

4th International Conference on **Vaccines Research and Development**

April 13-15, 2026
Paris, France



Grassroots Mobilisation: Leveraging Civil Society and Community Leadership to Bridge Gaps in Vaccine Coverage

Mariano Votta
Cittadinanzattiva / Active Citizenship Network



Cittadinanzattiva & Active Citizenship Network

Cittadinanzattiva

- ❖ Italian NGO founded in 1978
- ❖ More than 35.000 volunteers, 270 local assemblies and 84 local centres
- ❖ Mission: promote active participation of citizens and protection of their rights

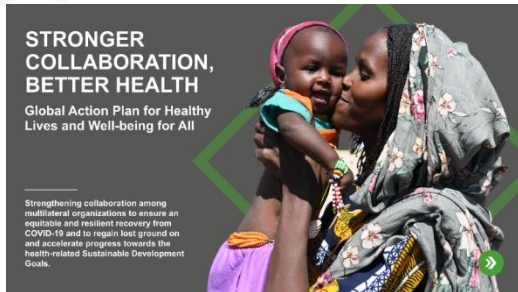


In 2007 we have been awarded a **gold medal** for our commitment to improving the public health system in Italy

Active Citizenship Network

- ❖ The European branch of Cittadinanzattiva, established in 2001
- ❖ One of the most widespread network, with more the 100 civic, patients and user organisations
- ❖ Promotes the European citizens' point of view in all public policies areas, focusing on healthcare, consumers and corporate social responsibility issues.

Community and civil society engagement on health issues



The WHO has defined community engagement as “a **process** of developing relationships that enable stakeholders to work together to address health related issues and promote well being to achieve positive health impact and outcomes” and it underlines the “Community and civil society engagement” as a pillar of its “Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All”.



December 5, 2023, the European Commission adopted the EU4Health 2024 work program to implement key health policy priorities within the European Health Union. As Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said, “**Civil society has a crucial role to play in reaching out to our citizens**”.

G7 Ministers’ Meeting on Health 9/11 Oct. 2024 Ancona (Italy): “....vaccination is an essential preventive measure and reiterate the crucial role of routine immunisation and campaigns”.... “the importance of **raising awareness and involving the general population** by providing evidence-based information through **campaigns aimed at citizens’ empowerment and increasing health literacy** regarding prevention, research and care”



The right to participate in policymaking in the area of health: **Citizens have the right to participate in the definition, implementation and evaluation of public policies relating to the protection of health care rights.**



Vaccination: our commitment at the national & at the EU level

long-term
strategy not a
spot initiative

to bring
the citizens'
perspectives

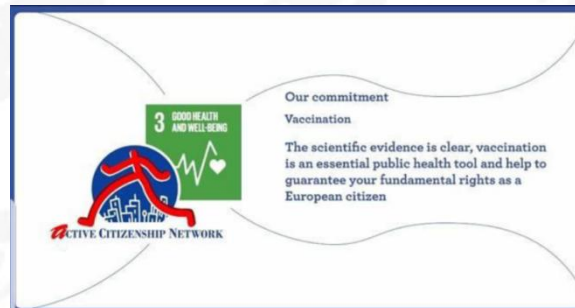
to shift to a common
knowledge linked to a
life-course vaccination
culture

to increase the
constituency of actors involved in the
struggle against the climate of vaccine
hesitancy

to improve the
awareness on the
importance of
vaccination accross
Europe



[More info here](#)



Civic evaluation



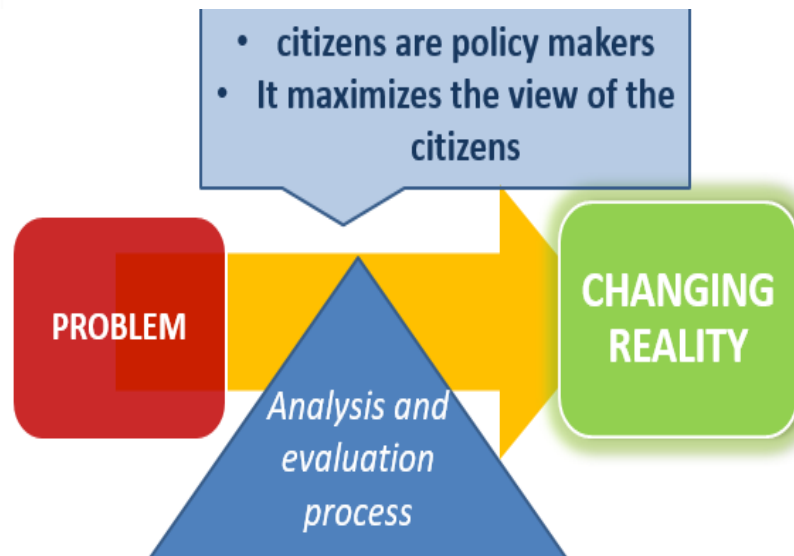
Defined as “*the capacity for organized citizens to produce and use information to promote their own policies and participate in public policymaking*”.

The goal: **evaluate** “quality” from the specific point of view of citizens/patients.

It can be defined as:

- an action-research performed by citizens
- for assessing from their own point of view
- through the use of established and verifiable methods
- to issue reasoned judgements on realities
- that are significant for the protection of rights and quality of life.

[Read more:](#)
[The active role of citizens in the evaluation process: methods, impact and prospects of Civic Evaluation in Italy](#)



Monitoring activity of the vaccination service

- Regional Health Departments **8**
- Vaccination centers **147** of 13 regions
- Family doctors **212** of 7 regions
- Primary care pediatricians **270** of all regions

Different **targets** (children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly)

All non-Covid vaccinations: Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B, Measles-mumps-rubella, Chickenpox, Meningococcal B, Meningococcal ACWY, Rotavirus, Papillomavirus, Pneumococcus, Herpes Zoster, Influenza.



Multistakeholder expert working table

- D.G. Prevenzione Min. della Salute
- SITi
- Università Cattolica
- Associazioni AIL, BPCO, UNIAMO-FIMR
- FIMMG, SIMG
- FIMP, SIP
- Assofarm, Federfarma, FOFI, SIFO
- CARD Italia

The primary objective: a 360-degree view on the vaccination services observed from operators' point of view.

