Public Consultation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases

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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</u> "Seeking new partnerships for EU action on vaccination" (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 questionnaire as an individual citizen or as a representative of an organisation/association/administration: a) Citizen 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				

Post	al address of the organisation
*Type	e of organisation
	health administration
	health service provider
	trade association
	private enterprise
	professional consultancy
	professional association
	non-governmental organisation
	research and academia
	churches and religious communities
	regional or local authority
	international organisation
	other
lf "ot	her", please specify
	- 2 to 1 - 1 - 1 - 2
Plea	se enter the country where your organisation/association/administration is based
	Afghanistan
	Albania
	Algeria
	Andorra
	Angola
	Antigua and Barbuda
	Argentina
	Armenia
	Australia
	Austria
	Azerbaijan
	Bahamas
	Bahrain
	Bangladesh
	Barbados
	Belarus
	Belgium
	Belize
	Benin
	Bhutan
	Bolivia
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Botswana

0	Brazil
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	Bulgaria
	Burkina Faso
	Burundi
	Côte D'Ivoire
	Cabo Verde
	Cambodia
	Cameroon
	Canada
	Central African Republic
	Chad
	Chile
	China
	Colombia
	Comoros
	Congo
	Costa Rica
	Croatia
	Cuba
	Cyprus
	Czech Republic
	Democratic Republic of the Congo
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GuatemalaGuinea

- Guinea BissauGuyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
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- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
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- Lesotho
- Liberia
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- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malawi
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- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
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- North Korea
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain

	Sweden
	Switzerland
	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tajikistan
	Tanzania
	Thailand
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
	Timor-Leste
	Togo
	Tonga
	Trinidad and Tobago
	Tunisia
	Turkey
	Turkmenistan
	Tuvalu
	Uganda
	Ukraine
	United Arab Emirates
	United Kingdom
	United States of America
	Uruguay
	Uzbekistan
	Vanuatu
	Venezuela
	Viet Nam
	Yemen
	Zambia
0	Zimbabwe
Plea	se indicate whether your organisation/association/administration is listed in the Transparency Register
	Yes
	No
if, ye	es, please specify identification number
	ne interest of transparency, organisations and associations have been invited to provide the public relevant information about themselves by registering in Transparency Register and subscribing to its

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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) *Country of residence Afghanistan Albania Algeria Andorra Angola Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Armenia Australia Austria Azerbaijan Bahamas Bahrain Bangladesh Barbados Belarus Belgium Belize Benin Bhutan Bolivia Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil Brunei Darussalam Bulgaria Burkina Faso Burundi Côte D'Ivoire Cabo Verde Cambodia Cameroon

Canada

Chad

Central African Republic

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	Democratic Republic of the Congo
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	Djibouti
	Dominica
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- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
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- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
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	Romania
	Russian Federation
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	Saint Lucia
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	Samoa
	San Marino
	Sao Tome and Principe
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	Senegal
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	United States of America
	Uruguay
	Uzbekistan
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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	Somewhat		4 - Very important	5 – Most important	Don't know / No opinion
*Civil society	0	0	0	0	Ø	0
*European Commission	0	0	0	0	•	0
*European Parliament or other EU institutions	0	0	€	•	0	•
* Famous people Member States	0	0	0	₩	0	0
*Friends, peer groups	0	0	0	♥	0	0
*Healthcare providers (e.g. doctors, nurses)	0	0	0	0	Ø	0
* International organizations (e.g. WHO)	0	0	0	€	0	0
*Media	0	0	0	0	€	0
*Member States	0	0	0	0	Ø	0
*Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	0	0	0	0	⊘	0

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

*1.2 How can health authorities better co	mmunicat	e with the	public on the	e safe use an	d effective	ness of
vaccines? (multiple answers possible)						
Articles in newspapers						
European campaigns National campaigns						
National campaignsProvision of relevant user friendly in	nformation	a aplina				
Social media (Twitter, Facebook, e		Tornine				
Special programmes on radio/TV	(6)					
None of the above						
I don't know/no opinion						
Other (please specify)						
Cirie (please specify)						
Other (please specify)						
*1.3. How can health authorities better co			althcare work	kers on the sa	afe use an	d
effectiveness of vaccines? More than one	answer p	ossible				
European campaigns						
National campaigns						
Newsletter						
Specific training during the Univers						
Specific training in the workplace (i	ncluding 6	e-training)				
I don't know/no opinion						
Other (please specify)						
Other (please specify)						
through professional associations/re	egulating a	authorities				
1.4. Based on your experience, how much	ch impact	do these f	actors have	on vaccine h	esitancy?	Please
score your choice from 1 (no impact) to 5	(high imp	act)				
	4		_	4 -	_	Don't
	1 – No	2 - Low	3 - Medium	Medium	5 – High	know

	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	€	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)	•	•	•	•	€	•

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	Ø	0	0
* Attitude (negative or neutral) of general practitioners	0	0	0	0	Ø	0
* Different and sometimes contradictory recommendations from healthcare providers	0	0	0	Ø	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
*Fear of possible side effects	0	0	0	Ø	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	S	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	0	€	0
*Unreliable news on social media and the internet	0	0	0	0	Ø	0
					-	

