Background

- Vaccines have been one of the success stories in preventing and eliminating infectious diseases. Still, there are a number of infectious diseases against which unsatisfactory or no vaccines exist. Because of the growing number of cases of antimicrobial drug resistance, new emerging variants of human pathogenic viruses, increasing poverty and migration, many of the diseases that were considered to have disappeared from Europe have made their return in even more vicious forms. In addition, a growing reluctance to participate in vaccination programmes and clinical trials can be observed among some parts of the population, and investment of industry in vaccine development has clearly dropped. All this has contributed to a constantly increasing threat of infectious diseases in our society, diseases that are in principle preventable.

- Europe has traditionally been the main vaccine producer in the world. Even if Europe can still be considered as a leader in vaccine research and manufacturing, emerging markets are increasing their vaccine development programmes and competition each year. To maintain Europe's strong leadership in vaccines, a comprehensive and innovative vision is needed with improved cooperation between the public and private sectors in order to contribute to the EU's economic growth and wellbeing of citizens.

- Vaccination is the single most effective public health intervention to prevent infectious diseases. Therefore, investing in vaccine development has the potential to pay huge dividends in terms of future health care savings and in reducing diseases and suffering.

- FP7 Projects have already contributed significantly to development of new vaccines. In Horizon2020 we should capitalize on the successes of FP7 and aim at even more intensive effort and breakthrough innovation in the development of vaccines for infectious diseases if we want to maintain a high level of protection of the people against infectious diseases.

- The H2020, Europe's new research and innovation framework programme (2014-2020) offers significant funding for the key players to work together across borders and disciplines, notably by providing new financial models for industry.

- New developments in the areas of sequencing, genomics, systems biology, microbiology and immunology should be combined to better understand the host immune system, the interaction host-pathogen and the mechanisms of action of adjuvants, viral vectors and nucleic acid-based vaccines.

- The conference will bring together key experts in the field to discuss and develop new ideas and proposals to pave the way for breakthrough innovation in vaccines on scientific, economic, financial and organisational, and societal aspects.

Objectives

- Generate and discuss ideas for breakthrough innovation in scientific, economic, financial, organisational and societal aspects of vaccine research.

- Define a strategy plan and concrete actions that should be supported in the future (at national or international level), including priorities for future workprogrammes of Horizon 2020, future international collaboration and collaboration of public and private actors.