

## Tool kit for Health/Communication Managers and Staff involved in daily communication activities

**Resource:** Country information sheet - GERMANY

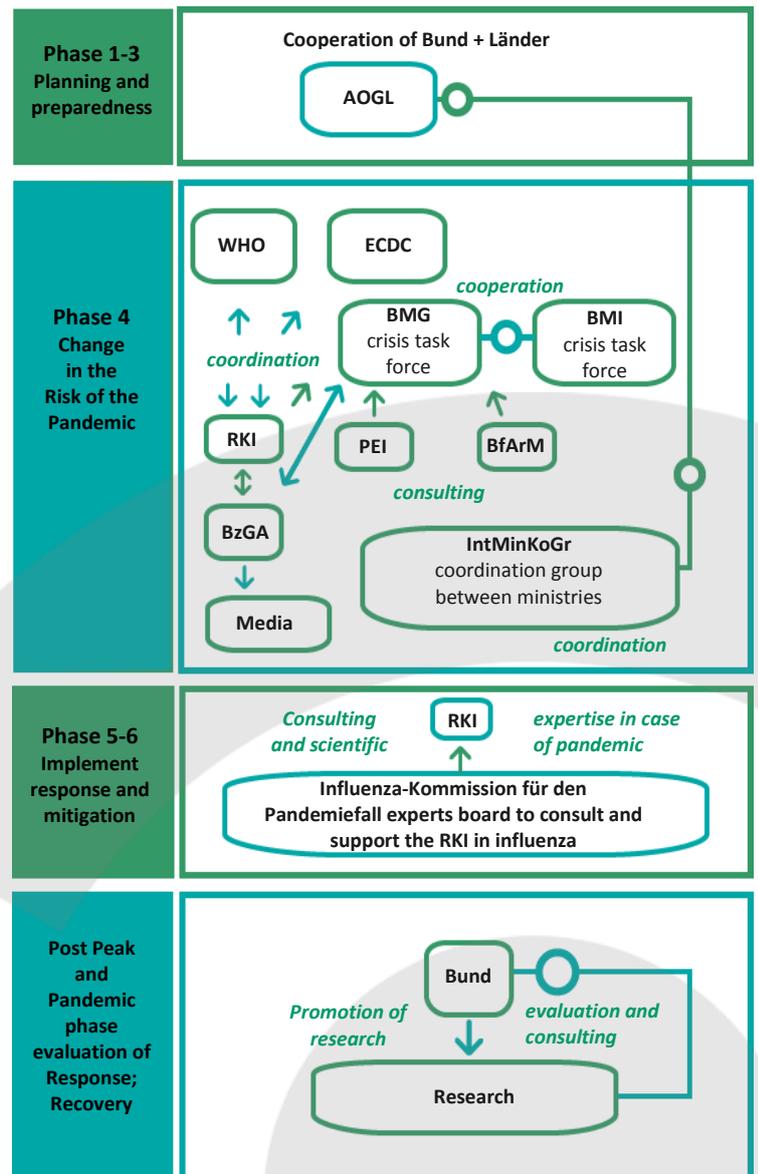
**Objective:** Provide a general overview of the German context in terms of levels of responsibility and entities involved in the management of health crisis.

### Levels of responsibility in crisis management

- **National/federal level:** the process of crisis management and communication on active interaction of a number of key stakeholders. An example of this interaction is presented for a pandemic event.

During the interpandemic period (phase 1 and 2) as well during the pandemic warning period (phase 3), the **Federal Government (Bund)** and **Federal States (Länder)** are cooperating to prepare for a pandemic event. The Conference of Health Ministers of the federal states (AOLG) encompasses representatives from the highest health authorities.

In the warning period (phase 4) the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) organizes an internal task force, which is affiliated to national and international structures, and gathers and communicates the information and development of strategies. On a governmental level, the task force suggests strategies for problem solving and submits those to the common task force of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and BMG or the coordination group between ministries (IntMinKoGr).



These task forces hold contact to the federal states through the AOLG. The BMG-taskforce holds contact with the organized alert systems of the EU. The contact to the World Health Organization (WHO) is held through the Robert Koch Institut (RKI). The advisory function of the task force is carried out by RKI, Paul Ehrlich Institut (PEI) and Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM).

Depending on the state of the pandemic (phase 4), the common task force of BMI and BMG is called into action. This task force is also responsible for timely decisions and measures, as well as for risk communication issues. If the coordination between government and federal states cannot be handled by the BMG and BMI-task forces, the IntMinKoGr is called into action, where representatives of the diverse ministries coordinate issues between government and states. They issue evaluations of the health situation, assessment of risk, and prognosis as well as situational recommendations.

In phases 5 and 6, the task forces have to order vaccine production and organize campaigns, in order to promote vaccination. Those campaigns are usually implemented and evaluated by RKI and the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA). Risk- and crisis communication is carried out by the press departments of each authority (BMG, RKI, federal authorities). Messages and measures have to be coordinated with RKI and the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). They try to inform target groups according to their specific needs.

## Main entities involved in health crisis situations:

### National/federal level

- Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI)
- Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)
- Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
- The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BfE)
- Robert Koch Institut (RKI)
- Paul Ehrlich Institut (PEI)
- Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM)
- Federal Centre for Health Education (BzG)
- The Conference of Health Ministers of the federal states (AOLG)
- The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)

More information can be found on the “HEALTH C Background report” available at:  
[http://healthc-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/D2.3-Background-report\\_final1.pdf](http://healthc-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/D2.3-Background-report_final1.pdf)