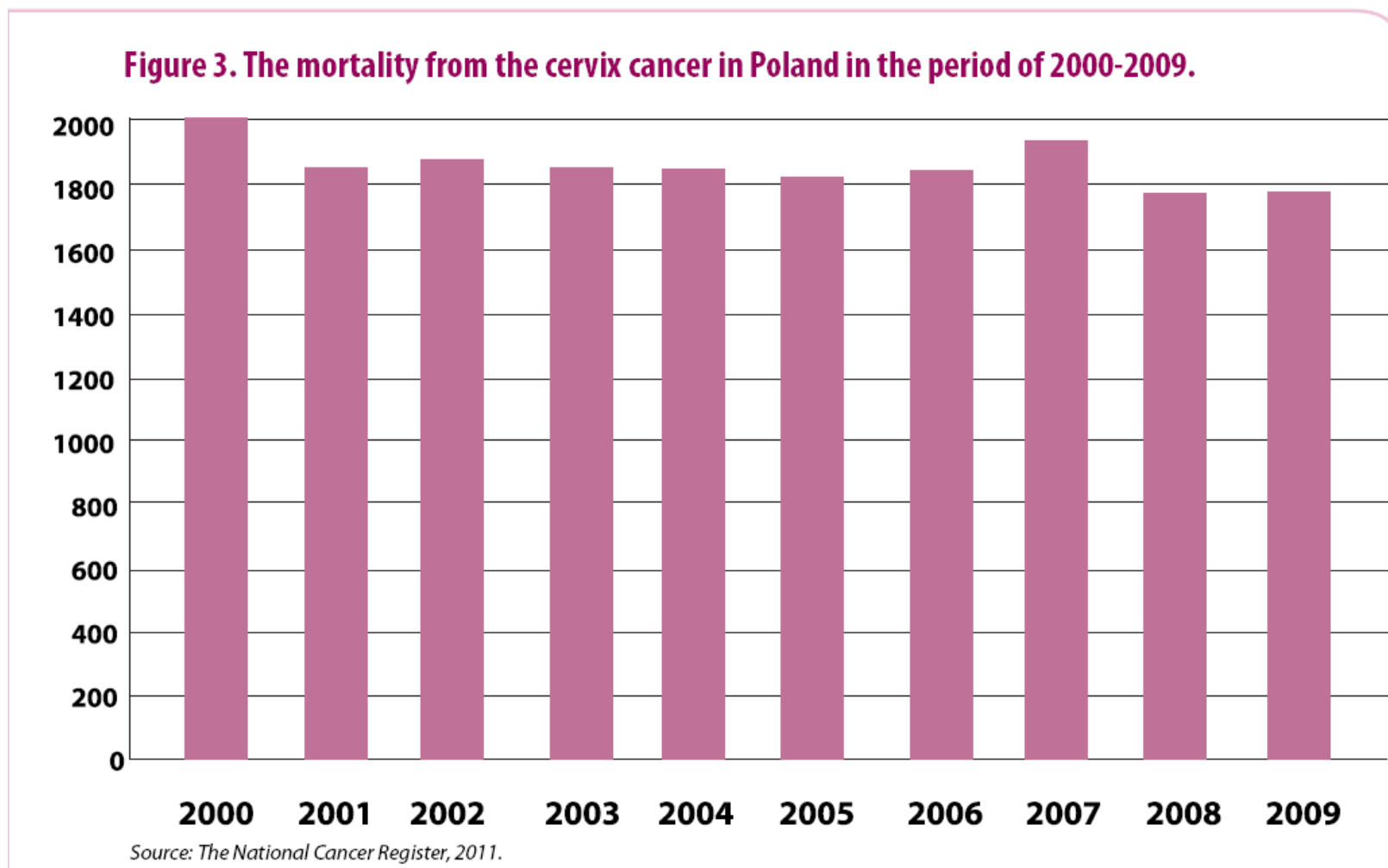


**The Polish perspective:  
using innovative approaches to  
prevent cervical cancer**

**Prof. Bolesław Samoliński**

*European Health Forum Gastein 2012*

## Death rate has not changed for the last 10 years



Despite the implementation of the Program and the efforts of many institutions and organizations the epidemiological results of cervical cancer prevention are insufficient.

The situation needs further improvements and the Prevention Program should be developed.

