



## GMAS Study On

# Fiscal Impact of Adult Vaccination in The Netherlands

Commissioned by the Supporting Active Ageing Through  
Immunisations (SAATI) Partnership

### Key messages

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Case study suggests that every €1 invested in adult vaccination in those aged 50 would yield €4.02 over the remaining lifetime of the cohort

- ⇒ The study was conducted by Global Market Access Solutions (GMAS) with the aim of **determining to what extent fiscal benefits associated with vaccinating a cohort of adults aged 50 will exceed the costs of vaccination** against seven key communicable diseases (seasonal influenza, pneumococcal diseases, pertussis, herpes zoster, measles, diphtheria and tetanus).
- ⇒ **The Netherlands** was selected as the case study due to the **availability of public expenditure data and meaningful epidemiology and economic data on the benefits of vaccination.**
- ⇒ To assess the financial impact of vaccination, the case study examines how **investments influence both government transfers** (e.g. pensions and healthcare) **in addition to tax transfers to governments** (e.g. income tax, value added tax (VAT) and social insurance) based on changes in vaccine preventable morbidity and mortality in adults.
- ⇒ Based on the criteria set out in the study, which includes a vaccination rate of 77 percent across the diseases, the adult immunisation programme considered for the seven vaccine preventable conditions in the Netherlands was projected to:
  - **Prevent 34,528 infectious disease cases** over a period of 50 years,
  - **Prevent approximately 5,782 premature deaths** from infections,
  - **Reduce the number of lost work days by 127,480 days,**
  - **Reduce the number of disability cases over the remaining working years** of those vaccinated at age 50
- ⇒ The case study illustrates that the way **governments spend their healthcare resources can influence future economic outcomes**, as economic growth is supported by healthy individuals that are productive and able to supply the labour market by continuing to work into older and healthier ages.
- ⇒ Keeping healthy and productive people in the workforce is a key priority for sustainability of public finances and for economic growth. Health may positively impact the economy through several channels, while increased tax revenue may be channelled to public investments that



stimulate the economy. **Investments in adult immunisation are estimated to yield positive benefits for government in terms of cost savings and increased tax revenue: an investment in vaccination of €1 is likely to provide over €4 of future economic revenue for government.**

- ⇒ Although this analysis is specific to the Netherlands, the **results are relevant for countries across Europe, because they share many features in terms of tax burden and social transfer costs** [European Commission 1999].
- ⇒ Whilst there could be some variation across Europe, one would expect to find **consistency in terms of the productivity gains and associated gross tax revenue linked with adult immunisation**. This analysis is relevant not only to countries with tax-funded health systems but also to countries with high rates of private health care. In the former, strategies increasing tax revenues are core to sustaining an effective healthcare system.
- ⇒ As Europe faces an **ageing population and the number of working adults begins to decline**, the **relationship between economic growth and health will be increasingly important** when allocating scarce healthcare resources.
- ⇒ Adult immunisation **can yield positive results in terms of healthcare savings and increased tax revenue for governments**, due to higher rates of labour force participation, through lower mortality and disability compared to a non-vaccinated population.

For more information, please contact: [info@saati-partners.eu](mailto:info@saati-partners.eu)

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*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](http://www.saati-partners.eu)*

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