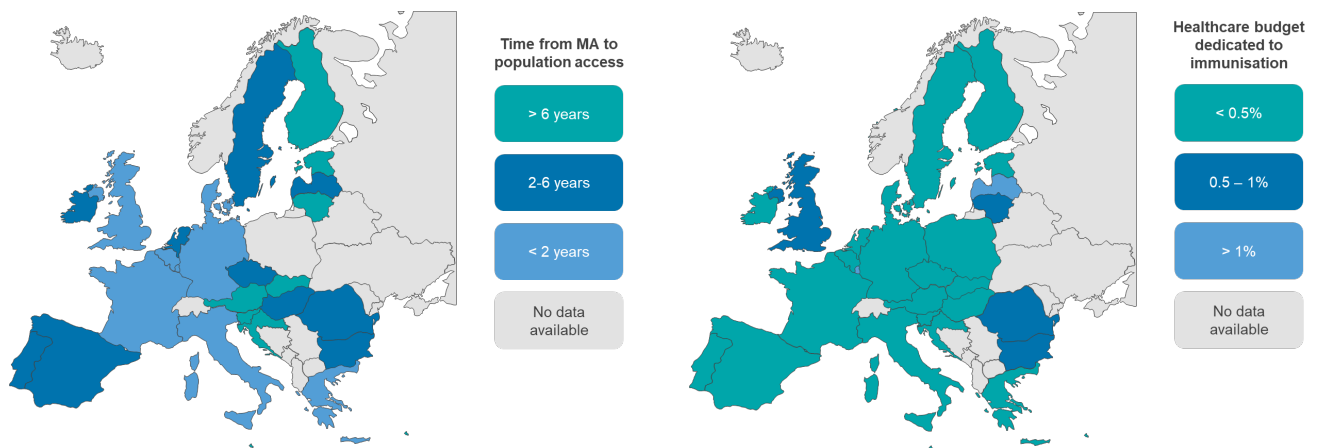


Policies to improve three 'A's - Availability, Affordability and Access - of Vaccines in Europe

There are significant differences affecting the three 'A's of vaccines in Europe

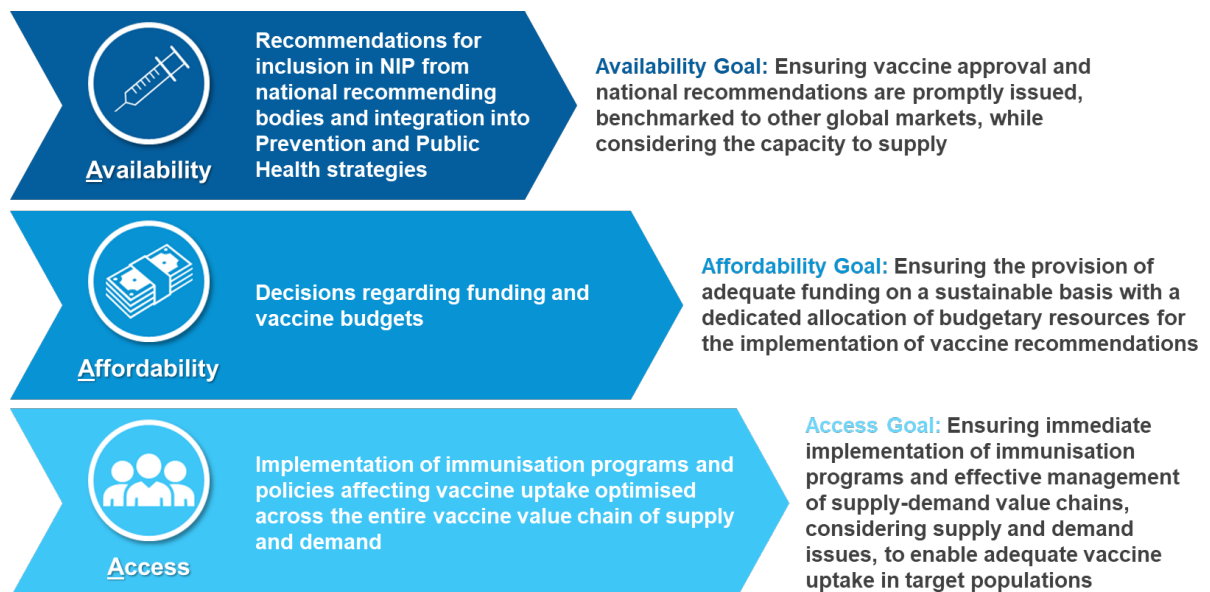
There are significant differences across Europe in terms of the time it takes for a vaccine to become accessible to the public. The composition of National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups (NITAG), critical in implementing National Immunisation Programmes (NIP), varies widely among countries. Only **16 out of 22 European NITAGs include specialists in vaccinology and immunology**,¹ which the World Health Organization sets out as required NITAG members.