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

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

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	Ø	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	V	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	•	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.	©	©	•	0	©
*f) Member States evaluate together the impact of intervention strategies to address vaccine hesitancy.	0	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	Ø	©
*b) European Commission and EU agencies (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, European Medicines Agency)	0	0	•	0
*c) Member States	0	0	Ø V	0

.10. What actions can be helpful to better support health car	e professior	nals to advoc	ate vaccin	ation?
multiple answers possible)				
Establishing routine check of vaccination status of all pa		ılting for wha	itever reas	on
Identifying and expanding opportunities for catch-up vac				
Offering material to explains the benefits and risks of vac				
Providing healthcare professionals with regular training of		vaccination		
Allowing vaccination to be administered by general practice.				
Allowing vaccination to be administered by nurses in corAllowing vaccination to be administered by pharmacists	nmunity set	tings/neaith	care centre	es
Allowing vaccination to be administered by priarmacists				
1.11. How can civil society contribute to overcome vaccine he	sitancy? (m	ultiple answ	ers possib	le)
Using famous people to promote vaccination				
Responding to fake news				
Establishing parent groups or peer groups on vaccinatio				
Establishing information sessions for teachers and staff		and schools	3	
Promoting routine check of vaccination status of pupils in				
Messages reminding vaccination in airports and other pl	aces of mas	ss gathering		
Other (please specify)				
Other (please specify)				
Other (please specify)				

*d) Pharmaceutical industry

pharmacists, etc.)

*e) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses,

9

2.1 Which organisations do you think are responsible for ensuring that vaccination programmes function

PILLAR II: SUSTAINABLE VACCINE POLICIES IN THE EU

2.1 Which organisations do you think are responsible for ensuring that vaccination programmes function well?

	Yes	No	Don't know / No opinion
*a) International organisations (e.g. WHO, UNICEF, Global Health Security Initiative)	•	0	0
*b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA)	9	0	0
*c) EU Member States	Ø	0	0
*d) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists)	Ø	0	0
*e) Non-Governmental Organisations.	©	0	0

*2.2 What actions are necessary to better integrate vaccination programmes in national health systems? multiple answers possible) Dedicated funding Vaccination to be provided as part of the routine health care visits Establish vaccination programmes linked to health care activities for different age groups Increase awareness of health professionals about vaccination No action (they are well integrated) I don't know
*2.3 How can public health and regulatory authorities help to better balance vaccine supply and demand, both at national and EU level? (multiple answers possible)
 mapping vaccine demand at European and national level establish systematic forecasts of vaccines in each country for each vaccine
establish joint procurement
change financing mechanism to ensure sustainable purchase and stock
✓ oblige industries established in EU to produce and supply the required vaccines
develop incentives to EU established vaccine manufacturing capacities
develop stockpiles of vaccines at EU level
I don't know / no opinion

*f) Pharmaceutical industry

2.4 Which policy interventions would have the biggest impact on mitigating vaccine shortages at EU level? Please rank 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
*Regulatory clarifications	0	0	0	0	Ø	0
*Mutual assistance among Member States, sharing vaccines	0	0	0	•	0	•
*Vaccine forecasting	0	0	0	Ø	0	0
*Prioritisation of vaccine Research and Development	0	0	⋖	0	0	0
*Joint Vaccine procurement between countries	0	0	0	0	~	0
*Stakeholder dialogue	0	0	0	0	S	0
*Availability of individual vaccines (not only combined vaccines)	0	0	⊘	0	0	0

*Stockpile of key vaccines at EU level	0	0	Ø	0	0	0
*Alignment and simplification of vaccination schedules	0	0	0	0	Ø	0

2.5 How could grassroots level organisations, particularly NGOs, patient groups and civil society be better engaged in supporting sustainable vaccination policies? (200 characters)

200 character(s) maximum

NGOs and patient groups can be instrumental in disseminating information if appropriate stakeholder engagement is planned and they are consulted and involved throughout the policy-development cycle.

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

he table below. Please rate the helpfulness of the			cooperate a d activities	t EU level	are listed
	Not helpful	Less Helpful	Helpful	Very helpful	Don't know / No opinion
*a) Member States collaborate to assess vaccination needs	0	0	Ø	0	0
*b) Member States collaborate to build a European virtual repository on vaccine management needs and stocks	0	0	0	Ø	0
*c) Member States collaborate to evaluate financing mechanisms for the procurement of vaccines	0	0	0	Ø	0
*d) Member States collaborate to investigate public perception on the pharmaceutical industry.	0	0	Ø	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	Ø	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

opinion

efforts

*a) International organisations (e.g. WHO, Global Health Security Initiative)	0	0	0	0	₩	0
*b) European Commission	0	0	0	0	S	0
*c) EU Member States	0	0	0	0	Q	0
*d) Pharmaceutical industry	0	0	0	0	Ø	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	Ø	0
*c) EU Member States	0	0	0	8	0	0
*d) Pharmaceutical industry	0	0	0	0	>	0
*e) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, etc.)	0	Ø	0	0	0	0
*f) Non-Governmental Organisations.	0	Ø	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?

1500 character(s) maximum

The role of patient groups and patient organisations should be more prominent in this context. Patients are more vulnerable to the public health consequences of vaccine hesitancy in comparison with other citizen groups.