



# Updates from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

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Global Perspectives Plenary session

***Tarik Derrough***

Senior Expert Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team, ECDC

# Outline

## Background

- ECDC
- EU

## Actions and achievements in IIS

## Future steps

- EU agency Public Health established in 2005
- Focus on communicable diseases
- Similar concept as in public health institutes:
  - Technical body for specific area slightly outside the government sphere
  - Certain degree of independence
  - Own budget
- Based in Stockholm, Sweden
- 300 full-time office-based staff

# The European Union - 28 countries



- 28 Member States (MSs)
- 24 official languages
- Population: ~ 510 million
- 28+ immunisation policies...
- Public health policies remain within the remit of EU MSs

# The European Union - 28 countries + ...



## EEA countries:

- Norway
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein

## Candidate countries

- Albania
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Turkey

## Potential candidates

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kosovo\*

# IIS - ECDC in a supporting role



- Recognised as an integral part of the VPD work programme at ECDC
- Aim:
  - Establish IIS within well-functioning immunisation programme
  - Creating a network of expertise in the EU and with international partners (WHO/PAHO/CDC/AIRA - Canada, Australia)
  - Providing direct Member States support through in-country visits/workshops and technical documentation
  - Advocating on the advantages of IIS with key stakeholders: EU Commission Directorate for Health (DG SANTE) and E-Health (DG Connect)

# Immunisation Information Systems

## Technical expert group

- Creating a network of expertise through the collaboration with international partners and experts
  - Experts with knowledge and experience in IIS
  - Common interest to contribute to promote such systems in the EU and beyond
- Technical Expert meetings held in 2015, 2016 and 2017

# Objectives and Outcomes of the expert group



## Objectives:

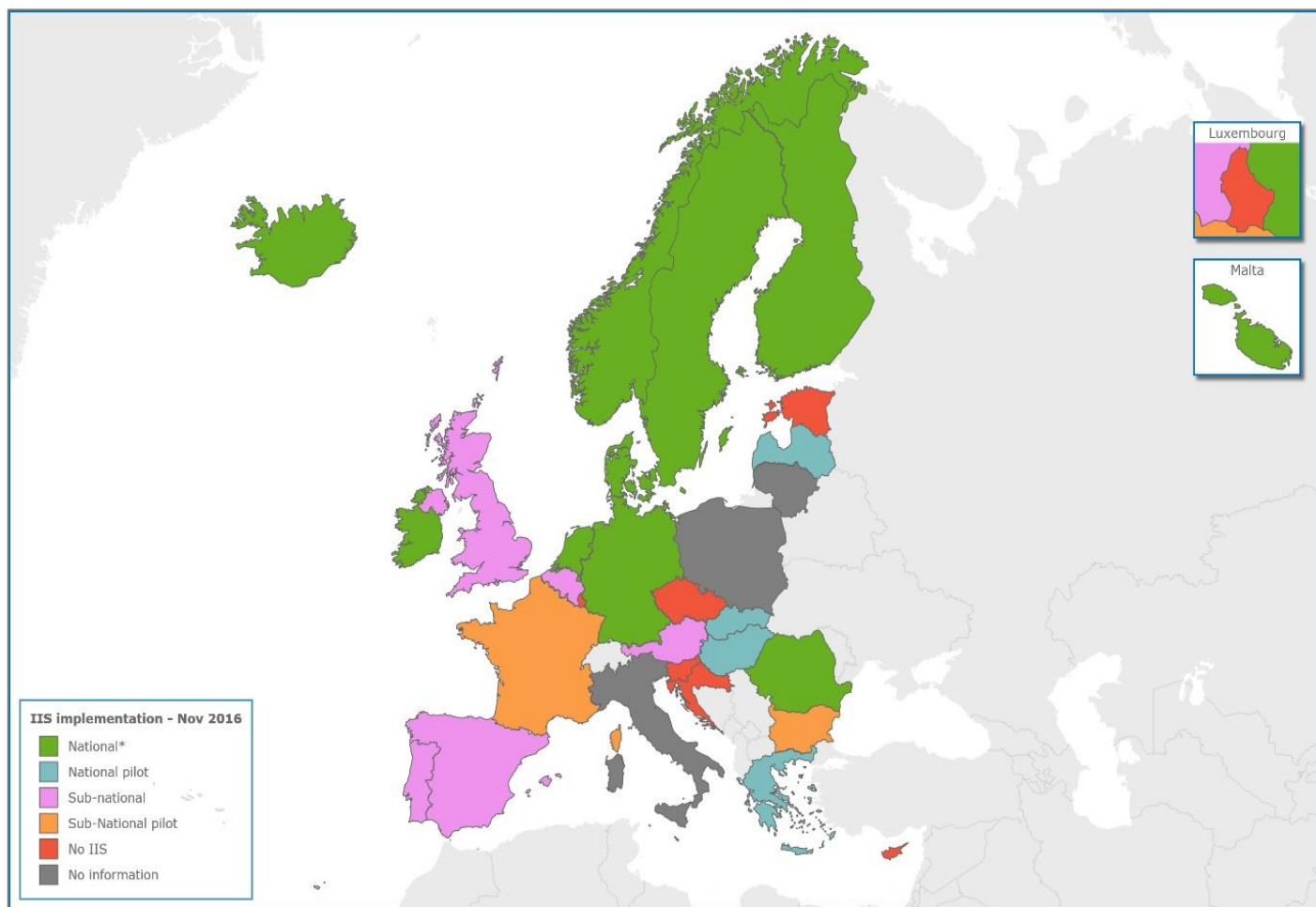
- To review and document the benefits of IIS towards vaccination programme management and monitoring
- To set-up a technical expert group that could allow for continuation of mutual support across countries within and beyond the EU
- To contribute to the development of a technical guideline on IIS