[More info here](#) (IT)

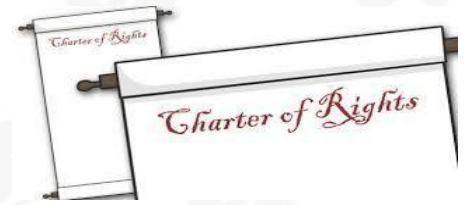
Charter of rights: main features

- A Charter of Rights is a document containing a set of rights which express ways to protect the more general right to Health, recognised by the (national and international) laws , but often unknown or violated.

What makes a Charter of rights different?

- It is **based on civic participation** and **advocacy**
- It is not legal or technical, but it **comes from citizens' reports and complaints** about violations or inefficiencies
- It is a **grass root initiative**
- It enables the **concrete applications of rights** with specific actions and interventions.
- It should be **proclaimed and promoted** by all the relevant insitutions and stakeholders, professionals, associations, citizens.

CHARTER OF RIGHTS



The Charter of rights of the vaccination services

1. Guarantee uniform access throughout the territory
2. Information, communication and transparency
3. Training and updating
4. Digitalisation and simplification
5. Strategies for achieving vaccination prevention targets and coverage
6. Continuous improvement and quality assessment

Carta della Qualità dei Servizi Vaccinali

Una carta della qualità dei modelli organizzativi in Italia per supportare, in ottica civica, istituzioni e operatori nella definizione di standard e percorsi condivisi, richiamando l'attenzione sull'importanza delle vaccinazioni ordinarie.

3 marzo ore 10.30

Evento on-line su piattaforma Zoom



[For the download, click here](#) (IT)

Dedicated website: <https://tuttovaccini.it/>



 Mappa

Informazioni Generali ▼

Normativa Nazionale ▼

Vaccinazioni ▼

FAQ

Glossario



IL PORTALE COMPLETO SUI VACCINI NEL TUO PAESE E NELLA TUA REGIONE



Scopri, Comprendi, Scegli: TuttoVaccini è la tua bussola informativa.

Scopri di più 



Community & civil society engagement in Italy: Open Day & tour

ilssole24ore.com (Sanita)

Cittadinanzattiva: al via il tour di "TuttoVaccini" promosso con Federfarma e Fimmg



10/24/2024 11:11

Parte da Napoli, in piazza Plebiscito, il 26 e 27 ottobre, il tour della campagna "Tutto Vaccini" promossa da Cittadinanzattiva, in collaborazione con Federfarma e Fimmg, con l'obiettivo di facilitare ai cittadini l'accesso alle vaccinazioni e favorire una scelta consapevole ed informata. "Tutto Vaccini" farà tappa in 10 Regioni italiane: oltre a Campania, Veneto (il 6 novembre a Padova), Sicilia (il 15 novembre a Palermo) e Molise (il 23 novembre a Campobasso), si proseguirà fra fine 2024 e i primi mesi del 2025 anche con le tappe in Emilia Romagna, Lazio, Lombardia, Marche, Piemonte e Puglia. "In piazza - spiega una nota - i farmacisti aderenti all'iniziativa, i medici di base e i volontari di Cittadinanzattiva, incontreranno i cittadini per sensibilizzarli sull'importanza della vaccinazione come strumento di prevenzione e informarli sui diversi vaccini oggi disponibili e i luoghi dove è possibile vaccinarsi". I materiali informativi della campagna saranno a disposizione anche nelle farmacie aderenti, così come negli studi dei medici di base aderenti. "Con questa iniziativa vogliamo contribuire a sensibilizzare le persone sull'importanza di tutte le vaccinazioni e renderle facilmente accessibili - dichiara Valeria Fava, responsabile coordinamento politiche Salute di Cittadinanzattiva -. Ancora appaiono troppo basse le coperture vaccinali, specie per gli adulti e gli anziani, ma non mancano criticità territoriali anche nella fascia pediatrica e dell'adolescenza". L'indicatore sulla copertura vaccinale nei bambini a 24 mesi "raggiunge l'obiettivo del 95% solo in 14 Regioni nonostante l'obbligatorietà e per la vaccinazione contro l'HPV siamo al di sotto del 40% sia nelle ragazze sia nei ragazzi". La copertura per gli anziani over 65 nella stagione 2023-2024 arriva al 53,3% per l'antinfluenzale, con un trend in calo e solo al 10,3% per gli over 60 nella vaccinazione anti Covid - 19, con profonde disomogeneità regionali. © RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA.

2024-2025: "Tutto Vaccini" tour in 10 regions

Promoted by Cittadinanzattiva - in collaboration with Federfarma and the Italian Federation of General Practitioners-FIMMG - started from Naples on 26/27 October 2024, with the aim of facilitating citizens' access to vaccinations and promoting a conscious and informed choice. In the square, pharmacists, GPs and Cittadinanzattiva volunteers meet citizens to raise their awareness of the importance of vaccination as a prevention tool and inform them about the different vaccines available today and the places where it is possible to get vaccinated. The tour will cover 10 Regions until the first half of 2025. [Read more](#)



2018-2019 Open Day in 37 cities

Cittadinanzattiva local offices opened to give information on vaccines and help citizens to face any critical issues in this area. Activists and experts met citizens to promote proximity information, distributing useful material and collecting reports in order to offer tools and support to protect themselves. [Read more](#)



Community & civil society engagement in Italy: denouncing, collecting & mobilizing

Nappi (Lega): «Al Moscati mancano i vaccini contro il fuoco di S. Antonio»

IL CASO

Selene Fioretti

Vaccini negati a migliaia di pazienti. È la situazione che, ormai da mesi, continua a registrarsi all'ospedale Moscati di Avellino. Si tratta dei sierici contro l'Herpes zoster, meglio noto come Fuoco di Sant'Antonio. «Oltre 5mila cittadini, over 65 e fragili, si sarebbero visti negare la profilassi a causa del blocco della distribuzione del vaccino in atto nella struttura». A denunciarlo è Severino Nappi, capogruppo della Lega nel Consiglio regionale campano. «La situazione che si è venuta a creare sta innescando una vera e propria emergenza sanitaria e mette

te a rischio la salute di migliaia di persone, in particolare dei soggetti più vulnerabili, per i quali la prevenzione è fondamentale», sottolinea il consigliere di Palazzo Santa Lucia che, a tal proposito, ha inviato una nota al direttore generale dell'Azienda ospedaliera.