# Key facts: Cervical cancer in Poland

- 3200 women fall ill with cervical cancer annually
- Death rate has not changed for the last 10 years (1800 / year )
- High mortality rate compared to Western Europe; about 6.2 cases per 100 000 (EU 1.6 cases)
- Current cervical cancer prevention system is based on:
  - ✓ health education
  - ✓ secondary prophylaxis (PAP smear test )
- Polish health system does not cover vaccination against HPV

# Polish Coalition Against Cervical Cancer:

- **Medical experts:**
  - National Consultants in
    - ✓ Gynecology and Obstetrics
    - ✓ Gynecologic Oncology
    - ✓ Oncology
    - ✓ Pediatrics
    - ✓ Public Health
- **Medical societies**
- **Patients**
- **NGOs**
- **Public Institutions**
  - ✓ National Health Institute
  - ✓ Sanitary Inspectorate
  - ✓ City Hall
  - ✓ Local governments
- **Politicians**
- **Celebrities**
- **Media**  
(TV, Radio, Newspapers, Portals)

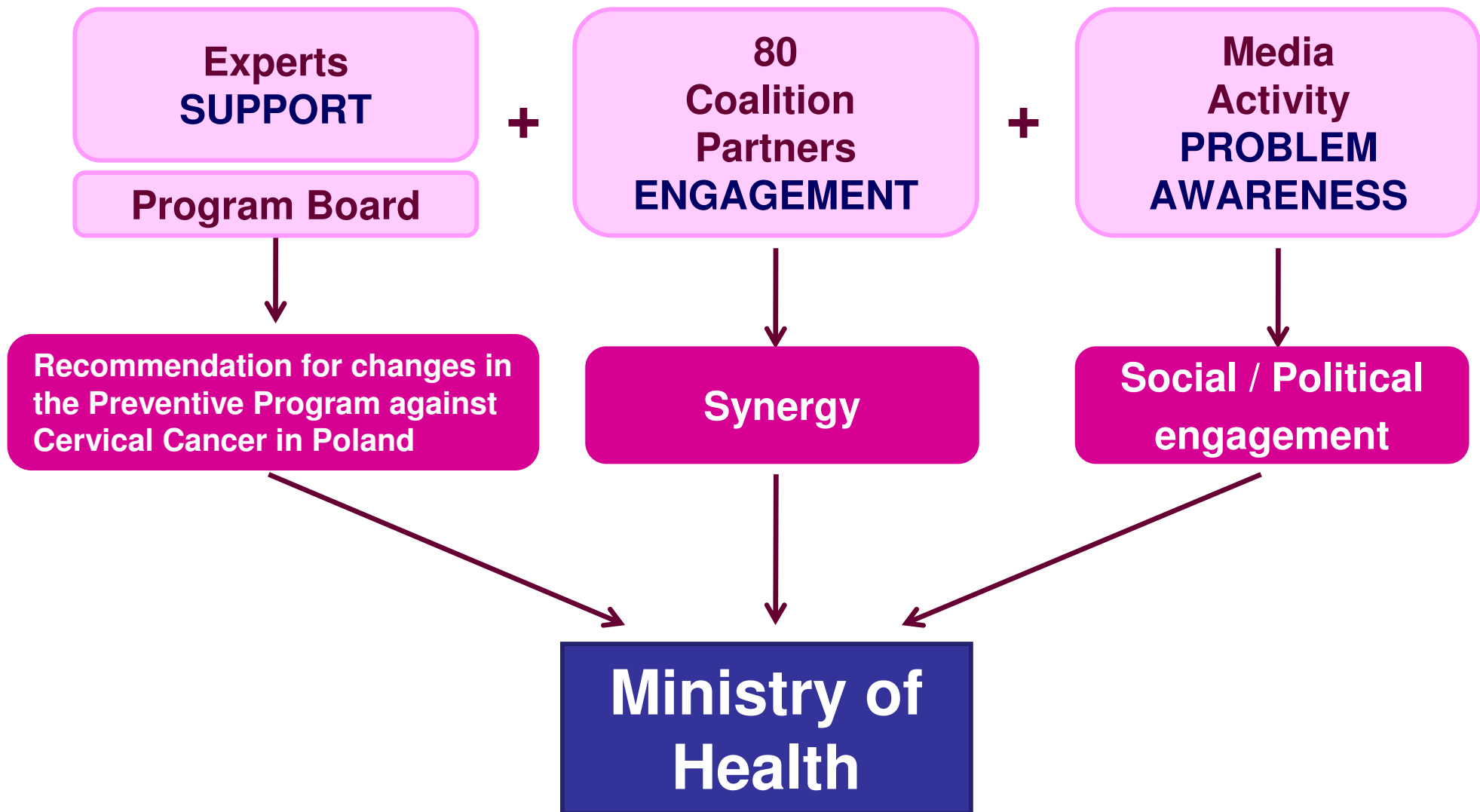


# Objectives of the Coalition:

**Develop and implement 'Recommendation for changes in the Preventive Program against Cervical Cancer in Poland' to achieve 50% reduction in deaths related to cervical cancer :**

