

Background/Need

- Due to the rise in vaccine-preventable diseases and barriers to vaccine access and uptake, populations in Europe are falling short of the 95% recommended vaccination uptake
- The Ukraine refugee crisis compounds the need for a project that aims to vaccinate those at-risk

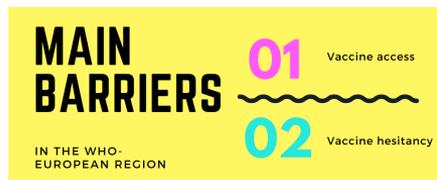
Project Description

- ImmuHubs is a consortium funded by the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020) and coordinated by the Vienna Vaccine Safety Initiative (www.vi-vi.org).
- ImmuHubs aims to improve vaccine access, uptake, and long-term protection of citizens identified in disadvantaged, isolated, and difficult-to-reach population groups in the WHO-European Region.
- The project involves six different Work Packages and 9 partners in 8 European Countries: Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Poland, Portugal, and Serbia

Methods

- ImmuHubs establishes innovative immunisation hubs on the ground in 6 European countries (in progress)
- In preparation, we conducted a systematic review (45 studies representing 16 included out of 53 total countries)

Systematic Review Initial Outcomes



We find that many communities require diversified vaccination approaches because of the unique barriers they present with.

ImmuHubs General Objectives (GO)

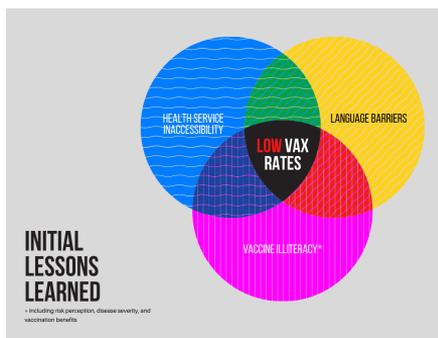
GO1 Establish proactive partnerships with citizen groups, public health agencies, key stakeholders and the general public to improve access to vaccination in disadvantaged, isolated, and difficult to reach population groups in 6 European countries, according to best practices for community partnerships.

GO2 Create innovative immunisation actions, which will increase vaccine uptake across borders, generations and population groups.

GO3 Develop sustainable solutions for vaccine protection of EU citizens, including during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Us / Brief

The ImmuHubs Project aims to reduce transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases through an increased vaccination uptake among disadvantaged, isolated, and difficult to reach population groups.



Conclusions

- Innovative Immunisation Hubs will be tailored to 3 different population groups identified in the systematic review, namely 1) disadvantaged, 2) isolated, and 3) difficult-to-reach groups
- Being able to reach certain groups may be dependent on breaking down barriers to vaccine access. Tangible goals include:
 - More user-centric and privacy-oriented digital tools
 - More effective vaccine-preventable disease surveillance
 - Improving vaccine policy, disseminating correct vaccine knowledge

Future Directions

- The systematic review will be submitted to MDPI Vaccines Special Issue "Vaccines: Uptake and Equity in Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic" https://www.mdpi.com/journal/vaccines/special_issues/COVID-19_Vaccines
- Physical immunisation Hubs will be established in Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Poland, Portugal, and Serbia. Hubs in Portugal and Poland will include Ukrainian cross-border populations
- ImmuHubs project would establish an innovation technology platform (including mobile apps, chatbots and analog tools) to expand access to communities while being sufficiently adaptable to address public health emergencies, such as a refugee crisis and a global pandemic

The project is co-funded by European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020) and coordinated by the Vienna Vaccine Safety Initiative (www.vi-vi.org), in collaboration with academic institutions, NGOs, and public health agencies in Europe as well as the European Academy of Paediatrics and the European Parents' Association.

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