

Expert panel on effective ways of investing in health

Request for a mandate to the Expert Panel:

Vaccination programmes and health systems in Europe.

March 2018

Background – Rationale

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 communicable diseases.

Targets for elimination of some of the vaccine preventable diseases were already set up for 2000. However, the EU is facing considerable outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and fatal cases of measles and diphtheria have been reported.

As the vaccine preventable diseases are a cross border health threat, it seems rationale that an EU action involving a more coordinate approach is developed. The Commission has taken the initiative to present a proposal for a Council Recommendation to Strengthen cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases

Vaccination programmes vary considerably between and within countries. These variations are often due to differences in the way the healthcare systems are organized at national or regional level.

While there is a lot of evidence about the various core components of an immunization system, there is a need to better understand how these components can be effectively integrated within the larger service delivery area within the health system.

Improving the delivery of immunization services should be seen as an integral part of health system strengthening efforts and not as a complementary or separate element. We have the assumption that resilient, fit for purpose and responsive health systems will assure delivery of vaccination programme outcomes in a sustainable manner.

Attainment of this goal will require a concerted effort to attain other targets on access, quality and sustainability.

The purpose of this opinion is to review information on the effectiveness and efficiency of different vaccination programmes in relation to the organization of the health system in general and the organization of the vaccination programmes in particular; to identify and characterize the main factors (enablers and obstacles) influencing the outcomes to vaccination uptake; and to select and assess measures and actions that can be expected to improve vaccination coverage.

The expert panel will be able to work on the basis of information and analysis, collected and prepared by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, on the organization of vaccination programmes in the EU Member States, including decision, delivery, financing and results obtained expressed as coverage for different vaccines. This will be made available to the Panel in time to prepare its opinion.

Mandate

The Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health is requested to focus on the following points:

1. On the basis of analysis provided by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and a literature review, identify and characterize the main factors (enablers and obstacles) influencing the outcomes to vaccination uptake,
2. Based on the analysis of the main factors enabling/impeding the uptake of vaccination (from 1 above), select and assess measures and actions that can be expected to improve vaccination coverage.

The expert panel will take into account the work requested by the Commission to the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

The draft opinion of the Expert Panel should be finalised by September 2018