- ❑ PAP smear test taking up to 75% population (currently 27%)
- ❑ Vaccination program with a minimum coverage of 75% (currently only 5-10% )
- ❑ Effective education of women and doctors to promote prevention of cervical cancer
- ❑ Synergy of all stakeholders involved in prevention of cervical cancer

# Coalition approach:



# Activity:

## MEDIA



**TVP 1**



## Ministry of Health



- Request of 4 national consultants on the introduction of population-based HPV vaccination program (12 years girls)


## Parliament



- 28 March - Parliamentary health committee
- 24 May - The debate in parliament under Patronage of Marshal of the Parliament
- 29 May - The Senate health committee

# Recommendations of complex changes in the area of prophylaxis of cervical cancer in Poland:




4  Polish Coalition Against Cervical Cancer

No Polish woman has to die because of cervical cancer

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# Reasons for failure in the struggle against the cervical cancer

## EDUCATION

**Low awareness of cervical cancer prevention among women and medical personnel**

## CYTOLOGY

**Low level of female participation in the cytological screening**  
*(only 27% women)*

## VACCINATION

**Lack of population programme for HPV vaccinations**

## REGISTRY

**Ineffective monitoring of cervical cancer prevention**  
*(cytological screens performed outside the Population Programme are not recorded)*

## FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION

**Ineffective resource allocation and coordination of cervical cancer prevention initiatives.**

# Coalition achievements:

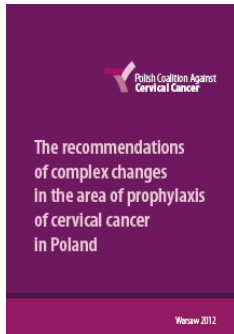
## Polish Coalition Against Cervical Cancer:

- **analysed current system** and actions undertaken in our country so far to prevent cervical cancer
- **prepared the recommendations of complex changes**, which should lead to decisive improvement of the situation in the area of fighting against cervical cancer
- **built awareness** among decision makers/women and doctors/nurses about cervical cancer prophylaxis challenges

