



SAATI EU Report Card on Adult Immunisation

Adult vaccination: A key component of healthy ageing

The benefits of life-course immunisation in Europe

Summary - November 2013

The Supporting Active Ageing Through Immunisation (SAATI) Partnership commissioned this new report to raise awareness of the **health and socio-economic benefits of a life-course approach to immunisation**.

The report highlights that vaccination, as a **prevention** strategy, should be part of **an age-based approach to health throughout all phases of life**. With an ageing population in Europe in mind, it calls for the **implementation of a life-course approach to immunisation to tackle the high burden of infectious diseases**.

According to the report, vaccination policy in EU Member States is currently inadequate and primarily focused on the younger population (aged below 18), to some extent older generations (aged above 65, especially for seasonal influenza / pneumococcal diseases), and those considered at high-risk (e.g. with medical conditions with increased risk of infection). **Adult vaccination remains, however, an underutilised public health strategy in the promotion of healthy ageing**.

This research consolidates existing research on the incidence of the main vaccine-preventable diseases in Europe and provides new evidence on the **economic benefits of adult vaccination**. In particular, a fiscal case study from the Netherlands suggests that for **every €1 invested in adult vaccination from age 50, it would yield €4.02 for the government over the lifetime of the cohort**.

The report also analyses the barriers, best practices and **gaps in adult immunisation policies** in 27 EU Member States¹ and, uniquely, includes a **snapshot of the adult immunisation policy landscape in each of these countries**. Among other points, the research shows significant disparities between European countries in terms of uptake of vaccination in adulthood.

The SAATI Partnership therefore calls for the **establishment of a European Health and Vaccination Platform**, and lists the following **five recommendations as the key steps to improve life-course immunisation in Europe**:

- Incorporate life-course immunisation into healthy and active ageing policies, as well as public health and prevention strategies
- Expand opportunities for citizens to receive vaccination
- Improve the leadership of healthcare professionals in promoting immunisation
- Strengthen health literacy and public communications on the benefits of immunisation
- Enhance surveillance and monitoring to better measure the burden of infectious diseases.

For more information, please contact: info@saati-partners.eu.

¹ The main part of the research for the report was conducted before the accession of Croatia to the EU.



*The **SAATI Partnership** was set up by stakeholders committed to tackling low public awareness of the risk and burden of vaccine-preventable diseases in older adults in Europe and comprises patients' and professionals' associations, clinicians, think tanks, healthy ageing specialists and experts. More information on the partnership is available at www.saati-partners.eu*

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