Al manager Renato Pizzuti, cioè, ha chiesto «un intervento tempestivo perché si garantisca, a tutti i cittadini che ne fanno richiesta, di poter accedere alla profilassi contro il pericolo dello stop al vaccino». Ma non è la prima volta che il caso dello stop al vaccino viene sollevato. Già a maggio scorso, vale a dire, l'associazione Cittadinanzattiva aveva denunciato la criticità, facendosi portavoce del disservizio segnalato da numerosi pazienti. È da

tata al 31 maggio, nello specifico, la prima nota siglata dalla coordinatrice di Cittadinanzattiva, Angela Marcarelli, con la quale i vertici della struttura ospedaliera erano stati avvisati della riscontrata impossibilità a ricevere la prestazione sanitaria.

Si tratta di pazienti, in carico presso la Città ospedaliera che avevano effettuato la prima dose al Centro vaccinale dell'ospedale, proprio su consiglio dei sanitari, ma che «dopo circa un anno - come si legge nella missiva - alla richiesta di ricevere la seconda si sono sentiti dire che da mesi l'ospedale non ha più a disposizione il medesimo vaccino e che non è prevedibile sapere se e quando lo riceveranno». A distanza di un mese gli uffici

dell'Azienda ospedaliera avevano risposto all'associazione, facendo sapere che a creare il problema, tuttora in corso, è l'Azienda sanitaria locale. La direzione di via Degli Imbimbo, quindi, non avrebbe predisposto, come di sua competenza, l'approvvigionamento del nosocomio cittadino. Una mancanza che persiste nonostante il 25 giugno scorso il Moscati abbia inoltrato, carte alla mano, formale richiesta all'Asl per ottenere le scorte vaccinali, anche in ottemperanza di una direttiva della Regione Campania.

Tuttavia, esattamente a quattro mesi di distanza, il disservizio non è stato risolto, con il trattamento preventivo che resta off limits in ospedale. Continuano perciò i vuoti organizzativi a

Contrada Amoretta. Una struttura che intanto è stata teatro di un suicidio, compiuto 48 ore fa da un paziente ricoverato nel reparto di Medicina generale. Sul caso del 74enne di Vallesaccarda, Antonio Pagliarulo, è stata aperta un'inchiesta, necessaria a ricostruire la dinamica e a individuarne eventuali responsabilità. All'indomani dal fatale gesto, inoltre, il Moscati ha colmato il vuoto che, dall'8 agosto scorso, persisteva ai piani alti. Nominato ieri mattina, infatti, un direttore sanitario facente funzione. Si tratta di Lanfranco Aquilino Musto, che resterà in carica fino all'arrivo di un titolare per il ruolo dirigenziale. Una carica fondamentale quella del ds, che, come ha ribadito nel 2019 una sentenza della Cassazione, rappresenta «il garante ultimo dell'assistenza sanitaria ai pazienti e del coordinamento del personale sanitario operante nella struttura, affinché tale attività sia sempre improntata a criteri di qualità e di sicurezza».

© RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA



ACTIVE AGEING, PREVENZIONE PRIMARIA E VACCINAZIONI

Potenza, 6 Marzo 2015
Sala Inguscio
Regione Basilicata
Via Vincenzo Verrastro, 9
Ore 9.30 - 13.30

per informazioni contattare:
cell. 339/4209565
cittadinanzattiva@iscalc.it
mail@cittadinanzattiva.it



ASL Cagliari and Cittadinanzattiva together against the papilloma virus, on the occasion of International HPV Day



HOME CHI SIAMO DOVE SIAMO TU PUOI MEDIACENTER SITI CONTATTI

ome > Herpes Zoster > Vaccinazione contro l'herpes zoster: informazioni sulle modalità di accesso in Emilia Romagna

HERPES ZOSTER CON IL VACCINO SI PUO' PREVENIRE

#herpeszoster
#vaccinazioneperadulti
#prevenzione

Vaccinazione contro l'herpes zoster: informazioni sulle modalità di accesso in Emilia Romagna

VACCINAZIONE GRATUITA
VACCINAZIONE A PAGAMENTO

Di Anna Baldini - 30 Novembre 2023 224

FONTE: Regione Emilia Romagna - vaccinazioni e Piano Regionale di Prevenzione delle malattie infettive

L'Herpes Zoster, o Fuoco di Sant'Antonio, è una malattia scatenata dalla riattivazione del virus della varicella.

È una malattia molto diffusa ma poco conosciuta, sottovalutata dalle persone, benché i sintomi e le complicanze spesso compromettono la qualità di vita.

Mattino (ed. Avellino) 25 Oct., 2024

Prevenzione consapevole nell'età adulta. Cittadinanzattiva Lazio: "Più luci che ombre"

Persistono difficoltà, ritardi, carenze sul fronte della prevenzione. Servono azioni per rafforzare informazione, accessibilità ai luoghi vaccinali, a dare effettività alla vaccinazione per l'Herpes Zoster. "Necessario costruire un'alleanza forte tra istituzioni sanitarie, operatori e cittadini". Presentati oggi i dati di una ricerca di Cittadinanzattiva Lazio.

14 GIU - Non mancano soddisfazioni per la qualità del servizio reso, ma sono necessarie azioni per rafforzare l'informazione, l'accessibilità ai luoghi vaccinali, a dare effettività alla vaccinazione per l'Herpes Zoster e a mettere al centro delle politiche pubbliche la prevenzione.

Questo in sintesi il quadro tracciato emerso dai dati di una **ricerca di Cittadinanzattiva Lazio**, il lavoro presentato oggi da Cittadinanzattiva Lazio ha voluto investigare l'attuale stato di conoscenza da parte di

Quotidiano Sanità 14 June, 2024

Enlarging access to vaccination according to the citizens and the pharmacists' perspective

VACCINES & PHARMACY

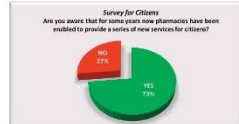
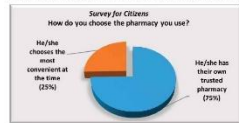
Cittadinanzattiva discusses the findings of a recent report into the role played by pharmacies in Italy as a part of the move towards 'pharmacies of services'

The key role played by pharmacies, according to the citizens

A 2019 civic survey conducted by the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva with the collaboration of Federfarma, the national federation representing over 16,000 private pharmacies in Italy, revealed that three-quarters of Italian citizens have a local pharmacy that they trust and which they use. A similar number of people (73%) are aware of the fact that, for several years now, pharmacies have been enabled to provide new services for citizens, while 65% of the population sample perceives pharmacists as professional dispensers of important health advice (Fig. 1 & 2).

