



Our 2024-2029 Mission



One **Strategy** - Three **Results**



An **EU** Immunisation Strategy for a more resilient Europe

The world has witnessed the critical importance of immunisation, playing a pivotal role in eradicating and significantly reducing diseases and improving health in Europe and around the world, as well as helping in the fight against pandemics. However, given the major challenges the EU is facing today – including a rapidly ageing population, the climate emergency, conflict at its borders, economic pressures and inflation, declining science literacy and trust in institutions – it is easy to overlook how vital strong immunisation policies are. Yet, many of the challenges we face are interconnected with the spread and rise of existing and new infectious diseases.

Immunisation must be at the heart of building more resilient and sustainable health systems, serving as a powerful tool that prevents sickness, saves lives, saves money and contributes to strong growth and strong communities.

The EU has acknowledged the importance of immunisation, as demonstrated in the 2018 Council Recommendation on Strengthened Cooperation against Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the 2022 Council Conclusions on Vaccination. These initiatives provide the foundation on which Europe and its Member States should build stronger immunisation policies.

Our mission is an innovative, healthy and prosperous Europe. #EUImmunisationStrategy

We call on the EU to put in place an EU Immunisation Strategy in the next mandate that strengthens protection against vaccine-preventable diseases across all generations. Our mission is an innovative, healthy and prosperous Europe.

#EUImmunisationStrategy

Vaccines Europe is the trade association representing the innovative vaccine industry active in Europe.



Through immunisation we have:

- ✓ Eradicated smallpox
- ✓ Significantly reduced polio
- ✓ Reduced and controlled: measles, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis
- ✓ Contained the COVID-19 pandemic

Three core pillars of the EU Immunisation Strategy



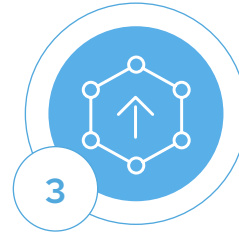
1

An **Innovative** Europe



2

A **Healthy** Europe



3

A **Prosperous** Europe

A strong EU Immunisation Strategy is essential to achieve our mission of an innovative, healthy and prosperous Europe. By prioritising and strengthening immunisation policies, we can enable a framework for better coordination and transparent collaboration among stakeholders, ensure adequate resource allocation and utilisation, bridge existing disparities, and foster equitable access and uptake across all Member States.





1

An Innovative Europe

Vaccine innovation helps us to be one step ahead of public health threats

Immunisation works in so many different ways. It protects us from vaccine-preventable diseases, certain cancers and new infectious diseases. It reduces the need for some medical interventions, our dependence on antibiotics, and better prepares us for future epidemics and pandemics.

Discovering and developing safe and effective vaccines relies on an innovative research, development and manufacturing ecosystem with robust and predictable intellectual property protection frameworks. Regulatory agility is needed to support faster acceptance of changes in manufacturing processes and more unified packaging, including e-leaflets. To boost its defences against infectious diseases, Europe needs robust surveillance



"Transparent and inclusive collaboration among all relevant stakeholders in decision-making is fundamental for advancing vaccine innovation. As Vaccines Europe, we remain committed to playing our part as a partner to the EU"

*Sibilia Quilici, Executive Director,
Vaccines Europe*

and e-health systems with interoperable databases for collecting epidemiological data, monitoring vaccine coverage rates, and generating high-quality real-world evidence to inform immunisation policy. Recommending and decision-making bodies should be adequately resourced with funding and skilled workforces. This will allow the appropriate and timely evaluation of vaccines and improve the inclusion and uptake of vaccines in national immunisation programmes.

Innovation is also required in the ways we work together to bring new vaccines to Europe. EU policymakers need to improve the transparent collaboration and communication framework between all relevant stakeholders (including the vaccines industry, patient advocacy groups, public health administrations and EU agencies). This will help expedite access to existing and new vaccines, save lives, and ensure crisis preparedness. It will also enhance vaccine confidence of the population and healthcare providers.

Let's build an innovative Europe



We call on the EU to **promote forward-thinking policies that foster innovation and establish a framework for regular exchange between all relevant stakeholders, including the vaccines industry**

Vaccines Europe members' vaccine pipeline is aimed at tackling the challenges of today and tomorrow:¹



52% of vaccine candidates focus on respiratory-transmitted infections



11 vaccine candidates target antibiotic-resistant bacteria



46% target infections for which there is no existing vaccine



The median time is **6 years** for new vaccines to reach EU citizens from regulatory approval by EMA, and for 1/3 of EU Member States, it takes **more than 6 years²**



Since 2000, there has been a **35% decline** in vaccine clinical trials conducted in the EU³

1. Vaccines Europe (2022), Vaccines Europe Reveals Its First Pipeline Review. Available at: www.vaccineseurope.eu/news/articles/vaccines-europe-reveals-its-first-pipeline-review (Accessed: 9 June 2023)

2. Vaccines Europe (2021), The next generation of vaccines rely on improved market access in the EU.

Available at: <https://www.vaccineseurope.eu/news/articles/the-next-generation-of-vaccines-rely-on-improved-market-access-in-the-eu> (Accessed: 9 June 2023).

