



Pre-conference workshop at 8th European Public Health Conference

## Motivating hesitant population groups to vaccinate - smoothing the bumpy road ahead

Thursday, 15 October

08:30 - 12:00

Room Amber, Milano Congressi (MiCo), Milan, Italy



### **Organisers:**

- ECDC European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC): Irina Dinca and Lucia Pastore Celentano
- Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI): Anna Odone and
- EUPHA – infectious disease section: Aura Timen and National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

### **Chairs:**

- Lucia Pastore Celentano, Acting Head of the Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, ECDC
- Anna Odone, University of Parma, Italy
- Aura Timen, President of the infectious disease section, EUPHA

**Keynote presenter:** Julie Leask, University of Sydney

### **Presenters:**

- Emilie Karafillakis, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Annick Opinel, ResiVax, Institut Pasteur

### **Round table with:**

- Karl Ekdahl, Head, Public Health Capacity and Communication Unit, ECDC;
- Pier Luigi Lopalco, University of Bari;
- Paolo Bonanni, Coordinator of the SItI working group on vaccines;
- Aura Timen, EUPHA;
- Eleni Antoniadou, KEELPNO, Greece;
- Adriana Baban, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

### **Background**

In recent years, a lack of vaccine acceptance - hesitancy - has become a major influence of vaccination uptake.

Hesitancy can be related to specific vaccines or circumstances, in both cases leading to incomplete or delayed vaccination with negative consequences on vaccination coverage and population immunity. Vaccine hesitancy is defined as “a behaviour, influenced by a number of factors including issues of confidence [level of trust in vaccine or provider], complacency [do not perceive the need for a vaccine, do not value the vaccine], and convenience [access]”.

The case of HPV vaccination is an example of where hesitancy has particularly affected uptake in some European countries. This problem requires tailored attention from public health policy makers, managers, and practitioners especially those working in primary healthcare.

### **Content**

The aim of the session is to discuss the possible ways to motivate hesitant population groups to vaccinate, based on what is known so far about them and using the concrete examples of childhood and HPV vaccination, as well as hesitancy among healthcare professionals (HCP).

### **Estimated results/ outputs:**

By the end of the session:

- a list of barriers in promoting acceptance of vaccination is identified (childhood and specifically for HPV vaccination);
- a list of interventions to motivate hesitant population groups to vaccinate is identified (in general and specifically for HPV).

These will be used to draft an advocacy paper to be further disseminated among key stakeholders.