All data are summarised in the Second Edition of the Annual Report on Pharmacies, realised by the Civic Evaluation Agency of Cittadinanzattiva, and available on the NGO website. In this second edition, the civic investigation concerned 10% of the pharmacies present in the territory.

The Report, to which 1,915 pharmacies have contributed, highlights a series of barriers that still



220 | The Innovation Platform ISSUE 2 | www.innovationplatformnetwork.com

FARMA7

16 Novembre, 2023

Vaccinazioni in farmacia: censimento Federfarma-Cittadinanzattiva

Cittadinanzattiva ha promosso una iniziativa sulle vaccinazioni in farmacia, a cui Federfarma ha aderito: si tratta di elaborare una piattaforma nazionale con l'obiettivo di consentire ai cittadini di individuare il presidio vaccinale più vicino a cui ricorrere per la somministrazione del vaccino.

Al via un censimento sulle vaccinazioni in farmacia per elaborare una piattaforma nazionale dei presidi disponibili per i cittadini sul territorio: un'iniziativa di Cittadinanzattiva con la collaborazione di Federfarma.

Come illustrato nella Circolare 517/2023 (consultabile sul [sito](#) nell'area riservata) Federfarma ha aderito alla richiesta di Cittadinanzattiva di disporre dell'elenco delle farmacie che somministrano i vaccini anti-Covid-19 e antinfluenzale, o eventuali altre tipologie di vaccini sulla base di specifiche normative regionali (per esempio, il vaccino contro l'Herpes Zoster nelle Marche - [si veda sul nostro sito qui](#)).

Federfarma sottolinea che, oltre a consentire l'allestimento di questa utile piattaforma, "disporre di dati sulle farmacie operative sul territorio sul fronte delle vaccinazioni assume particolare rilievo anche per Federfarma, al fine di valorizzare le nuove funzioni svolte dalle farmacie a favore della collettività, nei confronti delle istituzioni e degli altri attori del sistema".

Farmacie. Rapporto di Cittadinanzattiva e Federfarma: crescono quelle che fanno vaccini, screening e monitoraggio. Ma è forte la richiesta di nuovi servizi

Nel 2022 oltre un terzo attive su campagne di prevenzione per patologie croniche e vaccinazioni. Crescono la richiesta e la fiducia dei cittadini negli equivalenti. Potenziare il ruolo di prossimità della farmacia e la sua funzione di luogo di informazione e divulgazione, la richiesta condivisa da farmacisti e cittadini. [IL RAPPORTO](#)

01 DIC - I cittadini confermano la loro fiducia nella farmacia come luogo di accesso per informazioni e servizi, in particolare rispetto ai temi della prevenzione e dei farmaci equivalenti. A proposito di prevenzione, il 34% dei farmacisti ha svolto nell'ultimo anno campagne di screening per l'individuazione di soggetti a rischio per patologie croniche: nell'impegnarsi su questo fronte, i farmacisti si sono concentrati su diabete (70,3%), malattie cardiovascolari (48,2%), dislipidemie (35,9%), BPCO (14,4%). Caso a parte merita l'adesione massiccia, nel 2022, per la campagna di prevenzione oncologica del tumore al colon-retto, alla quale ha aderito ben il 78.4% delle farmacie intervistate. Incoraggiando la risposta dei cittadini. che nel 30.8% dei casi



Health Reform Monitor

Community pharmacists as vaccinators in the Italian SARS-CoV-2 immunization campaign: implications beyond the pandemic



Research Article

Enlarging Access to Vaccination in Italy According to the Citizens and the Pharmacists' Perspective

Votta M¹*, Vitale M² and Papavero M³

¹Director Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Rome, Italy

²Senior Project Manager - Civic Evaluation Agency at Cittadinanzattiva APS, Rome, Italy

³Community & Fellowship Assistant at Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Rome, Italy

Votta M, et al., J Vaccines Res Vaccin 2021, 7: 017

DOI: 10.24966/VRV-0193/100017

HSOA Journal of Vaccines Research and Vaccination

With the existing challenging context, it is essential to protect the positive work done so far by our EU institution and Member states and maintain the momentum in order to protect the European population. Eventually, all healthcare professionals can and should play a key role in strengthening vaccine confidence with the common goal to protect and improve public health. This article presents the main results of a civic survey conducted in Italy and aimed at citizens and pharmacists, paying particular attention to the role that this professional category could play in the context of the vaccination plan. It also makes proposals to be discussed during the annual edition of the European Patients' Rights Day, focused on valuing the role of civic society and Patients Advocacy Groups for more resilient Health Care Systems: lessons learned toward a European Health Union.

Keywords: European health union; Health inequalities; PAGs & Civic Participation; Pharmacies; Pharmacists; Patients' rights; Vaccination

FARMACISTA 33

Professione Farmacista / Ricerca e cura / Prodotti e alimenti

< Home / Lavoro / Farmacisti

11 Maggio 2023

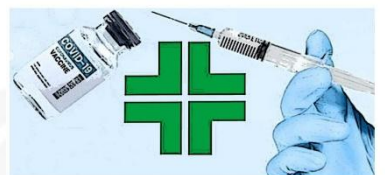
FARMACISTI

Vaccini, dispensazione e screening. Cittadinanzattiva: consolidare ruolo svolto da farmacie in pandemia



Le farmacie nel "Rapporto civico sulla salute 2023" di Cittadinanzattiva: consolidare esperienza pandemica con vaccini e distribuzione dei farmaci

Lo svolgimento di vaccinazioni anti Covid-19 e antinfluenzale, nonché l'apertura a ulteriori vaccinazioni quali Herpes zoster, Hep e Pneumococco in farmacia rappresentano una strategia di facilitazione alla vaccinazione "con specifico riferimento al fattore della prossimità dei servizi che erogano prestazioni a favore della prevenzione". Una prassi avviata in fase emergenziale da consolidare per rendere l'accesso alla vaccinazione più vicino alle persone e



Votta (Cittadinanzattiva): "Vaccini, il ruolo rilevante dei farmacisti dev'essere di routine"

Collecting data & producing evidences trough civic consultations



Spain

Hungary

Poland

Actors involved:

- Civic organizations
- Advocacy patients groups
- Experts
- Private and public actors
- Health care professionals

