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Legislative measures to reduce AMR developement in livestock units in the Federal Republik of Germany

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Situation in 2011 in Germany

- first complete database of AB sales was much higher than expected
- some studies show the AB use in chicken- and pig-fattening
- No comparable data of the consumption of AB on the farm level
- Most of the antibiotics are used in fattening by oral medication



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Discussion of the purposes

- Enduring reduction of the use of antibiotics in the livestock units in Germany
 - Reduction of the use of antibiotics without damaging animal health and welfare
 - Reduction of the selection of AMR
- ➔ common understanding of a veterinarian meeting in NK/DK/Germany (Hamm, 2012)



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In Germany there are two similar systems with the same purpose

- The 16. Veterinary Medicine Law with the „minimizing concept“
- The AB monitoring of the private industry via QS (Quality security management system)
→ the whole food chain (from the feedmills to the slaughterhouses and retailers)



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Medicine legislation in Germany

effective date 1. April 2014

- So far the law was an instrument to regulate the distribution, the registration and safety of medicines
- The main tools were documentation of the use and transparency
- The possibility to surveille the use of medicines in the praxis and on the farms

The AMR discussion showed the necessity to continue to develop the law

- The need of an instrument to recognize risks
- The need of an instrument to take measures to minimize the use of antibiotics
- The result is the „**minimizing concept**“ of the new medicine law.



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The main elements of the „minimizing concept“ of the law

- The farmer is responsible to report the data to the administration
- The responsible administration must calculate the „therapy frequency index“ of the farm.
- A benchmark of all these indexes is the base of evaluation and measures



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The farmers must report every half year all the production data in the official database

→ **mandatory information:**

- ✦ number of animals treated
- ✦ dispensing date
- ✦ number of used antimicrobial substances
- ✦ duration of treatment / how many days

+ total number of animals in the farm



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Calculation of the data by the responsible administration

Therapy-Frequency-Index

- measure for the intensity of antibiotic use on farm level

Index =

$$\frac{\text{Days of treatment} * \text{number of substances} * \text{number of treated animals}}{\text{total number of animals}}$$

Intention of benchmarking

- the farmer can recognize the situation of his farm in the system
- involvement of the administration – possibility of a risk-based surveillance
- every half year a new evaluation by a new benchmarking
- **permanent pressure** to improve the situation!

Classification of the farms

- Index below the average - no measures
- Index higher than the average 1. group
- the 25% of the highest indexes - 2. group

Measures to improve the situation

1.group

- The farmer must analyse the situation together with his veterinary practitioner and take measures to reduce the use of antibiotics.

The concept has to be a part of the documentation in the farm.

Measures to improve the situation

2. group

- The farmer must make together with his vet a detailed analysis and a written concept of all measures to minimize the use of antibiotics.
- The farmer must submit this concept to the responsible administration.
- **Evaluation of the success of the concept by the administration.**
- **Possibility of degrees by the administration**



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The positive effects

- **Responsibility of the farmer** because the use of antibiotics is depending from animal health and keeping.
- **Involvement of the responsible administration** by risk-based surveillance and permanent evaluation of the success of the measures.
- The **veterinary practitioners are strengthened** by the pressure on the farmers to improve the situation and the involvement of the administration.
- The „**heard health management**“ is in the future absolutely necessary.
- **The minimizing concept is a permanent process!**