



# BUILDING A HEALTHIER EUROPE

Protecting European  
citizens against vaccine  
preventable diseases

## Did you know:

- ▶ Vaccines are one of the greatest medical achievements in history, saving 2-3 million lives globally every year by preventing infectious diseases<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Vaccination contributes substantially to health, healthcare systems, and society at large by preventing morbidity and mortality
- ▶ Vaccines can protect everyone: newborn babies, infants, children, adults, older adults, travelers, healthcare professionals and patients with chronic diseases<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Vaccines offer community-wide protection<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Close to 30 diseases today are vaccine-preventable
- ▶ It costs less than 4,000 Euro (including administration costs) to protect a person for their entire life against the 17 most relevant vaccine-preventable diseases<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ Vaccines play an important role in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)<sup>5</sup>
- ▶ More than 80% of vaccine doses are produced in Europe by R&D-led pharmaceutical companies<sup>6</sup>
- ▶ Manufacturing a vaccine takes from 6 to 36 months, of which 70% is dedicated to quality control and more than 100 control tests are performed<sup>7</sup>

## VISION 1: HEALTH FOR ALL

### VACCINES PROTECT EVERYONE: NEWBORNS, INFANTS, CHILDREN, ADULTS AND OLDER ADULTS

The need for **vaccination depends on age**, as well as on **health status, lifestyle and occupation**. **To improve the protection of newborns, children, mothers, travelers, healthcare professionals, patients with chronic diseases and older adults against vaccine-preventable diseases, Europe can:**



### ALL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Healthcare professionals (HCPs) play a crucial role in informing their patients** on the importance of vaccination. **To enhance the role of all HCPs in vaccination, Europe can:**



## WHAT EUROPE CAN DO?

- **Support immunisation at all stages in life** and effective implementation of national vaccination policies that contribute to the sustainability of our healthcare systems and the productivity of our societies
- **Set vaccination goals and deliver their implementation throughout Europe** such as achieving the 95% target of measles vaccination coverage by 2020
- **Improve confidence in vaccination by establishing a European vaccination information portal** to provide objective, transparent and updated evidence on vaccines, as already proposed by the EC

- **Provide guidance for EU countries on how to expand access to vaccination in healthcare and non-healthcare settings**
- **Strengthen education and training on vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccinology, and immunisation for all healthcare professionals**
- **Improve communication and confidence in vaccination by convening a coalition for vaccination**

## VISION 2: EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE

### VACCINE SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY NEED TO REMAIN STRONG IN EUROPE

**More than 80% of vaccine doses produced by the major R&D-led pharmaceutical companies are produced in Europe<sup>6</sup>**. EU-based vaccine manufacturers are collaborating with many stakeholders, including in public-private partnerships, to contribute to the development of novel vaccines. **To foster vaccine innovation, Europe can:**



### VACCINES ARE AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

**Vaccines can reduce the need for using antimicrobials** by reducing the:

- incidence rate of infectious disease and illnesses caused by AMR bacteria in particular
- utilisation of antimicrobials to treat bacterial complications of viral infections, and
- rate of antibiotics misuse for viral infections<sup>9</sup>

**To foster the recognition and use of vaccines in the fight against AMR, Europe can:**



- **Increase investment in primary prevention** in order to keep people healthy for longer periods of time
- **Facilitate early dialogue with developers, national policy-makers and regulators** in order to support the authorisation of innovative vaccines, including for emerging health threats
- **Enhance the mechanisms to support vaccine R&D and develop new incentives for unmet medical needs**, to tackle global health threats such as AMR, or severe epidemic outbreaks of diseases
- **Foster the creation of a network and collaboration of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups** to increase transparency, reduce duplications and minimise inefficient resources spending on vaccines development to encourage innovation and fasten citizens' access
- **Leverage the IPROVE roadmap<sup>8</sup>** that outlines the science and technology investments required for vaccines innovation and **launch a multi-stakeholder reflection to implement the priorities agreed**

- **Foster the use of existing vaccines** by integrating a life-course approach to vaccination into national action plans
- **Support development of innovative vaccines against emerging health threats and AMR pathogens**
- **Revisit the 2004 EU Regulation establishing a European Centre for disease prevention and control** in order to enhance the role of the ECDC

## VISION 3: STRONGER TOGETHER

### MAINTAIN A HEALTHY VACCINE DEMAND AND SUPPLY ECOSYSTEM

**Vaccine manufacturers strive to continuously improve production processes** in order to meet demand. **To help mitigate supply issues and secure sustainable access to vaccination, Europe can:**



### E-HEALTH CAN IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAMMES

**Vaccine registries can identify gaps in vaccine uptake** in the population and facilitate communication to at-risk groups. **To ensure that European citizens benefit from the use of automatic reminders, targeted communication and online access to immunisation records, Europe can:**



- **Foster early and continuous dialogue between individual vaccine manufacturers and health authorities** that allows both sides to better anticipate the evolution of vaccine recommendations and more accurately forecast vaccine demand
- **Reduce the number of labelling & packaging requirements for vaccines** by evaluating the feasibility of introducing simplified, multi-lingual packs and e-leaflets
- **Ensure Europe-wide recognition of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) criteria** in the scope of tender procurement for vaccines
- **Develop a mechanism for exchanging vaccine supplies** from one Member State to another to address outbreaks

- **Support Member States willing to implement Immunisation Information Systems (IIS)** to monitor vaccination uptake rates (e.g. through European Structural Funds)
- **Develop a common EU citizen vaccination card**, with standardised information on vaccination history of an individual
- **Strengthen European disease surveillance capabilities** to better assess infectious disease patterns, vaccines benefit/risks and impact of vaccination across all ages
- **Ensure coordination between health and digital policies and other initiatives**, in particular IIS



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All stakeholders, patient groups, policy-makers, healthcare professionals, academia, civil society and industry have a critical role to play in ensuring European citizens do not fall ill from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination.

**Together, we can build on the 2017-2019 momentum on vaccination and support the implementation of the 2018 Council Recommendation in the EU Member States.** This will ensure vaccination remains a cornerstone of sustainable public health systems in Europe.

The research-based vaccine industry is pleased to share its vision and proposals on how to build a healthier future.

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## References:

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- <sup>6</sup> The European Vaccine Industry in Figures (2016) - <https://www.vaccineseurope.eu/about-vaccines/vaccines-europe-in-figures/>
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