**Vaccinazione pneumococcica nell'adulto:
proposte per un accesso equo e consapevole**

**27 maggio 2022
11.00-13.00**

Montecitorio Meeting Centre
Via della Colonna Antonina 52 • Roma



con il contributo
non condizionato di:



Pneumococcal vaccination survey

Focus group virtuale - Italia

La società civile promuove la vaccinazione lungo tutto l'arco della vita

[25 Ottobre 2023, 15:00 -17:00]



Organizzato da
Tribunale per i Diritti del Malato e
Coordinamento nazionale delle
Associazioni dei Malati Cronici

Promossa da
Cittadinanzattiva

Con il sostegno
incondizionato di



Per ulteriori informazioni contattare:
v.fava@cittadinanzattiva.it
d.quaglia@activecitizenship.net

Italy

Grupo de Trabajo Online - España

La Sociedad Civil promueve la inmunización a lo largo de toda la vida

[26 de Septiembre • 4-6 pm]



Organizado por
Asociación Española
contra la Meningitis

Promovido por
Cittadinanzattiva

Con el apoyo
incondicional de



Para más información, por favor escriba a:
emaya@contralamenigitis.org
d.quaglia@activecitizenship.net

Spain

France

Groupe de discussion virtuel - France

La société civile encourage la vaccination tout au long de la vie.

[27 septembre 15-16h30 CET]



Organisé par
LCI

Promu par
Cittadinanzattiva

Avec le soutien
inconditionnel de



Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter:
research@ci-arg
d.quaglia@activecitizenship.net

Publications on Vaccination (I)

SciMedCentral

Annals of Vaccines and Immunization

Research Article

Addressing the Life-Course Approach in Vaccination Policy across Europe: The Case History of Poland

Daniela Quaggia¹, Mariano Votta^{2*}, Giulia Decarolis³, Igor Grzesiak⁴ and Patrycja Rzućcio-Zajac⁵

¹Active Citizenship Network, Italy
²Director Active Citizenship Network, Italy
³European Affairs at Active Citizenship Network, Poland
⁴Institute for Patients' Rights and Health Education (IPPEZ), Poland
⁵External affairs director at for Patients' Rights and Health Education (IPPEZ), Poland

*Corresponding author

Mariano Votta, Director Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Cereale 6, 00183 Rome, Italy. Email: m.votta@cittadinanzattiva.it

Submitted: 20 April 2018

Accepted: 01 June 2018

Published: 04 June 2018

ISSN: 2378-9379

Copyright

© 2020 Quaggia D, et al.

OPEN ACCESS

Keywords

• Life-long vaccination
• Immunization
• Vaccination policy
• Civic activism
• Poland

Abstract

In April 2019, the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva, through its international branch Active Citizenship Network (ACN) launched, during the European immunization week, a new project called "European Active Citizens for Vaccination". The aim was to improve the awareness on the importance of vaccination across Europe: the scientific evidence is clear, vaccination is an essential public health tool and helps to guarantee our fundamental rights as a European citizen. ACN realized a social media communication campaign supporting and spreading awareness on the topic of life-long vaccination, videos were made in all the national languages of the involved countries (Italy, Hungary, Poland, Ireland and Spain) and then produced, shared and customized for each country. Moreover, an informative leaflet in a different language has been produced.

Civic consultations on the National Immunization Plan in the countries involved were held in: Poland, Hungary and Spain. This article describes the main results of the focus group held in Poland on the topic of vaccination and its related policies. The full report has been published in the Report entitled "European Active Citizens for Vaccination: focus on Poland (2019- 2020)" edited by Cittadinanzattiva APS (all rights reserved).

The involvement of civil society actors in discussions around vaccination is crucial. Cittadinanzattiva's Mariano Votta and Daniela Quaggia outline their work in this area

Vaccination: the pathway for concrete citizens' engagement

Vaccine hesitancy – the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines – threatens to reverse the progress that has been made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases. For this reason, vaccine hesitancy has been identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as being among the 10 issues that will demand worldwide attention in the coming years. Mainly to address these and other threats, 2019 saw the start of the

vaccine culture and, indeed, to ensure rigour and transparency, which will result in the confidence in science that seems to have been lost.

Cittadinanzattiva – Active Citizenship Network (ACN)² is deeply committed to raising awareness around the importance of vaccination in Italy and across Europe³: immunisation is vital to preventing diseases and protecting life.

ACN's commitment has been appreciated by the



VaccinesToday

ABOUT US

SHARE

DISEASES & VACCINES

FAQ

COVID-19 VACCINES

10TH ANNIVERSARY

VIDEOS & RESOURCES

CONTACT US



WHY WE MUST ADDRESS VACCINE-PREVENTABLE LUNG INFECTIONS THIS WINTER

SHARE

'Italy's experience with pneumococcal vaccination points the way forward in fighting respiratory illnesses'

In the current transition to a new phase of the pandemic, it is crucial to act fast and together, and to use the summer window to prepare for possible future pandemic surges next autumn/winter and beyond.

We no longer have only the flu to consider. In fact, we have a trio of vaccine-preventable respiratory diseases (VPRDs), and we need to ensure that pneumococcal pneumonia, Covid-19 and influenza are all on the radar of health institutions.

These diseases place a burden on health systems: every year, VPRDs result in significant illnesses and high levels of hospitalisations in vulnerable populations, putting additional pressure on already strained healthcare systems^[1-3].

Mariano Votta

August 29th, 2022



SL

Vaccines and Vaccination Journal

Editorial

Addressing the Burden of the Vaccine-Preventable Respiratory Diseases: From the Pneumococcal Vaccination Case Study in Italy to the EU Council Conclusion on (adult) Vaccination

Mariano Votta*

Responsible EU Affairs at
Cittadinanzattiva & Director Active
Citizenship Network, Italy

Article Info

Received Date: August 29, 2022

Accepted Date: September 01, 2022

Published Date: September 02, 2022

Keywords

Pneumococcal vaccination;
Vaccination;
Vaccine-Preventable Respiratory
Diseases

Copyright: © 2022 Mariano Votta, SL
Vaccines And Vaccination Journal. This
is an open access article distributed under
the Creative Commons Attribution

INTRODUCTION

In the current transition to a new phase of the pandemic, it is crucial to act fast and together, and to use the summer window to prepare for possible future pandemic surges next autumn/winter and beyond. In particular, one aspect worth raising is that we no longer have only flu to consider, we have a trio of Vaccine-Preventable Respiratory Diseases (VPRDs), and we need to ensure that pneumococcal pneumonia, Covid-19 and flu are all in the radar of Health Institutions given the burden that each can place on the health systems: every year, VPRDs result in significant illnesses and high levels of hospitalizations in vulnerable populations, putting additional pressure on already strained healthcare systems [1-3].

