Contribution ID: cb12b247-f07b-4d66-b767-e8b36517f674

Date: 11/01/2018 18:10:05

Public Consultation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

GENERAL CONTEXT

This questionnaire is a working document prepared by the European Commission. This consultation collects the views from administrations, associations and other organisations, and EU citizens on 'Strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases'. The outcome of this public consultation will provide input to a proposal for a Council Recommendation. It is without prejudice to the final position of the European Commission.

The consultation builds on several EU actions and policies related to vaccination including:

- The Council recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination (2009)
- The Council conclusion on childhood immunisation (2011)
- The Council conclusions on vaccination as an effective tool in public health (2014)
- The report of the high-level hearing on the implementation of the Council recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination (2015)
- The <u>final report of the SANTE high level workshop "Seeking new partnerships for EU action on vaccination"</u> (May 2017)
- The objectives of the joint action on vaccination (start 2018), co-funded by the Health Programme.
- The <u>report on the implementation of Decision 1082/2013</u> on serious cross-border threats to health (2015)
- The <u>European Court of Auditors Special report 28/2016</u> Dealing with serious cross-border threats to health in the EU (2016)
- The public consultation on a roadmap for a 'Commission communication on a One Health action plan to support Member States in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)', published on October 2016
- The <u>Commission communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the action plan</u> <u>against the rising threats from antimicrobial resistance</u> (AMR) (COM (2011) 748), published on November 2011
- The <u>mid-term review of the Digital single Market</u> (potential of big data high performance computing for infectious diseases outbreaks, May 2017)

STRENGTHENED COOPERATION AGAINST VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Vaccination is one of the most powerful and cost-effective public health measures developed in the 20th century and the main tool for primary prevention of disease. Currently, Europe is facing avoidable large measles outbreaks in a number of countries. Even worse, Europe is exporting measles to other parts of the world. In addition, the risk of poliovirus re-introduction or importation to the EU remains a possibility,

putting the current EU polio-free status at risk and undermining the global polio eradication initiative. Seasonal influenza vaccination currently prevents up to 37000 deaths each year in the EU. Yet, seasonal influenza vaccination coverage rates in the majority of EU countries are significantly below the agreed objective of 75 % for elderly (Council Recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination, 2009).

Current challenges related to low and declining coverage, supply shortages and vaccine hesitancy require an urgent response. Council conclusions on vaccination as an effective tool in public health call on Member States and the Commission to develop joint actions in order to share best practices on vaccination policies. Furthermore the Council conclusions call on the Commission to identify synergies between vaccination and other EU policies and legislation, in particular as regards crisis management and preparedness.

In May 2017 the Commission organised the workshop "Seeking new partnerships for EU action on vaccination" to explore how cooperation at EU level can increase vaccine coverage, address shortages and strengthen routine immunisation programmes, taking into account possible synergies between vaccination and the use of antibiotics.

To this end, a joint action on vaccination, co-funded by the Union's Health Programme, will start in 2018, focusing on strengthened interaction of immunization information systems, better demand and supply forecasting, enhanced prioritization of vaccine research and development, and tackling vaccine hesitancy.

REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

We invite the general public and all interested people to take part in this consultation.

A targeted consultation aimed at stakeholders (for example, health administrators, associations, health professionals, civil society, industry) will address members of the Health Policy Platform

This consultation includes questions on vaccine hesitancy, sustainable vaccine policies in the EU and EU coordination on vaccination.

As answers to the entire questionnaire are mandatory, we have reserved the option 'I do not know' / Not applicable (NA)' for such cases.

The questionnaire should take about 15 minutes to complete.

You may also upload a document after you have completed all the questions.

[1] For the purpose of this survey, administrations refer to both public administrations and private administrations with public service obligations.

[2] For the purpose of this survey, associations and other organisations refer to trade associations, professional associations, academia and scientific societies and organisations representing the interests of specific stakeholders.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

*Please indicate if you are	answering the ques	tionnaire as an	individual citize	n or as a repr	esentative of an
organisation/association/ad	ministration:				

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b) Organisation/association/administration/industry/private enterprise

If you answer a), please go to the next section If you answer b), please continue

* Please indicate the name of your organisation/association/administration

Royal College of Physicians (RCP)

*Postal address of the organisation
11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE
*Type of organisation
other
*If "other", please specify
Charity
*Please enter the country where your organisation/association/administration is based
United Kingdom
Please indicate whether your organisation/association/administration is listed in the Transparency Register Ves No
if, yes, please specify identification number
457159627309-49
In the interest of transparency, organisations and associations have been invited to provide the public with relevant information about themselves by registering in Transparency Register and subscribing to its Code of Conduct. Please, continue on section 2
IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENT
Please provide the following data:
*Name, Surname (please note that you can still opt for your answers to remain anonymous when results are published)
Dr Andrew Goddard
*Country of residence
United Kingdom
*Please enter your e-mail address (this data will not be made public)
simon.land@rcplondon.ac.uk
*Do you consent to the Commission publishing your replies?

