Public Consultation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

GENERAL CONTEXT
This questionnaire is a working document prepared by the European Commission. This consultation collects the views from administrations, associations and other organisations, and EU citizens on 'Strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases'. The outcome of this public consultation will provide input to a proposal for a Council Recommendation. It is without prejudice to the final position of the European Commission.

The consultation builds on several EU actions and policies related to vaccination including:

- The Council recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination (2009)
- The Council conclusion on childhood immunisation (2011)
- The Council conclusions on vaccination as an effective tool in public health (2014)
- The report of the high-level hearing on the implementation of the Council recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination (2015)
- The final report of the SANTE high level workshop "Seeking new partnerships for EU action on vaccination" (May 2017)
- The objectives of the joint action on vaccination (start 2018), co-funded by the Health Programme.
- The report on the implementation of Decision 1082/2013 on serious cross-border threats to health (2015)
- The European Court of Auditors Special report 28/2016 Dealing with serious cross-border threats to health in the EU (2016)
- The public consultation on a roadmap for a ‘Commission communication on a One Health action plan to support Member States in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)’, published on October 2016
- The Commission communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the action plan against the rising threats from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) (COM (2011) 748), published on November 2011

STRENGTHENED COOPERATION AGAINST VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES
Vaccination is one of the most powerful and cost-effective public health measures developed in the 20th century and the main tool for primary prevention of disease. Currently, Europe is facing avoidable large measles outbreaks in a number of countries. Even worse, Europe is exporting measles to other parts of the world. In addition, the risk of poliovirus re-introduction or importation to the EU remains a possibility, putting the current EU polio-free status at risk and undermining the global polio eradication initiative.
Seasonal influenza vaccination currently prevents up to 37000 deaths each year in the EU. Yet, seasonal influenza vaccination coverage rates in the majority of EU countries are significantly below the agreed objective of 75 % for elderly (Council Recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination, 2009). Current challenges related to low and declining coverage, supply shortages and vaccine hesitancy require an urgent response. Council conclusions on vaccination as an effective tool in public health call on Member States and the Commission to develop joint actions in order to share best practices on vaccination policies. Furthermore the Council conclusions call on the Commission to identify synergies between vaccination and other EU policies and legislation, in particular as regards crisis management and preparedness.

In May 2017 the Commission organised the workshop "Seeking new partnerships for EU action on vaccination" to explore how cooperation at EU level can increase vaccine coverage, address shortages and strengthen routine immunisation programmes, taking into account possible synergies between vaccination and the use of antibiotics. To this end, a joint action on vaccination, co-funded by the Union’s Health Programme, will start in 2018, focusing on strengthened interaction of immunization information systems, better demand and supply forecasting, enhanced prioritization of vaccine research and development, and tackling vaccine hesitancy.

REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE
We invite the general public and all interested people to take part in this consultation. A targeted consultation aimed at stakeholders (for example, health administrators, associations, health professionals, civil society, industry) will address members of the Health Policy Platform. This consultation includes questions on vaccine hesitancy, sustainable vaccine policies in the EU and EU coordination on vaccination. As answers to the entire questionnaire are mandatory, we have reserved the option 'I do not know' / Not applicable (NA)' for such cases. The questionnaire should take about 15 minutes to complete. You may also upload a document after you have completed all the questions.

[1] For the purpose of this survey, administrations refer to both public administrations and private administrations with public service obligations.
[2] For the purpose of this survey, associations and other organisations refer to trade associations, professional associations, academia and scientific societies and organisations representing the interests of specific stakeholders.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

* Please indicate if you are answering the questionnaire as an individual citizen or as a representative of an organisation/association/administration:
  ○ a) Citizen
  ○ b) Organisation/association/administration/industry/private enterprise

If you answer a), please go to the next section
If you answer b), please continue

* Please indicate the name of your organisation/association/administration
*Postal address of the organisation


*Type of organisation
  - health administration
  - health service provider
  - trade association
  - private enterprise
  - professional consultancy
  - professional association
  - non-governmental organisation
  - research and academia
  - churches and religious communities
  - regional or local authority
  - international organisation
  - other