3. Between 2000-2009 the EU accounted for 22% of global trials, over the period 2010-2019 this decreased to 17%, with the period of 2020-2023 registering a further drop to 14%.

Data available at: <https://www.clinicaltrials.gov>



A Healthy Europe

Equitable access to immunisation

Immunisation saves lives, millions of lives each year. It shields us from crippling diseases and disabilities from the moment we are born until the late stages of life, through paediatric, adolescent and adult immunisation programmes. It safeguards public health by protecting everyone against vaccine-preventable diseases. It contributes to preventing antimicrobial resistance. It helps to keep both adults and elderly with weakening immune systems healthy and active, thus contributing to society and the economy whilst easing the growing pressure on health systems.⁴

These immense benefits to the EU's population enable us to lead safer, healthier, and more productive lives. However, inequalities in accessing vaccines, both amongst and within Member States, age groups and eligible populations, result in



*Immunisation saves
millions of lives each year*

significant and unacceptable disparities in vaccine uptake and protection across Europe. We urge each political party and MEP candidate to pledge to ensure equitable access to immunisation across all stages of life and encourage vaccine uptake using the science-based evidence on vaccine acceptance.

We urge the EU to implement the WHO Immunisation Agenda for 2030 and establish life-course immunisation targets to ensure uptake and protection, with implementation guidance and progress tracking as part of an EU Immunisation Strategy. This will help guarantee that all people in the EU, indiscriminate of their socio-economic situation or age, wherever they live or travel, get the same level of protection. By working together to agree on and achieve these targets, we will contribute to a society that is healthier, more resilient and more equitable for all.

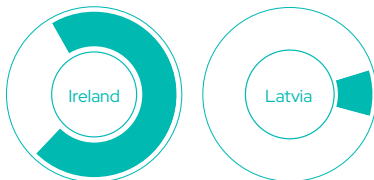
Let's build a healthy Europe

We call on the EU to set and monitor life-course immunisation targets



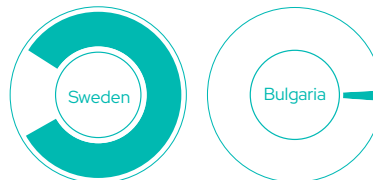
Nearly **half a million** lives were saved among those aged 60 years and over in less than a year following the start of COVID-19 vaccination in the WHO European Region.⁵

SEASONAL INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION RATE



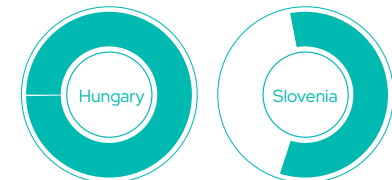
In **Ireland**, **70,5%** of the 65+ population in 2020 was vaccinated against seasonal influenza. In **Latvia** this was only **9,1%**.⁶ While coverage rates increased in most countries in 2020, the increase was more modest in countries with already low rates.⁷

HPV IMMUNISATION RATE



Sweden introduced gender-neutral vaccination resulting in **83%** of girls and **77% of boys** aged 15 years had received a double dose of the HPV vaccine in 2021. In **Bulgaria** this was only **2%** for girls.^{8,9}

PNEUMOCOCCAL IMMUNISATION RATE



In **Hungary**, **99,76%** of children are fully immunised against pneumococcal disease. In **Slovenia** this is only **58,20%**.¹⁰

5. ECDC (2021), WHO/ECDC: Nearly half a million lives saved by COVID-19 vaccination in less than a year.

Available at: www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/who-ecdc-nearly-half-million-lives-saved-covid-19-vaccination (Accessed: 9 June).

6. OECD (2021), Influenza vaccination rates. Available at: <https://data.oecd.org/healthcare/influenza-vaccination-rates.htm> (Accessed: 19 June).

7. OECD (2022), Health at a Glance: Europe 2022: State of Health in the EU Cycle.

Available at: www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/health-at-a-glance-europe-2022_507433b0-en (Accessed: 9 June).

8. ICO/IARC (2023), Sweden - Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers - Fact Sheet 2023. Available at: https://hpvcentre.net/statistics/reports/SWE_FS.pdf (Accessed: 9 June).

9. European Commission (2023), European Cancer Inequality Registry. Available at: <https://cancer-inequalities.irc.ec.europa.eu/> (Accessed: 9 June).

10. LCI/ILC (2023), Pneumococcal Vaccination Atlas. Available at: <https://pneumoniaatlas.org/#map-tabs1> (Accessed: 9 June).