0	Yes (I consent to the publication of all my replies and any other information I provide, and dec	lare
	that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication)	

Yes, only anonymously (M	y replies can be	published, bu	ıt not any inforr	mation identifying	me as
respondent)					

Please indicate if you have work experience in any of these areas (more than one answer possible)

Vaccination

Pharmaceutical industry

Healthcare sector

Social care sector

Education sector

Health/social insurance sector

Public administration

- *Are you a healthcare professional?
 - Yes
 - O No

PILLAR I: TACKLING VACCINE HESITANCY

Vaccine hesitancy refers to delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services. Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context specific varying across time, place and vaccines. It includes factors such as complacency, convenience and confidence

1.1 Who do you believe are the most important actors in promoting the use of recommended vaccination? (Please specify for each option, score from 1 (not important) to 5 (most important)

	1 - Not important	2 - Somewhat important	3 - Important	4 - Very important	5 – Most important	Don't know / No opinion
*Civil society	0	0	•	0	0	0
*European Commission	0	0	•	0	0	0
*European Parliament or other EU institutions	0	0	•	•	•	0
*Famous people Member States	0 6	0	•	0	0	0
*Friends, peer groups	0	0	0	•	0	0
*Healthcare providers (e.g. doctors, nurses)	0	0	0	0	•	0
* International organizations (e.g. WHO)	0	0	0	•	0	0
*Media	0	0	•	0	0	0
*Member States	0	0	•	0	0	0
*Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	0	0	•	0	0	0

*Other public services (school programmes, health campaigns, etc)	0	0	•	0	0	0
*Parents, family members	0	0	•	0	0	0
*Patient groups	0	0	•	0	0	0
* Pharmaceutical industry	0	•	0	0	0	0
* Pharmacists	0	0	0	•	0	0
*Religious leaders	0	0	•	0	0	0

*1.2 How can health authorities better communicate with the public on the safe use and effectiveness of
vaccines? (multiple answers possible)
Articles in newspapers
European campaigns
National campaigns
Provision of relevant user friendly information online
Social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc)
Special programmes on radio/TV
None of the above
I don't know/no opinion
Other (please specify)
*1.3. How can health authorities better communicate with healthcare workers on the safe use and effectiveness of vaccines? More than one answer possible European campaigns National campaigns Newsletter Specific training during the University studies Specific training in the workplace (including e-training) I don't know/no opinion Other (please specify)
1.4. Based on your experience, how much impact do these factors have on vaccine hesitancy? Please

1.4. Based on your experience, how much impact do these factors have on vaccine hesitancy? Please score your choice from 1 (no impact) to 5 (high impact)

	1 - No impact	2 - Low impact	3 - Medium impact	4 - Medium to high impact	5 – High impact	Don't know /no opinion
*complacency (perceived risks of vaccine-preventable diseases are low and vaccination is not deemed necessary)	0	0	•	•	•	•
*confidence in effectiveness of vaccines (trust issues in the effectiveness and safety of vaccines; the system that delivers them, including the reliability and competence of the health services and health professionals; and the motivations of the policymakers who decide on the needed vaccines)	©	©	•	•	•	•

*convenience (extent to which physical availability, affordability and willingness-to-pay, geographical accessibility, ability to understand and appeal of immunisation services affect uptake)	•	•	•	•	•	•
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1.5. Which other more specific factors do you think have a big influence on vaccine hesitancy? Please score from 1 to 5

	1 - No impact	2 - Low impact	3 - Medium impact	4 - Medium to high impact	5 - High impact	Don't know / No opinion
* Activity of anti-vaccination groups	0	0	•	0	0	0
*Attitude (negative or neutral) of general practitioners	0	0	0	0	•	0
* Different and sometimes contradictory recommendations from healthcare providers	0	0	0	•	0	0
*Difficulties on access to vaccines	0	0	•	0	0	0
*Distrust of science	0	0	0	0	•	0
* Diversity of vaccination schedules/calendars across countries (e.g each countries has own rules on when, who and how often to vaccinate)	0	0	•	0	0	0
*Fear of possible side effects	0	•	0	0	0	0
*Funding issues (e.g. out-of- pocket expenses)	0	•	0	0	0	0
*Lack of (or too much) availability of vaccines	0	0	•	0	0	0
*Lack of information about impact and side effects of vaccination	0	0	0	•	0	0
*Introduction of compulsory vaccination for some vaccines	0	0	•	0	0	0
*One size fit all vials (e.g. same dosage used for different age groups)	0	0	0	•	0	0

*The belief that individual decisions do not impact the community	0	•	•	•	0	0
*Unreliable news on social media and the internet	0	0	0	0	•	0

*1.6. Does the EU provide adequate communication to citizens on the benefits of authorise	ed vaccines to
maintain or increase trust?	