Despite the well-established, cost-effective role of immunisation in disease prevention, a staggering **77% of European countries spend less than 0.5% of their healthcare budget on immunisation**.² These constraints, among other issues, lead to delays, with some countries taking **more than 6 years for vaccines to become accessible**.³



Reaching the goals of the three A's would support optimal vaccine uptake

Vaccine Europe (VE) members have developed a conceptual framework that includes a definition of each of the A's, an associated goal, and showing the interdependency of the three A's by presenting them as a cascade, rather than a strictly linear pathway.



References

1. Nohynek H., Wichmann, O., D'Ancona, F., & Gatekeepers, V. N. (2013). National Advisory Groups and their role in immunisation policy-making processes in European countries. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, 19(12), 1096-1105.
2. Faivre, P., Benčina, G., Campbell, R., Quilici, S., Dauby, N., Tešović, G., ... & Drury, R. (2021). Immunisation funding across 28 European countries. *Expert review of vaccines*, 20(6), 639-647.
3. Laigle, V., Postma, M. J., Pavlovic, M., Caddeu, C., Beck, E., Kapusniak, A., & Toumi, M. (2021). Vaccine market access pathways in the EU27 and the United Kingdom— analysis and recommendations for improvements. *Vaccine*, 39(39), 5706-5718.

Policies to improve three 'A's - Availability, Affordability and Access - of Vaccines in Europe

Opportunities to improve the policy environment for vaccines in Europe

The root causes affecting the three 'A's are multifactorial, creating the need for a dialogue on how to improve the policy environment. There are a number of opportunities to improve the policy environment that would address the underlying causes of differences across the three 'A's.

Given the multifactorial root causes, there is no single solution and a multi-stakeholder dialogue is needed to improve the policy environment. Only by addressing the underlying causes of variation in availability, affordability and access will European patients, healthcare systems and broader society yield the benefits that vaccines can deliver.

Opportunities to improve the policy environment for vaccine availability



Availability

- Explore feasibility of greater flexibility in regulatory assessment in a non-emergency context and availability of alternative approval pathways for faster access to vaccine innovation
- Ensure all countries implement mechanisms for early and continuous dialogue between recommending bodies and industry
- Co-development of demand forecasting mechanisms to manage vaccine supply-demand to ensure market sustainability
- Review NITAG composition and capacity and allocate necessary expertise and resources
- Streamline NITAG evidence requirements and methodologies
- Ensure no restrictions in population access beyond the marketing authorisation label, supporting a life-course approach to immunisation



Affordability

Opportunities to improve the policy environment for vaccine affordability

- Implement a dynamic approach to vaccine funding to adapt to unforeseen changes and shift towards a life-course approach
- Ensure a forward-looking view for sustainable budget setting through multi-stakeholder collaboration, leveraging the ROI from vaccination



Access

Opportunities to improve the policy environment for vaccine access

- Prioritise strengthening vaccine manufacturing and supply chain resilience by developing guidelines on sustainable procurement best-practices that utilise multi-criteria decision analysis
- Leverage mechanisms used for COVID-19 vaccine delivery to improve access points for life-course immunisation
- Enable other healthcare workers, i.e., nurses/school-nurses, midwives and pharmacists, to prescribe and administer vaccines improve equity
- Support European countries investments in developing infrastructure for RWE collection and immunisation monitoring across the life-course
- Develop guidelines and campaigns at European-level to improve health literacy on the importance of vaccine prevention and dispel vaccine misconceptions