For example, Community-Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) is a leading cause of hospitalization in adults, with the average estimated hospital stay due to the condition at over 12 days, according to a pre-pandemic study across 10 European markets [4]. Alongside the immediate impact on hospital bed capacity, VPRDs can cause ongoing complications: an episode of CAP has been reported by patients to worsen existing health conditions such as COPD, asthma, and high blood pressure [5], and may put patients at risk of serious cardiac events [6]. And long-term sequelae of VPRDs, including pneumonia and flu, have also become increasingly scrutinized as a result of 'long-COVID' symptoms following COVID-19 infection. Extra-pulmonary complications, including cardiac- and cerebrovascular events, represent a potential long-term burden of disease following flu infection [7].



International Journal of Virology & Infectious Diseases

Research Article

Addressing the Challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Routine Vaccinations across Europe: Focus on Flu Vaccination - 3

Mariano Votta^{1*}, Daniela Quaggia² and Maira Cardillo³

¹Director Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva Onlus, Via Cereale, 6 - 00183 Rome, Italy

²Senior Project Manager, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva Onlus, Via Cereale, 6 - 00183 Rome, Italy

³Junior Project Manager, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva Onlus, Via Cereale, 6 - 00183 Rome, Italy

*Address for Correspondence: Mariano Votta, Director, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva Onlus, Via Cereale, 6 - 00183 Rome, Italy, ORCID: 0000-0001-7557-2546, Email: m.votta@cittadinanzattiva.it

Submitted: 28 March 2022; Approved: 20 April 2022; Published: 22 April 2022

Cite this article: Votta M, Quaggia D, Cardillo M, Addressing the Challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Routine Vaccinations across Europe: Focus on Flu Vaccination, Int J Virol Infect Dis. 2022 Apr 22;7(1): 0214034.

Copyright: © 2022 Votta M, et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.



Publications on Vaccination (II)

Active citizens in Europe advocate for vaccination

Opinion

Last January, 28th 2020, the second term (2019-2024) of the MEPs Interest Group on "European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare" was launched at the EU Parliament. Promoted by Cittadinanzattiva-Active Citizenship Network, with the endorsement of almost 100 associations across Europe, the Interest Group renews its commitment to be an opportunity for the development of the policy making process on healthcare at the EU level: civic participation in healthcare policies should be considered not only as a praiseworthy civic act, but also as a strategic source to safeguard the public healthcare system. A principle theorized forty years ago by the World Health Organization in the Declaration of Alma-Ata,¹ and then repeatedly affirmed internationally over the years.²

Volume 6 Issue 1 - 2020

Mariano Votta,¹ Daniela Quaggia²

¹Responsible EU Affairs, Cittadinanzattiva APS, Italy / Director Active Citizenship Network

²Senior Manager at Active Citizenship Network / Cittadinanzattiva APS, Italy

Correspondence: Mariano Votta, Department of EU Affairs, Cittadinanzattiva APS, Italy, Tel +39 06367181, Email m.votta@activecitizenship.net

Received: February 16, 2020 | **Published:** February 27, 2020

[More info here](#)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Life course immunization approach across Europe: Focus on Hungary, Poland and Spain

Daniela Quaggia¹ Mariano Votta^{2*} Giulia Decarolis³

Abstract: In April 2019, the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva, through its international branch Active Citizenship Network (ACN) launched, during the European immunization week, a new project called "European Active Citizens for Vaccination". The aim was to improve the awareness on the importance of vaccination across Europe: the scientific evidence is clear, vaccination is an essential public health tool and helps to guarantee our fundamental rights as a European citizen. ACN realized a social media communication campaign supporting and spreading awareness on the topic of life-course vaccination: videos were made in all the national languages of the involved countries (Italy, Hungary, Poland, Ireland and Spain) and then produced, shared and customized for each country. Moreover, an informative leaflet in different languages has been produced. Civic consultations on the National Immunization Plan in the countries involved were held in: Hungary, Poland and Spain. The focus group meetings took place in Budapest, Warsaw and Madrid between November and December 2019. This article describes the main results of the three focus group on the topic of vaccination and its related policies. It also includes some advises, opinions, recommendations on how to remove those barriers to a life-long immunization approach in the national vaccination plans. These recommendations are offered to the policy makers and to the stakeholders as a contribution from the civil society engaged in the safeguard of health as a common good.

Keywords: life-course vaccination, immunization, vaccination policy, civic activism, Poland, Hungary, Spain

Estrategias para la Vacunación a lo largo de toda la vida en España

GRUPO DE TRABAJO MULTIDISCIPLINAR EN ESPAÑA

Dr. José Luis Baquero, Director y coordinador científico del Foro Español de Pacientes
Dña. Elena Moya Pendería, Vicepresidenta de la Asociación Española contra la Meningitis
Dr. Mariano Votta, Director de Active Citizenship Network



ACRIANO ORIENTAL
QUINTA FEIRA, 24 DE DEZEMBRO DE 2020

Opinião 19

A Vacinação contra o coronavírus

Será uma luz ao fundo do túnel ou, pelo contrário, a demonstração de que há muitas pessoas com relutância ou recusa em vacinar-se apesar da disponibilidade de vacinas.

Chegaram boas notícias de que a vacina será distribuída a todos os países europeus ao mesmo tempo, em dezembro, segundo a Presidente da Comissão Europeia que interpreta isto como mais um sinal de união e o caminho para o fim da pandemia, quando 70% da população for vacinada.

No entanto, em Portugal, segundo sondagem publicada, hoje mesmo, haverá 61% de pessoas que querem vaci-



SAÚDE
MARIA
TERESA FLOR
DE LIMA
MÉDICA

lhorar a sensibilização para a importância da vacinação entre os cidadãos da UE.

Segundo o mesmo estudo: "A vacinação é um direito e um extraordinário instrumento de saúde pública, que deve ser conhecido, valorizado, difundido e utilizado no interesse das pessoas e da comunidade. Porém, é preciso trabalhar e contribuir para uma cultura adequada sobre vacinas e garantir rigor e transparência para recuperar a confiança na ciência".

