

What is AGES?

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) is responsible for several tasks in regard to nutrition for the Austrian government. The organization researches, analyzes and performs inspections according to the policy guidelines of Austrian Food Laws. The agency requires veterinary inspections and dedicates itself to the prevention and control of infectious diseases in the population.

The organization includes 18 federal institutes and departments with various areas of expertise including food inspection, bacteriology and serology, veterinary medicine, and agriculture. These separate entities were bound into one organization: AGES. As a result, the various scientific fields that are found along the food chain are consolidated into one endeavor.

Looking at the whole picture: The new perspective in the analysis of Austrian food safety
Until the reorganization of AGES, the previous departments and institutes had only operated within the realm of their own field.

Through the restructuring of the food safety agency, professionals and staff within AGES are able to use the resources of the organization as a whole. Thereby, AGES can provide the body of knowledge for the whole food chain cycle, from the earth, by which the food chain begins, to the human body, where the effects of nutrition become visible.

This new challenge is supported by the establishment of centers of expertise which are available to all professionals and staff of AGES. There, each year, approximately 900,000 samples and 7.2 million tests are processed in Austria.