*If "other", please specify


*Please enter the country where your organisation/association/administration is based
  - Afghanistan
  - Albania
  - Algeria
  - Andorra
  - Angola
  - Antigua and Barbuda
  - Argentina
  - Armenia
  - Australia
  - Austria
  - Azerbaijan
  - Bahamas
  - Bahrain
  - Bangladesh
  - Barbados
  - Belarus
  - Belgium
  - Belize
  - Benin
  - Bhutan
  - Bolivia
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Côte D'Ivoire
Cabo Verde
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Please indicate whether your organisation/association/administration is listed in the Transparency Register

- Yes
- No

If, yes, please specify identification number

In the interest of transparency, organisations and associations have been invited to provide the public with relevant information about themselves by registering in Transparency Register and subscribing to its Code of Conduct.

Please, continue on section 2
IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENT

Please provide the following data:

*Name, Surname (please note that you can still opt for your answers to remain anonymous when results are published)

*Country of residence
  - Afghanistan
  - Albania
  - Algeria
  - Andorra
  - Angola
  - Antigua and Barbuda
  - Argentina
  - Armenia
  - Australia
  - Austria
  - Azerbaijan
  - Bahamas
  - Bahrain
  - Bangladesh
  - Barbados
  - Belarus
  - Belgium
  - Belize
  - Benin
  - Bhutan
  - Bolivia
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Botswana
  - Brazil
  - Brunei Darussalam
  - Bulgaria
  - Burkina Faso
  - Burundi
  - Côte D'Ivoire
  - Cabo Verde
  - Cambodia
  - Cameroon
  - Canada
  - Central African Republic
  - Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
North Korea
Norway
Oman
* Please enter your e-mail address (this data will not be made public)


* Do you consent to the Commission publishing your replies?
  - Yes (I consent to the publication of all my replies and any other information I provide, and declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
  - Yes, only anonymously (My replies can be published, but not any information identifying me as respondent)

Please indicate if you have work experience in any of these areas (more than one answer possible)

- [ ] Vaccination
- [ ] Pharmaceutical industry
- [ ] Healthcare sector
- [ ] Social care sector
- [ ] Education sector
- [ ] Health/social insurance sector
- [ ] Public administration

* Are you a healthcare professional?
  - Yes
  - No

PILLAR I: TACKLING VACCINE HESITANCY
Vaccine hesitancy refers to delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services. Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context specific varying across time, place and vaccines. It includes factors such as complacency, convenience and confidence.
1.1 Who do you believe are the most important actors in promoting the use of recommended vaccination?
(Please specify for each option, score from 1 (not important) to 5 (most important))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 – Not important</th>
<th>2 - Somewhat important</th>
<th>3 - Important</th>
<th>4 - Very important</th>
<th>5 – Most important</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Civil society</td>
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<td>* European Commission</td>
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<td>* European Parliament or other EU institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Famous people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member States</td>
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<td>* Friends, peer groups</td>
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<td>* Healthcare providers</td>
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<td>(e.g. doctors, nurses)</td>
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<td>* International organizations (e.g. WHO)</td>
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<td>* Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Member States</td>
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<td>* Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)</td>
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<td>*Other public services (school programmes, health campaigns, etc)</td>
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<td>*Parents, family members</td>
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<td>*Patient groups</td>
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<td>*Pharmaceutical industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Pharmacists</td>
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<td>*Religious leaders</td>
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</table>
1.2 How can health authorities better communicate with the public on the safe use and effectiveness of vaccines? (multiple answers possible)

- Articles in newspapers
- European campaigns
- National campaigns
- Provision of relevant user friendly information online
- Social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc)
- Special programmes on radio/TV
- None of the above
- I don't know/no opinion
- Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

1.3. How can health authorities better communicate with healthcare workers on the safe use and effectiveness of vaccines? More than one answer possible

- European campaigns
- National campaigns
- Newsletter
- Specific training during the University studies
- Specific training in the workplace (including e-training)
- I don't know/no opinion
- Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

