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# Strengthening European cooperation to fight vaccine - preventable diseases

## WHO WE ARE



**20** Partners



**17** EU Member states



**3** Non-EU Countries



## WHAT WE DO



**8**

Work axes

1. COORDINATION
2. DISSEMINATION
3. EVALUATION
4. INTEGRATION IN NATIONAL POLICIES AND SUSTAINABILITY
5. IMMUNISATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO STRENGTHEN SURVEILLANCE OF VACCINE COVERAGE
6. VACCINE SUPPLY AND PREPAREDNESS
7. VACCINE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
8. INCREASING VACCINE ACCEPTANCE

## OBJECTIVE

To build concrete tools to strengthen national responses to vaccination challenges in Europe and therefore ultimately improve population health through increased and stable vaccination coverage rates.



**5,800,000€**

Budget



**3.5**

Years duration

(01/08/2018 - 31/03/2022)

## MAJOR TOPICS

1. Scientific evidence for national programs
2. Digital immunisation information systems
3. Concept of data warehouse on demand and supply
4. Vaccine research priority setting framework
5. Vaccine confidence

## PROJECT RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Two tools were elaborated and tested to monitor and address the pre-service and in-service needs of healthcare students and professionals: a “**vaccine barometer**”, which allows measuring the skills and needs of participants regarding vaccination knowledge and practice, and a complete **curriculum on vaccination**, which addresses all the different relevant topics in the field.

**We recommend that each country and each healthcare student/professional association make its own these tools and improve the impact of these crucial agents on vaccine uptake.**

Two **communication actions toward Youth** were implemented: two competitions for the elaboration of posters and videos promoting HBV and HPV vaccination.

**We recommend to have such wide actions launched regularly, at a European level, and based on what has been learned those first steps.**

A **platform to monitor and compare at national and subnational levels harmonised vaccine coverage** was built upon a specific extension of the software R; with the example of measles-containing vaccines, it allows to identify immunisation gaps in spite of the complexity resulting from the difference of vaccines schedules between different countries.

**We recommend implementing this platform with data from all the countries of the European area, to design actions at supranational level to prevent future epidemic bursts.**

A **study of the existing reminder systems** was performed in 17 countries. Such systems are designed to ensure that as many individuals as possible will receive the recommended vaccines. All countries have reminder systems in place but the study highlighted the heterogeneity of these systems between European countries both the nature and the extension of the systems.

**We recommend pursuing the extension and the generalization of such systems, and keeping them interoperable between countries.**

A survey of the prerequisites, the operational implementation, and the perceived barriers and enablers for **conducting cross-borders vaccination campaigns** was performed through questionnaires and workshops with 28 European countries; it paves the way to implement such international actions focused on a cross-border area.

**We recommend to plan and to have rehearsals of such campaigns in anticipation of future needs.**

A **study of past vaccine shortages experiences** was conducted; it allows identifying the vaccines involved and the causes (often multiple) of such shortages, and to emit recommendations to prevent these episodes.

**We recommend to build of such experience to identify their prevention, and we indicate the key action points.**

A **study of financing mechanisms** and of the **feasibility of joint vaccine procurement** (gathering EU member states) instead of national procurement was conducted, and led to a better understanding of how the ecosystem of vaccine procurement may evolve in the near future. In addition, a survey on the **stockpiling of vaccines** and the **exchanges of vaccine stockpiles between EU member states** has been conducted.

**We recommend member states to strengthen their cooperation in this field and to ease exchanges when needed.**

A method to consensually **identify research priorities in vaccination** has been elaborated, and was applied in 2020 and 2021 to set annual lists of the most relevant research topics that should receive attention and funding in the near future.

**We recommend the funders to focus on these topics when awarding grants.**

A survey regarding the mechanisms that may lead entities that provide research funds to collaborate and adopt **joint funding** to increase the efficiency of the research has been conducted.

**We recommend such synergy and co-reflections between funders to become the basic modus operandi.**

A **platform** to gather as much as possible **documents accounting for past experiences of EU member states in their efforts to address vaccine hesitancy** has been launched; the many features on this platform allow to identify the best practices and the most efficient action in this field.

**We recommend to analyse any project of future action to address vaccine hesitancy in the light of what has been learned from these past actions.**

A platform that displays the monitoring of the vaccine confidence as expressed in the social media and the content of the online conversation regarding vaccine and vaccination has been elaborated.

**We recommend the governments and stakeholders to be active online, and to address the signals of mistrust and concerns reflected in social media.**