

MOBILISE NEWSLETTER #3

German Mission in Focus



Dear MOBILISE subscriber,

After the exciting kick-off of our first field mission in Austria, we're back with fresh updates!

Our second mission has just wrapped up in Germany, and we're eager to share the key takeaways with you.

This trial put our mobile capacities to the test—integrating them into existing outbreak monitoring systems, streamlining workflows for rapid molecular diagnostics, boosting communication between field teams, and bringing local authorities more closely into outbreak response planning.

Read the full brief below ↓.



From Austria to Germany: MOBILISE on the Move

Fresh off the Austrian field mission, which wrapped up on 16 May, the MOBILISE Green Lab made its way over to Germany on 22 May—this time to the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI) on the Isle of Riems.

After finalising a detailed fumigation plan, the field mission officially kicked off on 9 June and ran for two intensive weeks.

So, what were the mission's objectives and milestones?

It began with inspections by local and state authorities to secure approval for handling low- to moderate-risk pathogens, allowing the team to analyse wild bird samples for avian influenza.

Once authorised, the team set up molecular diagnostics for influenza virus detection and subtyping, using reference material from the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza.



Wild bird faecal samples were collected locally and tested in the mobile lab. No influenza viruses were detected, but validation confirmed the process works even with challenging sample types.

A workflow was also set up for processing potentially infectious dry swabs once inactivation approval was granted.

Beyond avian influenza, the lab demonstrated its capacity to detect other pathogens of public health importance, including Oropouche, Chikungunya, West Nile, and Rift Valley fever viruses. Early nanopore sequencing trials for West Nile virus are underway.

To maintain biosafety standards, the autoclave and wastewater sterilisation system were tested and approved for BSL-2 work, and a four-step fumigation protocol was finalised for post-deployment decontamination.



© FLI/Markus Keller – *The mobile lab departs the German island of Riems, en route to its next mission in Greece.*

Next stop: Greece – stay tuned for more updates!

Thanks for staying with us.

Warmly,

The MOBILISE Communications Team

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