A Prosperous Europe

Investing in immunisation pays off

High vaccination rates contribute to economic and social prosperity. They help workforces stay healthy and productive, contribute to economic growth and the free movement of people. They reduce healthcare costs by preventing disruptive illness and help limit days off work due to illness. Investing in immunisation pays off.

Let's think: in Italy, every €1 spent on adult immunisation creates a total of €16 in savings.¹¹

Today, however, a very small percentage of national healthcare budgets goes to



High vaccination rates boost the economy

prevention; with a minute proportion – only 0.5% – going to immunisation. This is insufficient to accommodate demographic change and improve immunisation rates.¹²

Many do not get the vaccines they need and national immunisation programmes face delays in including new vaccines in their schedules. Europe's Member States should invest in prevention via immunisation. They should ensure that immunisation

budgets are increased to better meet the surging public health needs of today and tomorrow. A healthier Europe is a more prosperous Europe.

Let's build a prosperous Europe

11. Cicchetti, Americo, et al. (2018), Expanding economic analysis for HTA: the fiscal impact of vaccination in the Italian context. Available at: https://www.ispor.org/docs/default-source/presentations/1368.pdf?sfvrsn=2b5b0b0c_1 (Accessed: 9 June).

12. Faivre, Pascaline, et al. "Immunization Funding across 28 European Countries." Expert Review of Vaccines, vol. 20, no. 6, 1 June 2021, pp. 639–647. pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33759675/, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14760584.2021.1905257> (Accessed: 9 June).



We call on the EU to set EU appropriate financial targets to improve national investment in immunisation programmes

HEALTHCARE SAVINGS



Annual seasonal influenza vaccination can save between **€248** and **€332** million in healthcare costs in Europe by avoiding hospitalisations and visits to the General Practitioner¹⁵

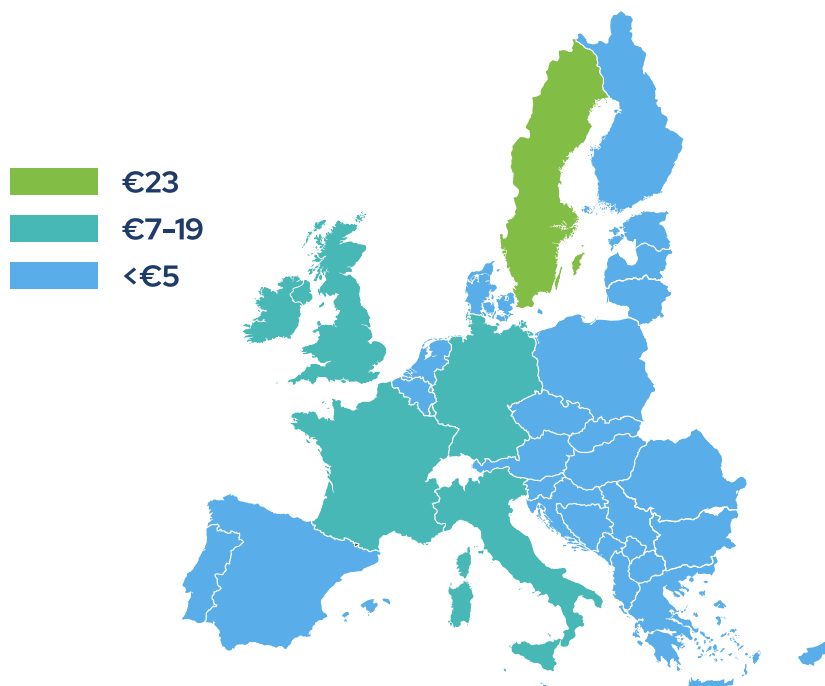


Every Euro invested in adult vaccination (starting at age 50) yields **€4** of future economic revenue over the remaining lifetime of the cohort¹³

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

IMMUNISATION FUNDING PER CAPITA

While one Member State (Sweden) spends **€23** per capita on annual immunisation funding, a majority of EU countries spend an annual sum of **€5 or less**.¹⁴



13. ILC (2018), Adult vaccination: a key component of healthy aging. Available at: ilcuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Adult-vaccination_a-key-component-of-health-ageing.pdf (Accessed: 9 June).

14. Faivre, Pascaline, et al. "Immunization Funding across 28 European Countries." *Expert Review of Vaccines*, vol. 20, no. 6, 1 June 2021, pp. 639-647, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33759675/, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14760584.2021.1905257> (Accessed: 9 June).

15. Vaccines Europe (2022), Economic impact of vaccines. Available at: www.vaccineseurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/%E2%80%A2-3-VE-economic-impact-infographic.pdf (Accessed: 9 June).

#EUImmunisationStrategy



www.vaccineseuropa.eu

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