



Minutes – EAP Vaccination Working Group Meeting, Vilamoura, 12 May 2017

Chair: Hans Juergen Dornbusch, Austria

Co-chair: Lia Syridou

Following approval of the current agenda and the minutes of the last Vaccination Working Group session in Brussels on 2 Dec 2016 by the more than 20 attendees Hans Juergen gave an update on **current topics:**

- While the WHO goal of global measles eradication was partly achieved in the autumn of 2016 by **elimination of indigenous measles in the Americas**, the persistent endemic in Romania with thousands of cases, a super-proportional death toll and considerable spillover to other countries along with other national outbreaks reflects the **yet unsuccessful measures taken by Europe** in this respect. On the other hand, the abovementioned **gains** have meanwhile been **endangered in the United States** due to recent political support for vaccine critical movements.

Recommended measures to increase vaccine acceptance include **proactive** individual and public **evidenced based information, building trust**, asking for and **reducing fears** as well as **addressing the „social aspects“ of non-vaccination** in discussion with parents. Unfortunately, in most countries there is no reimbursement for these time consuming activities mainly provided by paediatricians. Further measures comprise **regular check of vaccination documents** at every visit and **using “opportunities for immunization”** like travel consultation, compulsory vaccination of health care workers and (often legally restricted) child-parent-vaccination by paediatricians.

- Low influenza vaccination coverage is one of the leading topics on the agenda of an ESWI symposium on influenza preventing policies in children held on 14 June in Leuven, Belgium. EAP followed the invitation by Albert Osterhaus to further **cooperation with ESWI** starting with participation in the above symposium by Angel Carrasco, who will report at our next meeting.

- Among **measures encountering vaccine skepticism**, several EAP and ESPID members achieved the cancellation of a planned antivaccination event in the European Parliament (!) with “Twitter” as an effective tool for positively influencing the organizing politicians’ decision.

CHIFA (<http://www.hifa.org/forums/chifa-child-health-and-rights>) is a very active US-based platform

recommending to involve vaccine confident parents (<http://time.com/4736871/vaccine-skeptics-parents-information/>) and to encourage parental immunization (<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2017/04/13/peds.2016-2883?papetoc=>) as effective means of building trust in vaccination

- The **ADVANCE** (“Accelerated development of vaccine benefit-risk collaboration in Europe”) EU/IMI project chaired by ECDC with the aim to develop a framework for accelerated postmarketing benefit/risk monitoring of vaccines (see also minutes of the previous meeting) is being further developed following preliminary assessment of its “real life feasibility” by an “**Implementability Advisory Board**” including the **EAP**. The final Blueprint providing a guidance for effective interaction between all involved parties is scheduled for the end of 2018.

- An **ECDC Handbook on Immunisation Information Systems (IIS)** is being developed in collaboration with EAP including an advocacy section on the benefits of such systems for the various stakeholders involved, a discussion on the core functionalities of such systems and on the minimal set of variables needed. An update is planned for our next meeting.

- The planned **EAPRASnet Parent Survey on Vaccination Hesitancy** (in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine <http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/>) is at the stage of ethical approval in the (as yet 14) participating countries.

Review

While the former main Vaccination WG topic “*Harmonisation of European Vaccine Schedules*” has proven difficult to achieve, an “**EAP Network for increasing Vaccination Coverage**” including the following topics (and involved partner organisations) has been growing in recent years:

- **Common Method to assess Vaccination Coverage (WHO, ECDC, MoH)**
- **Influenza Vaccination Coverage in Children (ESWI, ECDC)**
- **Vaccination of Migrant Children in Europe (ADVAC, ECDC, ESPID, WHO)**
- **Vaccine shortages (Vaccines Europe, ...)**
- **ADVANCE Project (Erasmus-University, EU/Innovative Medicines Initiative, ECDC)**
- **Vaccination Hesitancy (EAPRASnet - Parent Survey / LSHTM, AAP)**
- **Electronic Vaccination Record (ECDC, ...)**

A **comprehensive record of activities and scientific output** achieved by the Vaccination Working Group within the last years has been submitted to the EAP Executive Committee in May 2017.

Future goals:

- Focus on **projects** increasing **Confidence in Vaccines** and (thereby) **Immunisation Coverage**
- **Keeping networks alive**
- Addressing the important topic „**Medicines for children and adolescents**”.

Discussion / National Reports

Among mainly MSM-related **Hepatitis A outbreaks** in 13 European countries since July 2016 (related prior **presentation by Isabel Esteves for download on the homepage**), 600 cases have been notified only in Madrid. Containment measures are tackled by significant vaccine shortages, leaving a single-dose strategy as temporary option to be discussed. Mandatory immunization of flight attendants with this safe and highly effective first line travel vaccine was proposed.

Further comments on other topics are reflected in the report.