1.4. Based on your experience, how much impact do these factors have on vaccine hesitancy? Please score your choice from 1 (no impact) to 5 (high impact)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 – No impact</th>
<th>2 - Low impact</th>
<th>3 - Medium impact</th>
<th>4 - Medium to high impact</th>
<th>5 – High impact</th>
<th>Don't know/no opinion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>complacency (perceived risks of vaccine-preventable diseases are low and vaccination is not deemed necessary)</em></td>
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</table>
1.5. Which other more specific factors do you think have a big influence on vaccine hesitancy? Please score from 1 to 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>1 - No impact</th>
<th>2 - Low impact</th>
<th>3 - Medium impact</th>
<th>4 - Medium to high impact</th>
<th>5 - High impact</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Activity of anti-vaccination groups</td>
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<td>* Attitude (negative or neutral) of general practitioners</td>
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<td>* Different and sometimes contradictory recommendations from healthcare providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Difficulties on access to vaccines</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Distrust of science</td>
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<td>* Diversity of vaccination schedules/calendars across countries (e.g. each countries has own rules on when, who and how often to vaccinate)</td>
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<td>* Fear of possible side effects</td>
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<td>* Funding issues (e.g. out-of-pocket expenses)</td>
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<td>Lack of (or too much) availability of vaccines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of information about impact and side effects of vaccination</td>
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<td>Introduction of compulsory vaccination for some vaccines</td>
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<tr>
<td>One size fit all vials (e.g. same dosage used for different age groups)</td>
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<td>The belief that individual decisions do not impact the community</td>
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<td>Unreliable news on social media and the internet</td>
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</table>

1.6. Does the EU provide adequate communication to citizens on the benefits of authorised vaccines to maintain or increase trust?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

1.6. Does the EU provide adequate communication to citizens on the benefits of authorised vaccines to maintain or increase trust?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

1.7. Does the EU provide adequate communication to other relevant stakeholders (e.g. patients' organisations, civil society), on the benefits of authorised vaccines to maintain or increase trust?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

1.8. In order to reduce vaccine hesitancy and help EU Member States’ efforts to increase vaccine coverage rates, a number of activities to cooperate at EU level are listed in the table below. Please rate the helpfulness of each of the following EU facilitated activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Member States establish a shared EU mapping on vaccine coverage, vaccine safety and vaccine effectiveness.</th>
<th>1 - Not helpful</th>
<th>2 - Slightly helpful</th>
<th>3 - Helpful</th>
<th>4 - Very helpful</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
*b) Member States and health professional associations develop and provide together in-service training for health professionals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* c) Member States and health professional associations develop and provide together information sessions with parents on vaccination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* d) Member States set-up an information website with user-friendly, evidence-based, up-to-date and factual information on safety and effectiveness of vaccines for the population and health professionals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* e) Member States have common tools to follow what is published on social and online media, to monitor, in real time, the public confidence in vaccines, in view of understanding and appropriately addressing public concerns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* f) Member States evaluate together the impact of intervention strategies to address vaccine hesitancy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* g) Member States share media campaigns on vaccination.

<table>
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<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* h) Member States establish a common approach towards a recommended EU vaccination schedule and an EU vaccination card and registries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* i) Member States exchange best practices in the field of vaccine injury compensation programmes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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1.9 Who do you think should make efforts in providing scientific arguments in favour of vaccination programmes? Please rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* a) International organisations (e.g. WHO, Global Health Security Initiative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* b) European Commission and EU agencies (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, European Medicines Agency)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
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* c) Member States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low efforts</th>
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1.10. What actions can be helpful to better support health care professionals to advocate vaccination? (multiple answers possible)

- Establishing routine check of vaccination status of all patients consulting for whatever reason
- Identifying and expanding opportunities for catch-up vaccinations
- Offering material to explains the benefits and risks of vaccination
- Providing healthcare professionals with regular training courses on vaccination
- Allowing vaccination to be administered by general practitioners
- Allowing vaccination to be administered by nurses in community settings/healthcare centres

1.11. How can civil society contribute to overcome vaccine hesitancy? (multiple answers possible)

- Using famous people to promote vaccination
- Responding to fake news
- Establishing parent groups or peer groups on vaccination
- Establishing information sessions for teachers and staff in childcare and schools
- Promoting routine check of vaccination status of pupils in schools
- Messages reminding vaccination in airports and other places of mass gathering

Other (please specify)