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- *1.6. Does the EU provide adequate communication to citizens on the benefits of authorised vaccines to maintain or increase trust?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- *1.7. Does the EU provide adequate communication to other relevant stakeholders (e.g. patients' organisations, civil society), on the benefits of authorised vaccines to maintain or increase trust?
 - Yes
 - O No
 - Don't know
- 1.8. In order to reduce vaccine hesitancy and help EU Member States´ efforts to increase vaccine coverage rates, a number of activities to cooperate at EU level are listed in the table below. Please rate the helpfulness of each of the following EU facilitated activities:

	1- Not helpful	2 - Slightly Helpful	3 - Helpful	4 - Very helpful	Don't know / No opinion
*a) Member States establish a shared EU mapping on vaccine coverage, vaccine safety and vaccine effectiveness.	0	0	•	0	0
*b) Member States and health professional associations develop and provide together inservice training for health professionals.	0	0	•	0	0
*c) Member States and health professional associations develop and provide together information sessions with parent on vaccination	0	•	0	0	0

*d) Member States set-up of an information website with user friendly, evidence based, up to date and factual information on safety and effectiveness of vaccines for the population and health professionals	0	•	•	0	•
*e) Member States have common tools to follow what is published on social and online media, to monitor, in real time, the public confidence in vaccines, in view of understanding and appropriately addressing public concerns.	©	•	•	•	•
*f) Member States evaluate together the impact of intervention strategies to address vaccine hesitancy.	0	0	0	•	•
*g) Member States share media campaigns on vaccination	0	•	0	0	0
*h) Member States establish a common approach towards a recommended EU vaccination schedule and an EU vaccination card and registries	0	•	•	0	0
*i) Member States exchange best practices in the field of vaccine injury compensation programmes.	0	•	0	0	0

1.9 Who do you think should make efforts in providing scientific arguments in favour of vaccination programmes? Please rate.

	Low	Medium efforts	High efforts	Don't know / No opinion
*a) International organisations (e.g. WHO, Global Health Security Initiative)	0	0	•	0
*b) European Commission and EU agencies (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, European Medicines Agency)	0	•	0	•
*c) Member States	0	0	•	0
*d) Pharmaceutical industry	0	•	0	0
*e) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, etc.)	0	0	•	0
*f) Non-Governmental Organisations.	0	•	0	0

V	Establishing routine check of vaccination status of all patients consideratifying and expanding opportunities for catch-up vaccinations	suiting ic	or whate	ver reason			
	Offering material to explains the benefits and risks of vaccination						
	Providing healthcare professionals with regular training courses or	n vaccina	ation				
V	Allowing vaccination to be administered by general practitioners						
	70 1						
	Allowing vaccination to be administered by pharmacists	J					
* 1.11.	How can civil society contribute to overcome vaccine hesitancy? (multiple	answers	s possible)			
V	Using famous people to promote vaccination						
	Responding to fake news						
	Establishing parent groups or peer groups on vaccination						
V	Establishing information sessions for teachers and staff in childcar	e and so	chools				
	Promoting routine check of vaccination status of pupils in schools						
	Messages reminding vaccination in airports and other places of ma	ass gath	ering				
	Other (please specify)						
PILL	AR II: SUSTAINABLE VACCINE POLICIES IN	THE	EU				
2.1 V well?	Which organisations do you think are responsible for ensuring that w	/accinati	on prog	rammes function			
weir				Dealth and			
		Yes	No	Don't know / No opinion			
*	a) International organisations (e.g. WHO, UNICEF, Global Health Security Initiative)	•	0	©			
		O	0	© •			
	Security Initiative)	 	0	OOO			
*	Security Initiative) (b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA)	0	0 0	OOOOO			
*	Security Initiative) (b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA) (c) EU Member States		_	©			
*	Security Initiative) (b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA) (c) EU Member States (d) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists)	<!--</td--><td>0</td><td></td>	0				
*	Security Initiative) (b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA) (c) EU Member States (d) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists) (e) Non-Governmental Organisations. (f) Pharmaceutical industry	<!--</td--><td>© ©</td><td></td>	© ©				
** 2.2 \	Security Initiative) (b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA) (c) EU Member States (d) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists) (e) Non-Governmental Organisations.	<!--</td--><td>© ©</td><td></td>	© ©				
*2.2 \\ multip	Security Initiative) (b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA) (c) EU Member States (d) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists) (e) Non-Governmental Organisations. (f) Pharmaceutical industry What actions are necessary to better integrate vaccination program	<!--</td--><td>© ©</td><td></td>	© ©				
*2.2 \\ multip	Security Initiative) (b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA) (c) EU Member States (d) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists) (e) Non-Governmental Organisations. (f) Pharmaceutical industry What actions are necessary to better integrate vaccination program le answers possible)	<!--</td--><td>© ©</td><td></td>	© ©				

Increase awareness of health professionals about vaccination

No action (they are well integrated)

I don't know

*1.10. What actions can be helpful to better support health care professionals to advocate vaccination?

