



European Academy of Paediatrics  
Paediatric Section of U.E.M.S (European Union of Medical Specialists)



## **Minutes – EAP Vaccination Working Group Meeting, Brussels, 2 December 2016**

Chair: Hans Juergen Dornbusch, Austria  
(Co-chair: Lia Syridou / unable to attend)

Following approval of the current agenda and the minutes of the last Vaccination Working Group session in Dublin on 3 June 2016 by the 20 attendees Hans Juergen gave an update on current topics.

### **Vaccination Newsflash:**

While elimination of measles from the American continent has recently be announced, Europe is still facing a considerable disease burden (except Iceland with one case in 20 years as reported by Valtyr Thors). A Measles Elimination Task Force comprising the National Verification Committees (NVC) of the particularly affected German speaking countries facilitated by WHO Europe will first meet in Innsbruck, Austria, in January 2017.

Other than in recent US studies, the “nasal spray” live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) has shown sufficient vaccine effectiveness (VE) in the national immunization programmes of UK and Finland. Therefore, WHO, FDA and EMA decided not to change the recommendation / licensure status of Flumist<sup>®</sup> (US) and Fluenz<sup>®</sup> (EU), respectively [see also <http://www.who.int/wer/2012/wer8747.pdf?ua=1>]. However, rather demanding annual VE estimates will be required as a part of market authorization for influenza vaccines in the future, albeit with logistic support by ECDC, EMA, the Influenza Monitoring Vaccine Effectiveness (I-MOVE) network and the European Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI). Results from Israel, where inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) was recently implemented into the NIP, will also be of interest.

Recommendation of HPV vaccination remains suspended in Japan, however, questionable science backing pertained HPV AEs was recently recognized and is currently being prosecuted. Very low HPV coverage was also reported by Zachi Grosman regarding the orthodox population in Israel.

### **EAP Vaccination network:**

The ECDC has taken the lead in fostering further development of **Immunisation Information Systems (IIS)** by planning several related projects (partly collaborating with and consulted by our Working Group) including producing a European guideline for implementation of Electronic Immunisation Registry (EIRs), facilitating collaborations across stakeholders with specific interests in EIR and by providing direct technical support for piloting the deployment of EIRs at national level or for specific needs (e.g. migrants). A UEMS Working Group on this topic should also get involved via Francis Rubel.

Regarding refugee vaccination **WHO** has not changed the general call for equitable access to vaccines in the respective **host countries** rather than recommending vaccination at the borders of **first entry countries**.

The planned **EAPRASnet** parent survey on **Vaccination Hesitancy** will soon be ready to start after consultation with a leading expert in the field, Heidi J Larson from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (see also <http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/>).

Michel Stoffel, vice chair of **Vaccines Europe**, provided us with interesting aspects regarding the complexity of vaccine production and of regulatory circumstances largely explaining the ongoing problem of **vaccine shortages**. Solutions certainly require closer cooperation between vaccine manufacturers and regulatory bodies.

Likewise, through **ECDC**, **EAP** was solicited to contribute to the effort of the **ADVANCE** (“Accelerated development of vaccine benefit-risk collaboration in Europe”) project, a 5-year IMI project with the aim to develop a framework for accelerated postmarketing benefit/risk monitoring of vaccines. ECDC leads one of the work packages focusing on assessing the “real life feasibility” of the solutions proposed by five other technical work packages of the project. In practice, ECDC forms multi-disciplinary review panels to review the deliverables of the ADVANCE work packages. EAP represented by Hans Juergen (supported by Stefano del Torso and Jean-Christophe Mercier) was invited to participate in an “Implementability Advisory Board” assessing the deliverables of work package 1 and discussing models and best-practice for public-private interactions in vaccine benefit/risk assessment projects. The final Blueprint providing a guidance for effective interaction between all involved parties is scheduled for the end of 2018.

### **National reports and discussion**

In addition to parts of the discussion mentioned above, Stefano del Torso reported new regions in Italy with mandatory vaccinations for day care access.

The suggestion to add “**Vaccination in pregnancy**” as well as “**Monitoring of vaccination coverage – need for standardisation**” to future topics for our Working Group met unanimous agreement.