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Velina is currently appointed Deputy Head of Unit of the Health Security Unit of Directorate-General Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission. After studying international relations and politics at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom, Velina obtained her Masters in international relations, law and economics at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Before joining the European Commission, Velina has worked for UNIDO in Vienna and for JICA (Japan's international cooperation agency) in Bulgaria. Velina joined the European Commission in 2009 working in Directorate-General Eurostat and Directorate-General Climate action as a policy officer dealing with energy, environment and greenhouse gas emissions monitoring. Velina joined the Commission's public health department in 2015, working on diverse files related to serious cross-border health threats, communicable disease, preparedness, health security, risk communication and antimicrobial resistance.