(multiple answers possible)

both at national and EU level? mapping vaccine deman establish systematic fore establish joint procureme change financing mecha oblige industries establis develop incentives to EU develop stockpiles of vac I don't know / no opinion	d at European and at European and casts of vaccine ent enism to ensure something to produce the established vaccines at EU level	nd national s in each c ustainable duce and s cine manu	level country for ear purchase ar supply the re- facturing cap	nd stock quired vaccine pacities		
2.4 Which policy interventions level? Please rank from 1 to 5	would have the	biggest im	pact on mitig	ating vaccine	shortages a	at EU
	1 - No impact	2 - Low impact	3 - Medium impact	4 - Medium to high impact	5 - High impact	Don't know / No opinion
*Regulatory clarifications	0	•	0	0	0	0
*Mutual assistance among Member States, sharing vaccines	0	0	0	•	0	0
*Vaccine forecasting	0	0	©	•	0	0
*Prioritisation of vaccine Research and Developmer	nt	0	•	0	•	0
*Joint Vaccine procurement between countries	nt 🔘	0	©	•	0	0
*Stakeholder dialogue	0	0	•	0	0	0
* Availability of individual vaccines (not only combine vaccines)	ed ©	•	©	0	0	0
*Stockpile of key vaccines EU level	at 💮	0	•	0	0	0
*Alignment and simplificati of vaccination schedules	on	0	©	0	•	0
2.5 How could grassroots level better engaged in supporting suppor		•		• .	d civil socie	ety be

*2.3 How can public health and regulatory authorities help to better balance vaccine supply and demand,

PILLAR III: EU COORDINATION, INCLUDING THE PROMOTION OF STAKEHOLDERS' DIALOGUE AND CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL HEALTH

3.1 How important is it for these organisations to engage in research and development in vaccines?

	Not important	Less important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	Don't know / No opinion
*a) International Organisations	0	0	0	0	•	0
*b) European Commission	0	0	0	•	0	0
*c) Member States	0	0	0	•	0	0
*d) Pharmaceutical Industry	0	0	0	0	•	0
*e) Academia	0	0	0	0	•	0
*f) Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs)	0	0	•	0	0	0

ne table below. Please rate the helpfulness of	the following E	U facilitate	d activities		are liste
	Not helpful	Less Helpful	Helpful	Very helpful	Don' know No opinio
*a) Member States collaborate to assess vaccination needs	0	•	0	0	0
*b) Member States collaborate to build a European virtual repository on vaccine management needs and stocks	0	0	•	0	0
*c) Member States collaborate to evaluate financing mechanisms for the procurement of vaccines	0	0	•	0	0
*d) Member States collaborate to investigate public perception on the pharmaceutical industry.	0	•	0	0	0
*e) Member States collaborate to develop a crisis management plan with industry to anticipate and reduce risks during vaccine manufacturing able to decrease vaccine shortages.	•	0	0	•	0
*f) Member States collaborate to establish a stakeholder communication platform to better balance vaccine demand and supply.	0	0	•	0	0

*3.2 Regarding vaccine research for fighting infectious diseases, should the efforts of the European Union

*a) International organisations (e.g. WHO, Global Health Security Initiative)	©	©	©	•	0	0
*b) European Commission	0	0	0	•	0	0
*c) EU Member States	0	0	©	•	0	0
*d) Pharmaceutical industry	0	0	•	0	0	0
*e) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, etc.)	0	0	•	0	0	0
*f) Non-Governmental Organisations.	0	0	•	0	0	0

3.5 Who do you think should make greater efforts in funding vaccine research and development including research on the implementation of vaccination programmes? Please rate on a scale from "High efforts" to "Low efforts".

	No efforts	Low efforts	Medium efforts	High efforts	Very high efforts	I do not know /No opinion
*a) International organisations (e.g. WHO, Global Health Security Initiative)	0	0	0	•	0	0
*b) European Commission	0	0	0	•	0	0
*c) EU Member States	0	0	0	0	•	0
*d) Pharmaceutical industry	0	0	•	0	0	0
*e) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, etc.)	0	0	•	0	0	0
*f) Non-Governmental Organisations.	0	0	•	0	0	0

Thank you for replying to the questionnaire.

Is there any other policy intervention that you would like to add which was not addressed in the questionnaire?

1.	500 character(s) maximum

Contact