

Annual meeting of the Coalition for Vaccination 2020

9 March 2020, 10:00-17:00

Minutes

Participants:

Coalition co-chairs: (CPME), (PGEU), (EFN).

Coalition Member Associations: CED, CEOM, CLCI, EAHP, EIP, EMSA, EPSA, SloMSIC, UEMO, ViVi. The European Nursing Student Association (ENSA) and European Junior Doctors (EJD) are new Members, but were excused.

European Commission: SANTE C.3, Principal Advisor, SANTE 0.2

European Joint Action on Vaccination

The Coalition for Vaccination is now beyond its settling phase, and the purpose of this year's Annual Meeting was to explore opportunities for future commitments by the Coalition, in synergy with ongoing initiatives by other actors. The agenda (annexed) was split in 1) a morning session for presentations of projects allowing for synergy with the Coalition, and 2) an afternoon session for presentation and discussion on a) a new Membership structure, and b) present and future commitments by the Coalition.

Morning session

The co-Chairs opened the meeting and introductions were made. Presentations were given by the Joint Action on Vaccination (WP4), ECDC and UNICEF, who all work on producing training material on vaccinology, targeting pre-service and in-service health professionals, as a trusted source of information for patients and caretakers. ECDC also presented the European Vaccination Information Portal (EVIP), which will be launched during the European Immunization Week 2020 (section for health professionals only to be launched later). SANTE 0.2 presented SANTE their work on communication on vaccination, to better explain benefits and combat myths. C3 gave a short presentation of the funding opportunity provided by the Annual Work Programme 2020 (3rd EU Health Programme), which includes a call for "Stakeholder activities to support strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases" targeting the Coalition. The call is published, has a budget of EUR 1 000 000 for one or more projects, and the deadline for the submission of projects is 3 June 2020.

The Principal Advisor drew participants' attention to another call in the AWP 2020, on vaccination of disadvantaged groups, and to the EU Health Award 2020, also on vaccination.

Afternoon session

Coalition co-chairs introduced a new Membership structure for the Coalition, with Membership falling in two categories:

- Full Members of the Coalition, meaning European health professionals' and students' associations

- Associated Organisations, meaning other European associations/ movements/ initiatives promoting or having an interest in promoting vaccination.

This layered structure of the Membership was discussed, and it was explained that such a structure is necessary to comply with the Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases (2018), which calls for “a Coalition for Vaccination to bring together European associations of healthcare workers and relevant student associations in the field”. It will enable the Coalition to focus its efforts and resources on joint initiatives from healthcare professionals, whilst also potentially expanding collaborations with other relevant associations (under the umbrella of ‘Associated Organisations’). It was stated that neither Full Members of the Coalition nor Associated Organisations need to have “European” in their names. However, they need to function at a European level/have “a European dimension”.

Coalition co-chairs presented their work on three parallel advocacy campaigns, developed by health professionals for health professionals. The campaigns, developed by means of small service contracts provided by the Commission, are based on video spots. One preliminary video spot was shown to participants and discussed. The co-chairing organisations will take the comments into account when finalising the campaign materials. The Coalition members will be provided with a social media toolkit before the launch of the campaign, which will take place on 20 April 2020.

Vienna Vaccine Safety Initiative/European Academy of Paediatrics presented the SEKI project, a recent commitment recently uploaded to the dedicated Coalition space on the EU HHP.

Coalition co-chairs made a “tour de table”, inviting Coalition Member Associations to present ongoing or future activities on vaccination. Students’ associations, in particular, expressed their interest to contribute to ongoing initiatives by other actors, such as the projects of the European Joint Action for Vaccination, or provide feedback to the advocacy campaigns.

There was some discussion regarding how the Coalition can become more visible. The drawbacks of the HPP were debated, due to lack of outside visibility and user-friendliness, and the possibility of a future website for the Coalition was discussed. Suggestions to share and endorse social media presence (e.g. twitter handles, accounts) between the organisations were welcomed. Regarding the upcoming advocacy campaigns, several Coalition Member Associations voiced their willingness to disseminate the campaign via their own social media.

At the closure of the meeting, C3 reiterated the funding opportunity provided by the Annual Work Programme 2020 (3rd EU Health Programme).