Why is it important to be vaccinated?
Lessons learned from outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases
VENICE network

The VENICE (Vaccine European New Integrated Collaboration Effort) project aims to collect, share and disseminate knowledge and best practice in field of vaccination through a network of European experts

- **VENICE I:** 2006-2008, commissioned and funded by DG-SANCO
- **VENICE II:** since Dec 2008, commissioned and funded by ECDC

**Coordinator**

Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) – CNESPS

**VENICE II Consortium Members**

HSE - Health Protection Surveillance Centre (Ireland), Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italy), Institut de Veille sanitaire (France), PZH -National Institute of Hygiene (Poland), SSI- Statens Serum Institut (Denmark), CINECA (IT partner, Italy)

**Partecipating countries:** 27 Member States + Iceland and Norway
VENICE and VENICE II: general objectives

- **To collect** information on the national and subnational immunization programs through a network of experts in the field of vaccination (mainly from National Public Health Institute)

- **To share** the collected information among countries to improve the overall performance of the immunization systems

- **To produce evidences, comparable data and recommendations** that can be useful for public health stakeholders

- **To promote good practice in vaccinology, priority setting and decision making**

VENICE website: [http://venice.cineca.org/index.html](http://venice.cineca.org/index.html)
Methodology

● Experts in vaccinology from 27 EU MS+ 2 EEA (Norway and Iceland)
● Cross sectional surveys with standardised online questionnaire and consensus documents
● Survey response rate: usually > 90%
● Reports validated by the same experts (for pandemic survey also by Health Security Members - Influenza Section)
Explored topics

- Seasonal Influenza (yearly)
- 2009 pandemic influenza
- Hepatitis B
- HPV and Rotavirus
- Tick borne encephalitis
- Varicella
- Pneumococcal infections
- Pertussis
- Immunization strategies in adults
- MMR and determinants for low coverage
- Methodology of vaccine coverage assessment in Europe
- Feasibility of vaccine coverage data collection from Member States at ECDC level

In the last 3 years 16 reports were produced by VENICE II of which 14 available on VENICE website.
VENICE support during 2009 pandemic flu

● 2009 pandemic flu has been a threat for public health with response planned at national level
● Need to have reliable information on the strategy adopted in each Member State after the emergency (survey started in Aug. 2010)
● Data provided by experts were validated by Health Security Members - Influenza Section
● Agreement between ECDC, European Commission, WHO to use the VENICE network as reference data source
VENICE survey about 2009 pandemic flu

- To describe
  - Vaccination policies
  - Country specific vaccination recommendations for targeted age, risk and priority groups

- To obtain
  - Available vaccination coverage rates

among the EU/EEA countries during the 2009/2010 pandemic influenza season

- Wide mandate: ECDC, EC, WHO
Vaccine strategies and vaccine coverage in Europe: the VENICE contribution

- Vaccine coverage is one of the pillars in vaccine preventable area
- Every vaccination strategy should be monitored through regular vaccination coverage assessment
- Good quality data at subregional level should available not only at national but also at European level
- Data comparability among countries is important

- Consensus document on a feasible model for vaccination coverage data collection among EU/EEA countries (2011)
EVACO: European VAccination COverage Collection System

- EVACO is a web-based tool, under development, aimed to collect vaccination coverage data from EU member states.
- Objective is to provide ECDC with reliable data on vaccination coverage from all the Member States
- Pilot experience will be finalised by March 2013
Contribution of VENICE to the public health

- A network of experts, highly motivated, mainly located in the National Public Health Institutes that can collaborate constantly with European stakeholders and answer quickly to fast questions.
- Availability of updated data for stakeholders and policy-makers showing strategies and differences among countries in vaccination field helping to identify gaps and improve preparedness.
Contribution of VENICE to the public health (2)

- Development of new system for collection of vaccine coverage data to interpret better the surveillance data
- Support to increase the vaccine coverage in Europe
Thank you for your attention and thank all the VENICE gatekeepers for their continuous support

http://venice.cineca.org/index.html