The French experience in addressing vaccine hesitancy and increasing vaccination coverage

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Outline

- Context
- Vaccine coverage and vaccine hesitancy
- Lessons learnt
- Initiatives to move forward
4 types of vaccines: mandatory, recommended, separate injection, recommended at different age

Adapted vaccine calendar

Vaccine coverage is uneven: 96% for DTP but 24% for HPV 1 dosage

65% of vaccines price are covered by the national health insurance and 35% through private insurance (most parents have one)

Measles (<18) and Flu vaccination (population eligible for vaccination) are fully covered

Mainly performed by GPs (80-90%)

By law the Government has to ensure availability of mandatory vaccines only
Vaccine adherence by the public

Evolution of overall vaccine adherence (%) in 18-75 years old

- Very favourable
- Rather favourable
- Not very favourable
- Not favourable
Lessons learnt

- Coexistence of recommended and mandatory vaccines led to confusion
- Liability differs depending on the status of the vaccine (mandatory vs recommended)
- Safety of vaccines and adverse effects are monitored but communication should be improved
- Growing concerns on vaccines safety for population
  - Nothing is worse than worried parents
  - Information available to parents is not the one from PH Authorities
- Lack of confidence in PH authorities
  - PH authorities have to understand the concerns and adapt the communication
  - Social media used as main communication channel
The 2016 initiatives to move forward

- National Plan for a new vaccine policy 2016
  - To provide a better information on vaccination
  - To better coordinate, at the national level, the vaccine policy
  - To develop a strategy to anticipate and to prevent vaccine shortages
  - To launch a wide consultation on related-vaccination issues among French citizens

- 2016 civil society consultation
  - Online forum of discussion
  - A multidisciplinary steering committee chaired by Prof. Fischer
  - Two sub-committees
    - Citizens
    - Health professionals
  - A final report for Minister of Health in Nov 2016

ECDC Workshop on vaccine hesitancy – European Health Forum Gastein – 5th October 2017
2017 update in French vaccination policy

- Minister Buzyn sets prevention as priority action
  - Mandatory vaccination is the way forward to improve vaccination coverage in France
- Increased communication
  - Online communication: dedicated website
  - Toolkit from Public Health France on enlargement of mandatory vaccination
  - Mass media communication
  - Focus not on anti-vaccine persons (+/- 5%) but on hesitant persons
- Decree on mandatory vaccination for 11 valences underway
- Implemented as of January 2018
Conclusion

- Public Health policies adapted to national context
- Strong political commitment
- Involvement of civil society
- Strong emphasis on communication
- Cooperation at EU level
Thank you for your attention

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The European Joint Action on Vaccination

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The EU Joint Action on Vaccination

- **Rationale:**
  - National action have to be continued at EU level
  - Strong added value for EU cooperation
  - Cooperation is essential to address common challenges
  - Focus on concrete outcomes
  - Involvement of key stakeholders mandatory:
    - Industry
    - OECD, WHO Europe, ECDC, EMA
    - Civil Society
EU Health programme expectations

The Joint Action will:

- Establish sustained cooperation of relevant Member State authorities
- Define basic principles for vaccine demand forecasting
- Develop a concept and prototype for a data warehouse for EU-wide sharing of vaccine supply and demand data/information among dedicated stakeholders
- Define common stages and criteria for priority-setting of vaccine research and development
- Develop a concept and prototype for a vaccine R&D priority setting framework
- Define structural, technical and legal specifications as regards data requirements for electronic vaccine registries/databases/immunisation information systems
- Provide a framework to cooperate on further issues related to vaccination and preparedness
Joint Action on Vaccination’s expected outcomes

- Forum of exchange between MS authorities
- Convergence of national policies on vaccine schedules
- Packaging harmonization
- Plan for securing supplies
- Definition of research priorities
- Strengthening surveillance (from ECDC work)
- Information sharing platform on immunization coverage (industry involvement)
- Reducing vaccination hesitation through pilot actions (involving parents, training of professionals, schools...)
- Evaluation of the vaccine policies effectiveness
# Proposed work plan

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EU Joint Action on Vaccination
WP 8: Vaccine hesitancy and uptake. From research and practices to implementation

• To develop a **systematic overview and analysis of** best practices, lessons learned and experiences of implementing into action research based knowledge concerning vaccine hesitancy and confidence in: Member States, among stakeholders and partners, in the research community, and among policy makers.

• To **develop mechanisms and tools for disseminating** best practices, lessons learned and research-based knowledge and throughout Member States.

• To **identify sentiments and opinions of public** on vaccine confidence and hesitancy, and develop **tools used to monitor** these.