

Pamela Rendi-Wagner, MD, MSc, DTM&H

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Biographical summary

Dr Pamela Rendi-Wagner took up the post of Director of ECDC on 17 June 2024. She was born in 1971 in Vienna, and she is a former medical doctor, researcher, and health politician. She graduated in 1996 from the Medical University of Vienna, and between 1996 and 1997, was a postgraduate at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Master of Science). She obtained a clinical Diploma in Tropical Medicine (DTM&H) at the Royal College of Physicians, London. In 2005, Dr Rendi-Wagner finished a clinical specialisation in tropical medicine at the Medical University of Vienna and obtained her *venia docendi* (Associate Professorship) in vaccine prevention and infectious diseases in 2008.

Her primary field of research at the Medical University of Vienna was the epidemiology of infectious diseases, vaccine prevention, and travel medicine. Furthermore, she established the Austrian epidemiological network for the surveillance of vaccine-preventable infectious diseases. From 2008 to 2011, Dr Rendi-Wagner worked as a professor at the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Tel Aviv University, Israel, focusing on the epidemiology of *Bordetella pertussis* in the Israeli population. While there, she was also a member of the Tiberio Swartz Research Forum on Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity.

In 2011, she was appointed Director General for Public Health and Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health, Austria, where she was responsible for pandemic preparedness, chief crisis management and communication (e.g. Fukushima, EHEC, Ebola, Avian flu, refugee crises), AMR prevention, health promotion, health equity, and the national immunisation programme. One of the main goals was to optimise preparedness and outbreak response through the implementation of a fully digitalised national infectious disease reporting system (EMS). She was also Chair of the Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (BASG), the national authority for medicines, medical devices, blood and tissue. During this time, Dr Rendi-Wagner was appointed member of the ECDC Management Board and also a member of the Standing Committee of WHO-Euro.

In 2017, Dr Rendi-Wagner was appointed Minister of Health and Women's Affairs. As minister, she adopted a reform of primary health care and introduced e-health applications in Austria. From 2018 to 2023, she was the first woman to chair the Austrian Social Democratic Party. Before taking up her post at ECDC, she was working at the Medical University of Vienna.