



## **Third meeting of the subgroup on vaccination under the Public Health Expert Group (PHEG) – 18 April 2024**

### **Flash Report**

The subgroup on vaccination held their third meeting online, chaired by DG SANTE. The representatives of 19 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, and two observers from Denmark attended the meeting together with several Commission services<sup>1</sup> and agencies<sup>2</sup>. The World Health Organization (European Office) also participated in the meeting.

#### **Update on the Commission's work on vaccination**

DG SANTE provided an update on its recent and current work related to vaccination, including the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers, which is planned to be formally adopted in June.

#### **Presentation on the measles outbreaks in Europe**

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) provided an overview of the current epidemiology of measles in the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), shedding light on vaccination coverage within the region. Additionally, it delved into the challenges and opportunities surrounding measles vaccination and concluded by identifying options for public health authorities to increase the uptake of the measles containing vaccine.

#### **Introduction to a new joint action on cancers caused by infections, vaccine-preventable cancers and addressing communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis)**

DG SANTE presented a new Joint Action on cancers caused by infections, vaccine-preventable cancers and addressing communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis) that will be launched under the Annual Work Programme 2024 of EU4Health. Its objective is to support ambitious work of the Member States in the mentioned areas, contributing in particular to the implementation of the Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers, once adopted.

The Commission stressed the importance of this action, referring to the significant investment and the opportunity it represents for Member States to work together, namely to increase the uptake of vaccination in a cancer prevention perspective. Countries intervened, welcoming the initiative and sharing their insights on possible objectives of this joint action, and already 7 noted their interest and willingness to lead or participate in work packages. Further discussions with these countries will already start, with an open invitation for all to join as soon as possible.

#### **Presentation on immunisation**

The World Health Organization (European Office) presented its joint initiative with the European Commission (cofinanced by the EU4Health Programme) to address immunisation inequity in EU and non-EU countries through access to and use of high-quality vaccination data.

#### **Conclusion**

The chair closed the meeting, thanking the participants for the valuable discussions and welcoming the fact that already 7 countries wish to start further preparatory discussions for the joint action, and reinforcing the invitation for all others to join as soon as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Directorates-General represented included the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) and the Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM).

<sup>2</sup> The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).;