PILLAR II: SUSTAINABLE VACCINE POLICIES IN THE EU

2.1 Which organisations do you think are responsible for ensuring that vaccination programmes function well?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*a) International organisations (e.g. WHO, UNICEF, Global Health Security Initiative)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>*b) European Commission and EU agencies (ECDC, EMA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>*c) EU Member States</td>
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<tr>
<td>*d) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists)</td>
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<tr>
<td>*e) Non-Governmental Organisations.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2.2 What actions are necessary to better integrate vaccination programmes in national health systems? (multiple answers possible)

- Dedicated funding
- Vaccination to be provided as part of the routine health care visits
- Establish vaccination programmes linked to health care activities for different age groups
- Increase awareness of health professionals about vaccination
- No action (they are well integrated)
- I don’t know

2.3 How can public health and regulatory authorities help to better balance vaccine supply and demand, both at national and EU level? (multiple answers possible)

- mapping vaccine demand at European and national level
- establish systematic forecasts of vaccines in each country for each vaccine
- establish joint procurement
- change financing mechanism to ensure sustainable purchase and stock
- oblige industries established in EU to produce and supply the required vaccines
- develop incentives to EU established vaccine manufacturing capacities
- develop stockpiles of vaccines at EU level
- I don’t know / no opinion

2.4 Which policy interventions would have the biggest impact on mitigating vaccine shortages at EU level? Please rank from 1 to 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Intervention</th>
<th>1 - No impact</th>
<th>2 - Low impact</th>
<th>3 - Medium impact</th>
<th>4 - Medium to high impact</th>
<th>5 - High impact</th>
<th>Don’t know / No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory clarifications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutual assistance among Member States, sharing vaccines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccine forecasting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prioritisation of vaccine Research and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Vaccine procurement between countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of individual vaccines (not only combined vaccines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Stockpile of key vaccines at EU level</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Alignment and simplification of vaccination schedules</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5 How could grassroots level organisations, particularly NGOs, patient groups and civil society be better engaged in supporting sustainable vaccination policies? (200 characters)

200 character(s) maximum

PILLAR III: EU COORDINATION, INCLUDING THE PROMOTION OF STAKEHOLDERS’ DIALOGUE AND CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL HEALTH
3.1 How important is it for these organisations to engage in research and development in vaccines?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Less important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Don't know / No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*a) International Organisations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>*b) European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>*c) Member States</td>
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<tr>
<td>*d) Pharmaceutical Industry</td>
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<td>*e) Academia</td>
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<tr>
<td>*f) Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Regarding vaccine research for fighting infectious diseases, should the efforts of the European Union focus on actions in the EU region alone or also focus on worldwide actions (one answer possible)

- Actions in the EU region
- Worldwide actions
- Both are equally important
- Don’t know/No opinion

3.3 In order to increase the contribution of vaccination to public health preparedness and help EU Member States’ efforts to ensure vaccine supply, a number of activities to cooperate at EU level are listed in the table below. Please rate the helpfulness of the following EU facilitated activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Less helpful</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
<th>Don’t know / No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Member States collaborate to assess vaccination needs</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Member States collaborate to build a European virtual repository on vaccine management needs and stocks</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Member States collaborate to evaluate financing mechanisms for the procurement of vaccines</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Member States collaborate to investigate public perception on the pharmaceutical industry.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Member States collaborate to develop a crisis management plan with industry to anticipate and reduce risks during vaccine manufacturing able to decrease vaccine shortages.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Member States collaborate to establish a stakeholder communication platform to better balance vaccine demand and supply.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 Which organisation should make efforts in ensuring vaccine supply and addressing vaccine shortages? Please rate on a scale from "No efforts" to "Very high efforts".
3.5 Who do you think should make greater efforts in funding vaccine research and development including research on the implementation of vaccination programmes? Please rate on a scale from "High efforts" to "Low efforts".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No efforts</th>
<th>Low efforts</th>
<th>Medium efforts</th>
<th>High efforts</th>
<th>Very high efforts</th>
<th>I do not know / No opinion</th>
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<tr>
<td>*d) Pharmaceutical industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>*e) Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, etc.)</td>
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Thank you for replying to the questionnaire.  
Is there any other policy intervention that you would like to add which was not addressed in the questionnaire?  
*1500 character(s) maximum*