Os nossos cientistas têm-se redobrado em informação sobre a necessidade, a segurança, a eficácia da vacina contra

vacinas, onde é essencial distinguir as fontes de informação fiáveis? das notícias falsas. Acredita-se que o cidadão bem informado e ciente dos seus direitos é um recurso da sociedade. Por isso, é fundamental investir na capacitação dos cidadãos e segue no artigo da ACN referido: "... para melhor identificar, reconhecer e lutar contra o aumento dos fatores externos que podem influenciar negativamente a política de vacinas nos Estados-Membros da UE e ter informações atualizadas e saber como reconhecer as fontes oficiais de informação". Conclui-se, portanto, que é "Um exemplo concreto de parceria entre a sociedade civil e a sociedade científica".

isso, o papel da sociedade civil e ativa é conectar instituições e comunidades: em tempos de hesitação vacinal, a mensagem é: onde não chega a comunicação institucional, chega a sociedade civil".

Este contributo da Cittadinanzattiva-Rede de Cidadania Ativa, ACN para o reforço da mensagem ligada à Semana Europeia de Imunização anual, tem em consideração as relações entre as redes sociais e as notícias falsas e divulgou uma mensagem que "... juntos, como cidadãos ativos e conscientes, podemos nos proteger: sermos os campeões do nosso futuro!". Pelo menos há quatro etapas necessárias para enfatizar o papel decisivo da

Addressing the Life-Course Approach in Vaccination Policy across Europe: The Case History of Spain

Mariano Votta^{1*}, Daniela Quaggia², Giulia Decarolis³, Elena Moya⁴, José Luis Baquero Ubeda⁵ and Maira Cardillo⁶

¹Director Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva, APS, Via Cereate 6, 00183 Rome, Italy

²Senior Project Manager at Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva, APS, Via Cereate 6, 00183, Italy

³Project Assistant - European Affairs at Active Citizenship Network, Via Cereate 6, 00183 Rome, Italy

⁴Vice president of AEM

⁵Community & Fellowship Assistant at Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva, APS, Via Cereate 6, 00183 Rome, Italy

ABSTRACT

In April 2019, the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva, through its international branch Active Citizenship Network (ACN) launched, during the European immunization week, a new project called "European Active Citizens for Vaccination". The aim was to improve the awareness on the importance of vaccination across Europe: the scientific evidence is clear, vaccination is an essential public health tool and helps to guarantee our fundamental rights as European citizens. ACN realized a social media communication campaign supporting and spreading awareness on the topic of life-long vaccination, videos were made in all the national languages of the involved countries (Italy, Hungary, Poland, Ireland and Spain) and then produced, shared and customized for each country. Moreover, an informative leaflet in a different language was produced. Civic consultations on the National Immunization Plan were held in Poland, Hungary and Spain. This article describes the main results of the focus group held in Spain on the topic of vaccination and on its related policies. The full report has been published in the Report entitled "European Active Citizens for Vaccination: Focus on Spain (2019 - 2020)" edited by Cittadinanzattiva APS.

*Corresponding author

Mariano Votta, Director Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva, APS, Via Cereate 6, 00183 Rome, Italy

Tel: +3906718181

E-mail: m.votta@cittadinanzattiva.it

DOI: 10.37871/ijv.1161

Submitted: 02 November 2020

Accepted: 17 November 2020

Published: 18 November 2020

Copyright: © 2020 Votta M, et al. Distributed under Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0

OPEN ACCESS

Subjects: General Science

Publications on Vaccination (III)



Journal of Medical and Clinical Case Reports
Research Article | Open Access | ISSN 2997-6022 | Volume 02 | Issue 05

Incorporating COVID-19 Into the Broader Narrative on Respiratory Diseases. A Citizens' and Patients' Perspective Towards the Development of An EU Respiratory Health Plan

Mariano Votta^{1*}, Bianca Ferraiolo²

¹Director, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2 – 00183 Rome, Italy.

²Senior Manager EU Affairs and Head of the Representative Office to the EU, Active Citizenship Network, Rue Philippe Le Bon 46, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Received date: 20 August 2025; **Accepted date:** 04 September 2025; **Published date:** 12 September 2025

Corresponding Author: Mariano Votta, Director, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2 – 00183 Rome, Italy. ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7557-2546>, ResearchGate: www.researchgate.net/profile/Mariano-Votta/research



Open Access

Volume 8 Issue 4

Research Article

Journal of Medical and Clinical Studies

ISSN: 2582-0869



PUBTEXTO

Bridging the Confidence Gap: Towards A Multistakeholder Alliance to Strengthen Equitable Vaccination in Central and Eastern Europe

Valcea L^{a*}, Chiorean E^b and Votta M^c

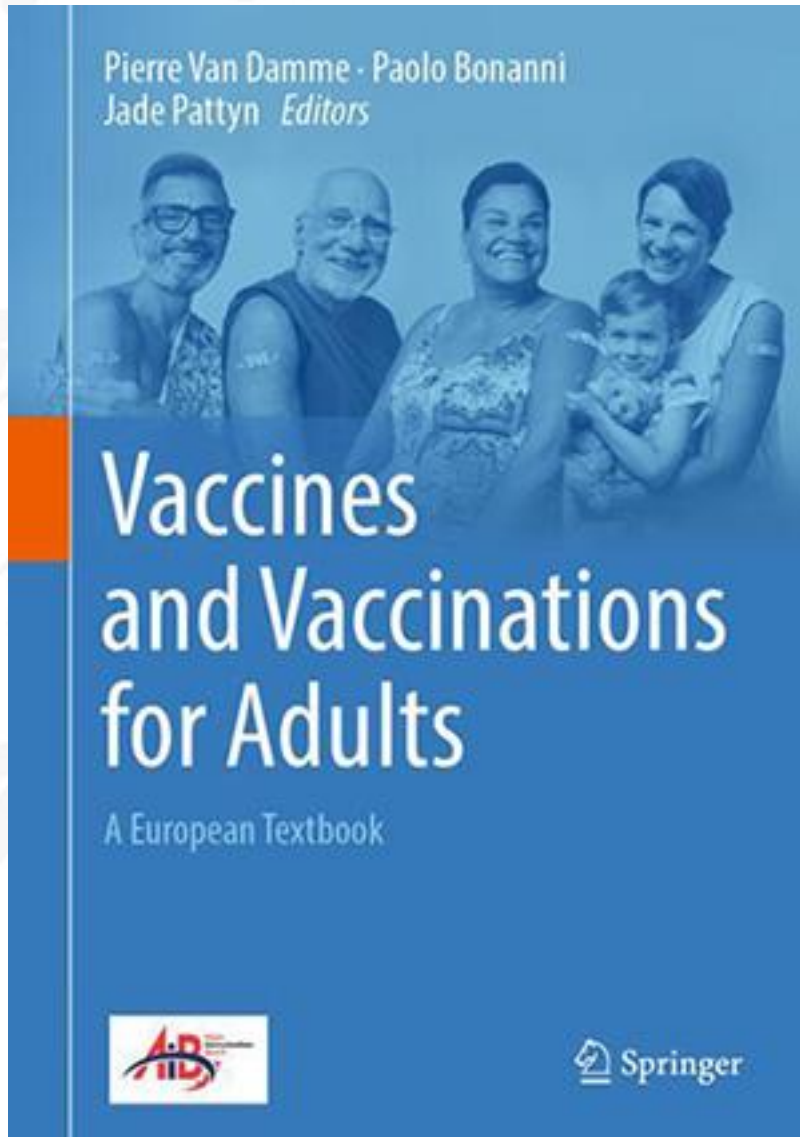
^aExecutive Director, Coalition of Patients' Organisations with Chronic Disease in Romania, Str. Ţepes Voda 22, Sector 3, Bucuresti