## Outcomes:

- Launch of a survey to map existing systems in the EU
- Publication of a set of peer-reviewed papers on IIS
- Drafting of a technical guidance on establishing & strengthening an IIS with a focus on general considerations, programmatic goals and functional standards



# Inventory of IIS in the EU: level of implementation, functionalities, pop. coverage, governance, IT solutions, challenges, etc...



*Germany and Sweden have national systems that do not have the ability to consolidate immunisation histories for use at point of clinical care. Their systems only provide aggregated data on vaccinations at population level*

## Eurosurveillance - special issue on IIS Collection of peer-reviewed publication



**Audience:** all those involved in the design, implementation, management or continuous improvement of IIS

**Methodology:** Literature review, Expert consultation, Real-life examples

**Purpose of the guidance:** to justify the added-value of IIS and provide directions for system development through real-life examples and references

- Define Immunization Information Systems.
- Provide information on IIS and their added-value to immunisation programmes
- Share best practices to advocate for IIS towards main stakeholders
- Describe the functionalities and attributes that IIS can offer
- Give step-by-step guidance on how to design, implement or further develop an IIS

**Planned Launch:** mid-November 2018

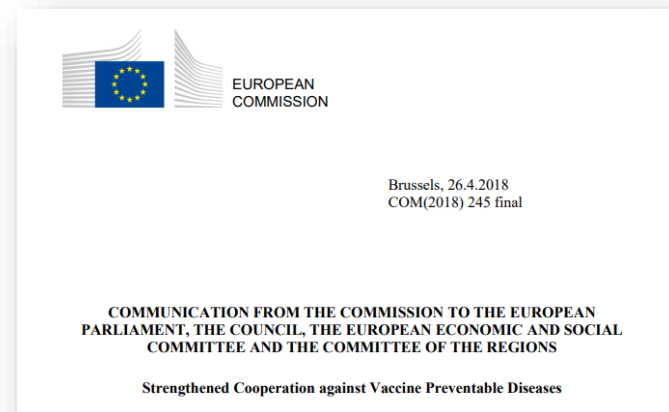
# A supportive environment

## EU Commission Communication and recommendation on Strengthened Cooperation Against Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (26 April 2018)



### Framework for actions in the EU under three key pillars:

1. Tackling vaccine hesitancy and improving vaccination coverage
2. Sustainable vaccination policies in the EU
3. EU coordination and contribution to global health



# PILLAR I - Tackling vaccine hesitancy and improving vaccination coverage

## Key challenges

*“It is also essential to be able to establish a **sustainable and reliable** monitoring system of **vaccination coverage rates** across all ages, geographies, and also population subgroups, e.g. healthcare workers.*

*As **hesitancy** differs across countries, populations and vaccines, having reliable stratified **coverage data** can help detecting sub-groups with lower uptake, assess the root-cause, and thus tailor the necessary intervention.*

*EU action should allow the standardisation of tools and methodologies to assess and report on coverage data across all ages, beyond the traditional paediatric age group, leveraging, in particular, the potential of electronic immunisation information systems.”*

# PILLAR II - Sustainable vaccination policies in the EU



## Key challenges

*“ In addition to efficient record keeping, a comprehensive electronic immunisation information system in Member States can provide large data banks to strengthen the sustainability and performance of vaccination programmes.*

*Effort is needed at EU and Member State level to develop **operational guidelines** and **remove infrastructural, legal and standardisation barriers to facilitate interoperability and electronic data sharing** in the area of vaccination, and harness the deployment of immunisation information systems to inform operational and strategic decisions”*

# Priority activities

- Develop **EU guidance** for establishing comprehensive electronic immunisation information systems for effective monitoring of immunisation programmes
- Develop **guidance** to overcome legal/technical barriers to interoperability and linkages with the broader healthcare system infrastructure
- Develop a **common EU citizens vaccination card** retrievable through electronic information systems and recognised for use across borders, in view of standardising the reporting on immunisation history

*7. Develop the capacity of healthcare institutions to have up-to-date electronic information on the vaccination status of citizens, based on information systems providing reminder functionalities, capturing vaccination coverage data in real-time across all age groups, and allowing data linkages and exchanges across the healthcare systems*



# Implementation

## Joint Action on Vaccination

**European Commission** funded Joint Action on vaccination  
(€3.55 million)

**Launch:** 1 September 2018 (3 years duration)

**Coordination:** France and 21 EU countries

### **Actions addressed:**

- Sustainability and piloting actions (including NITAG, training)
- Immunisation information systems
- Vaccines shortages and supply
- R&D blueprint
- Vaccine hesitancy

- ECDC's engagement with partners allowed to create a favourable environment for IIS
- Political support of EU Council proposed recommendations
- Joint Action on Vaccination for technical implementation
- Fostering partnership with the wider E-health community

# Further contact



[Tarik.Derrough@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:Tarik.Derrough@ecdc.europa.eu)