



*Official launch 2019-2024 term*

**JOINED FOR VACCINATION**

**ADDRESSING VACCINE HESITANCY AND INCREASING UPTAKE IN EU**

**A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVE**

28<sup>th</sup> January 2020

European Parliament, ASP3H1 (Brussels)

16.00 -18.00

Hosted by MEP Brando Benifei, S&D Group

### **Closing Remarks**

Mariano Votta, Director of Active Citizenship Network

1. we believe the involvement of the civil society actors in the discussions is crucial. The commitment for vaccination can only be effective if the message reaches citizens, if the tools are available for all of us as well as the correct information . For instance, for a better development of the European Vaccination Information Portal, as well as for the main output produced by the EU-JAV, we need to ask ourselves how to better integrate civil society in this initiatives in order to make sure that the hard work and progress realized can reach the a more general audience.
2. The today meeting testifies how much Active Citizenship Network is deeply committed to continue to contribute to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination across Europe and, in particular, to progress to a common knowledge on the life-course vaccination approach: immunization is vital to prevent diseases and protect life.

3. with the cooperation of our partners at the national level, in the past months we have realized in different EU Countries focus groups on the specific theme of the life-course immunization approach in the national immunization plan, and promoted a discussion on how is it organized and perceived in each country. Putting together around the table different key subjects (leaders of civic and patients association, healthcare professionals, policy makers and other experts and possible stakeholders involved in the administration of vaccines), the aims of our activity was to together find proposals and gather impressions, suggestions, advices on that aspect and provide institutional and health care stakeholders with: the strengths/weaknesses of national policies and plans on life course - vaccination for each selected country; the common elements or specificities that affect a greater or lower success of this approach in the different countries. The today meeting will be then followed, by the end of this year, by another one hosted by this Interest Group where the main outputs of this work will be presented to the National and EU Institutions.

4. To conclude:

- Thanks again dear MEP Benifei for your great support, which is very appreciated.
- I would like to thank the staff of ACN, my colleagues Daniela, Federico and Riccardo, the European Joint Action on Vaccination as scientific partner and our media partner: The Journal "Advances in Health and Behavior".
- We will soon send out our newsletter, with all the documents and output of this meeting.

5. Last but not least, we will show you a clip in exclusive preview, realized with the involvement of many associations and experts. It will be our contribution to strengthen the message linked to the European Immunization Week next April. It will be spread in several languages and throughout Europe. With this video we'll start our EU social media campaign called "#VaccinAction": it is a short spot with flash interviews with citizens who talk about the topic of vaccines, providing positive data taken from official sources, with the final motto that I hope you'll like: *"Together, as active and aware citizens, we can protect ourselves: become the champion of your future!"*

Please, video!

6. We hope to see you all at the celebration of the XIV° European Patients' Day, which will take place here at the European Parliament in the coming months.

Mariano Votta