

EAP VACCINATION working group, Brussels, December 5th 2014

(21 participants from 16 nations attended the meeting)

Chairs: Hans Juergen Dornbusch, Austria; Gabriela Kubatova, Czech Republic

Hans Juergen Dornbusch welcomed the participants and informed them about the agenda which was unanimously approved as well as the minutes of the previous spring meeting in Rzeszow.

The meeting started with a presentation by Hans Juergen Dornbusch (see also EAP homepage) including background data on elimination / eradication of vaccine preventable diseases and the respective WHO plans regarding Polio worldwide as well as Measles in Europe.

In this regard a **questionnaire** had been sent to the delegates with the following topics:

- Measles/Rubella elimination in Europe
- Implementation of recommended vaccines (HPV, Rota)
- Availability of new vaccines (LAIV, Hexyon/Hexacima)
- Methodologies used for monitoring of vaccination coverage
- Public funding for approved vaccination damage

In addition a **survey** had been distributed on the current of recommendation and reimbursement status of **meningococcal vaccines** in the national vaccination schedules of European countries.

The participants were informed about the results of the survey (e. g. MMR coverage with 1 dose ranges from 85-99% / with 2 doses from 75-99%, however, different methodologies for monitoring make the national data difficult to compare).

As yet only about 50% of countries have provided the requested data, and **we encourage the delegates of the remaining countries to fill the questionnaire and the survey** on meningococcal vaccination. We are looking forward to present the complete results as soon as they are available.

National reports were mainly focused on the above issues enriched by the following contributions:

- Francis Rubel (France) reported on a US agency regularly warning of antivaccinist media activities and proposed to establish a similar system in Europe.
- Corinne Wyder (Switzerland) presented **InfoVac**, a panel of experts answering questions about vaccination to health professionals and the public including recommendations how to proceed in case of media campaigns against vaccination. Similar systems are available in other countries.
- Peter Altorjai (Hungary) informed about a survey about **vaccine refusal** (details on EAP website).
- Stefano del Torso (Italy) mentioned a law suit accepting MMR vaccine as a cause of autism and senior death cases following influenza vaccination which are currently compromising the reputation of the generally successful immunisation program.
- Hans Juergen Dornbusch presented **VaccineXPERT**, a website providing up to date publications on vaccination issues which is freely accessible for **ESPID** members.

The session was followed by a **Symposium on „Prevention of Meningococcal Disease“** in the afternoon. The presentations can be viewed on the EAP homepage.

Suggestions for future topics: (please feel free to contribute further topics !)

- Vaccination of marginal social groups
- Update and repeat study of vaccine refusal via EAPRAS net (time of start to be discussed)
- Survey - influenza vaccination coverage in children and adolescents
- ...

Looking forward to meeting you in Bratislava

Hans Juergen Dornbusch & Gabriela Kubatova