
- Short timeframe for implementation
- Limited surge capacity
- Missing / non-harmonized standards



Results (2): Selected recommendations developed during workshop

1. Promote digitalization for contact tracing
2. Strengthen professional networks
3. Simplify legal framework and ensure feasibility
4. Make communication more timely, targeted and coordinated
5. Support additional lessons learned processes

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.einreiseanmeldung.de/>. The page features a dark blue sidebar on the left with the text "Digital Registration on Entry" and a gear icon. The main content area is white and contains a language selection dropdown menu set to "English". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining that users who spent time in a [risk area](#) (high-risk area or area of variants of concern) are required to complete the Digital Registration on Entry. There are two more dropdown menus: "Why do I need to provide my details?" and "When do I not need to provide my details?". Further down, there is a section titled "Further information on the current entry regulations for Germany in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and on the current exemptions from the regulations, as well as answers to the most frequently asked questions on the Digital Registration on Entry, are available on the [website of the Federal Ministry of Health](#)." Below this, there is a paragraph asking users to check whether they have visited any of the following risk areas during the last 10 days and select those they have visited. A blue button labeled "Specify the places where you have been" is positioned at the bottom of this section.

Selected limitations & general conclusions



Limitations

- Scope limited to IHR-designated airports
- Recommendations \neq action plan

General conclusions



- Important to review and adapt response and to strengthen multisectoral exchange
- IAR as efficient and flexible tool



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- All other participants of IHR-designated airport working group

Stakeholders from various institutions (IAR at IHR-designated airports in Germany)

- Matthias Boldt, Holger Czerwonka, Lutz Ehlkes, Lothar Frühsammer, Siegfried Ippisch,
- All other workshop participants

Questions? Comments?



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