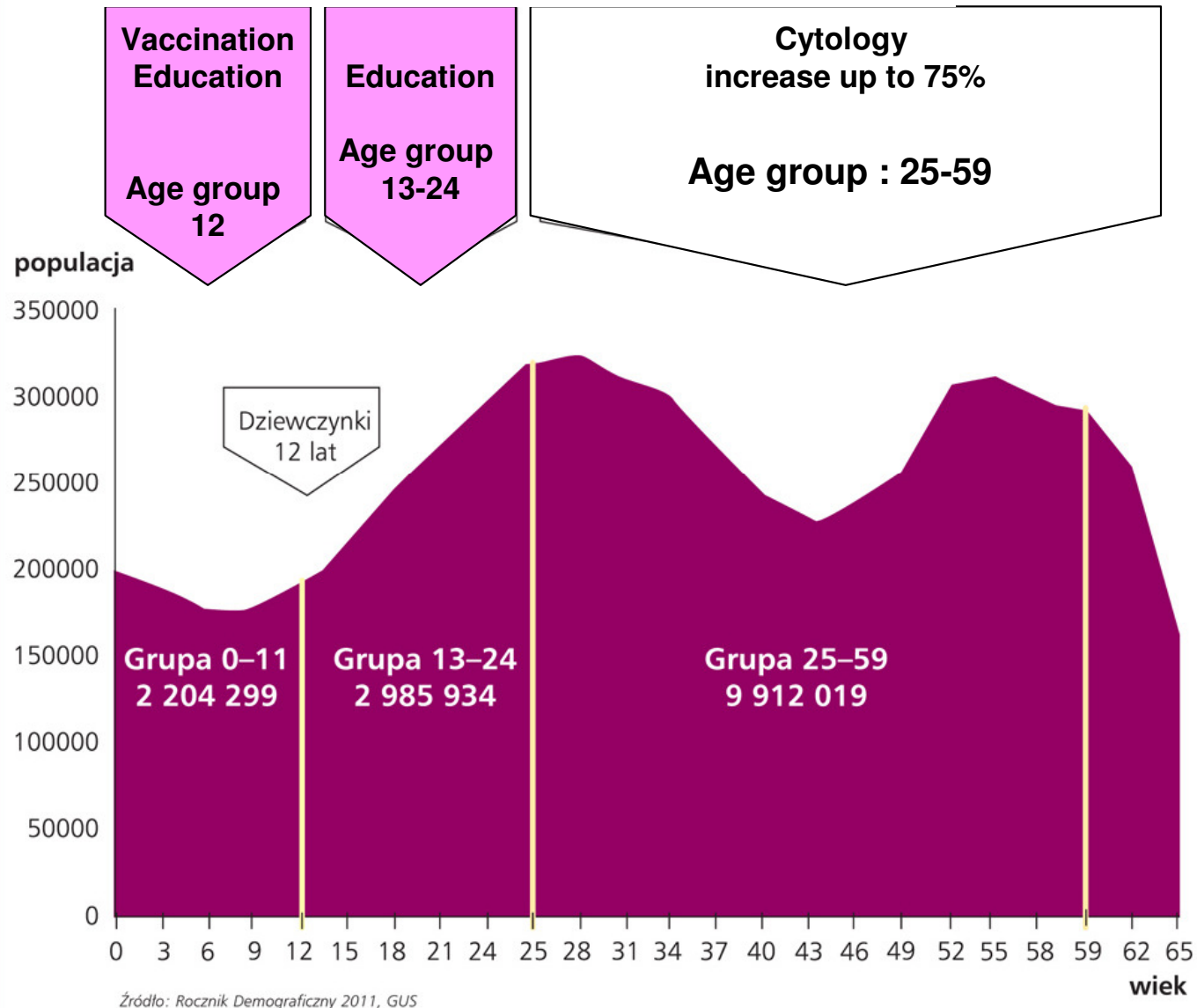
# Key points:

- An effective system for cervical cancer prevention should be based on three pillars:
  - **education**
  - **cytology**
  - **vaccinations**
- HPV vaccination should be treated as an element of the National Strategy of Cancer Control, which should adopt an interdisciplinary approach to cervical cancer prophylaxis.
- 4 country consultants in gynaecology, oncology, paediatrics and public health prepared a joint application to the Minister of Health for implementing HPV vaccinations within the framework of the National Programme of Cancer Control, which is an innovative funding pathway of public vaccine financing.
- In this manner, the Coalition brought to the attention of both healthcare professionals as well as decision-makers the fact that HPV vaccination is not only a measure targeted on infection control but above all an important element of the fight against cancer

# Expand prevention program to 3 new age groups



Women population according 3 age's groups



# Recommendation:

## EDUCATION

- A. *Elaborating and implementing the Code of cervical cancer Prevention meant for primary health care physicians, gynecologists and pediatricians*
- B. *Preparing and introducing a guidebook on utilizing the cervical cancer prevention (women, mothers, institutions engaged in the prevention initiatives, local governments, NGOs).*
- C. *Coherent message*
- D. *Strengthening the cooperation between the subjects already engaged in educational initiatives.*

# Code of Cervical Cancer Prevention



## Patronaty



Polskie Towarzystwo  
Ginekologiczne



Polskie Towarzystwo  
Ginekologii Onkologicznej



Kolegium Lekarzy  
Rodzinnych w Polsce



Polskie Towarzystwo  
Medycyny Rodzinnej



Polskie Towarzystwo  
Pediatryczne



Polskie Towarzystwo  
Położnych



Polskie Towarzystwo  
Pielęgniarskie



Naczelna Izba  
Pielęgniarek i Położnych

# Recomendation

## CYTOLOGY

- A. *Increasing the role of midwives in performing cytological screening within the relevant contracts with the NHF.*
- B. *Performing cytological screening in mobile facilities for taking smears (i. e. cytobuses).*
- C. *Modifying the invitation letter to free cytological screening*
- D. *Enhancing the quality of cytological screening*

# Recommendation:



## VACCINATION

- A. *Covering girls aged 12 in the population-based programme for HPV vaccinations*



**Thank you!**