



The importance of EU collaboration on monitoring immunisation programmes

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Childhood immunisation. Progress, challenges and priorities for further action

Why an European collaboration on immunisation programmes?

- Infections have no borders
- There are diversities in each Member States in terms of vaccination strategies, control measures, population, habits and epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases
- Free movement of European citizen in European Union
- Information about vaccination status/programmes often available only in national language and/or not easily accessible and/or not comparable
- Exchange of experience is necessary

Monitoring the immunisation programmes

There are several levels of information that are part of the monitoring of the immunisation programmes

1. Surveillance data
2. Description of the immunisation programmes
3. Vaccination coverage data
4. Indicators of immunisation system performance
5. Safety monitoring
6. Effectiveness information

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VENICE network



The VENICE (**V**accine **E**uropean **N**ew **I**ntegrated **C**ollaboration **E**ffort) 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)

Participating countries: 27 Member States + Iceland and Norway

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>

Methodology

- Network of experts in vaccinology from 27 EU MS+ 2 EEA (Norway and Iceland)
- Cross sectional surveys with standardised on-line 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 for 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 be available not only at national but also at European level
- Data comparability among countries is important
- ***Vaccine coverage data collection: a complex matter. Results from a VENICE survey (2007)*** Available at:
http://venice.cineca.org/Final_Report_I_WP3.pdf
- **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
 - Web data entry
 - Transmission of CSV files
- Pilot experience will be finalised by March 2013
 - Server for data collection was implemented
 - Survey on kind of data that will be sent by the VENICE gatekeepers (23 of 27 gave the availability)
 - First data call planned for mid October

Primary and secondary objectives of EVACO

- A database for ECDC with national and subnational coverage data
- An optimisation of the data flow (MSs -> ECDC- WHO)
- More support to the MSs in collection of vaccine coverage data
- More knowledge about the data quality from each country
- Identification of the support needs in this field

Next step for EVACO

- To build a standardised analysis of the collected data
- To build a strategy to assess the data quality and describe the possible limitations
- To find a strategy and an agreement with WHO to modify the present flow of data (MSs -> WHO)
- To provide a regular feedback for the MSs
- To implement the official data collection

Contribution of VENICE to the monitoring the immunization programmes

- 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 monitoring the immunization programmes (2)

- Development of a new system for collection of European 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>