^bCoalition of Patients' Organisations with Chronic Disease in Romania, Str. Ţepes Voda 22, Sector 3, Bucuresti

^cDirector, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2-00183 Rome, Italy



Textbook



Book “Vaccines and Vaccinations for Adults: A European Textbook” now available!

- This textbook provides a comprehensive reference on adult vaccines and immunization practices tailored to the European context.
- It has been promoted and edited by the [Adult Immunization Board \(AIB\)](#), of which Cittadinanzattiva-Active Citizenship Network is a member, an international board of experts aiming at spreading the culture of adult immunisation and promoting its implementation in Europe.
- Co-author of the chapter “[Adult Vaccination Policy in Europe: Governance and Key Stakeholders](#)”.
- [Read more](#)

Handbook

Supporting public vaccination policies: a collection of grassroots mobilisation initiatives across Europe

- This newly published handbook aims to provide a variety of activity types for individuals seeking to contribute to prevention and immunisation efforts but lacking the necessary guidance.
- It serves as a practical guide, offering actionable insights and ideas to inspire associations and enhance vaccination policies within their specific contexts.
- The handbook was developed by Active Citizenship Network in collaboration with Patient Advocacy Groups (PAGs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
- It was edited & designed by [MD Health](#).
- [Read more and download it.](#)



SunText Review of Case Reports & Images
ISSN: 2766-4589

Open Access
Research Article
Volume 7:1

Leveraging Civil Society and Community Leadership to Support Public Vaccination Policies: Collection of Grassroots Mobilisation Initiatives across Europe

Votta M¹, Quagga D², Salsider Phill MPFP and Dhullipala M¹

¹Director, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Italy
²Senior Project Manager, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Italy
³Policy & Advocacy Lead at MD Health, London, UK
⁴Founder and CEO at MD Cosmos Group, London, UK

^{*}Corresponding author: Votta M, Director, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2 - 00183 Rome, Italy; E-mail: mvotta@cittadinanzattiva.it

Received date: 12 February 2026; Accepted date: 19 February 2026; Published date: 23 February 2026

Citation: Votta M, Quagga D, Salsider Phill MPFP, Dhullipala M (2026) Leveraging Civil Society and Community Leadership to Support Public Vaccination Policies: Collection of Grassroots Mobilisation Initiatives across Europe. SunText Rev Case Rep Image 7(1): 173.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51731/2766-4589.2026.173>
Copyright: © 2026 Votta M, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Policy recommendations for an EU Respiratory Health Plan: a Call to Action



- Promoted by Active Citizenship Network and [RPP Group](#), the Call to Action has been delivered by the “EU Working Group on Respiratory Care”, a collaborative initiative that brings together EU-level scientific societies, healthcare professionals and national patient advocacy organisations. It was set up to address the growing burden of respiratory diseases across Europe.
- The eleven recommendations outlined in the Call to Action are intended to provide robust, evidence-based input to ensure that the specific needs of respiratory health are fully addressed and embedded in an upgraded, unified European framework for infection control, providing better protection for the health rights of European citizens.
- Endorsed by 32 HCPs/PAGs/CSOs organizations
- [Click here](#) to download the document



Research Article

Journal of Zoonotic Pathogens and One Health Policy

Policy Priorities to Strengthen Respiratory Health Strategy in the European Union

Mariano Votta^{1*}, Bianca Ferralolo², Kinga Wójtowicz³, Luca Mario Comincioli⁴, Francesco Santarossa⁵ & Georgios Mavrodimitrakis⁶

¹Director, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2 - 00183 Rome, Italy

²Head of the Representative Office to the EU - Senior Manager EU Affairs, Active Citizenship Network, Rue Philippe Le Bon 46, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

³Director of EU Healthcare at RPP Group Brussels office, Rue Guimard 10, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

⁴Health Policy Consultant at RPP Group Brussels office, Rue Guimard 10, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

⁵Associate Consultant at RPP Group Brussels office, Rue Guimard 10, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

*Corresponding author: Mariano Votta, Director Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2 - 00183 Rome, Italy.

Submitted: 19 January 2026 Accepted: 26 January 2026 Published: 31 January 2026



Strengthen the alliance & enlarge the vaccination constituency



Founder of the **Alliance "Poland Breaths Healthily** in which ACN is a partner to contribute to the White Paper on VPRDs issue.



World Federation
of Public Health
Associations

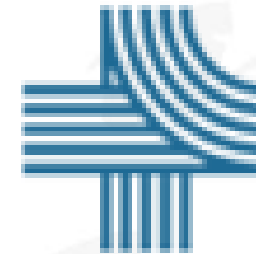


Commitment across Europe- Agreements to collaborate

Along 2023, Active Citizenship Network has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the following PAGs from Bulgaria, Croatia (2), Czech Rep., Denmark, Greek, Portugal, Romania, Spain



Българска Асоциация
за Закрила на Пациентите



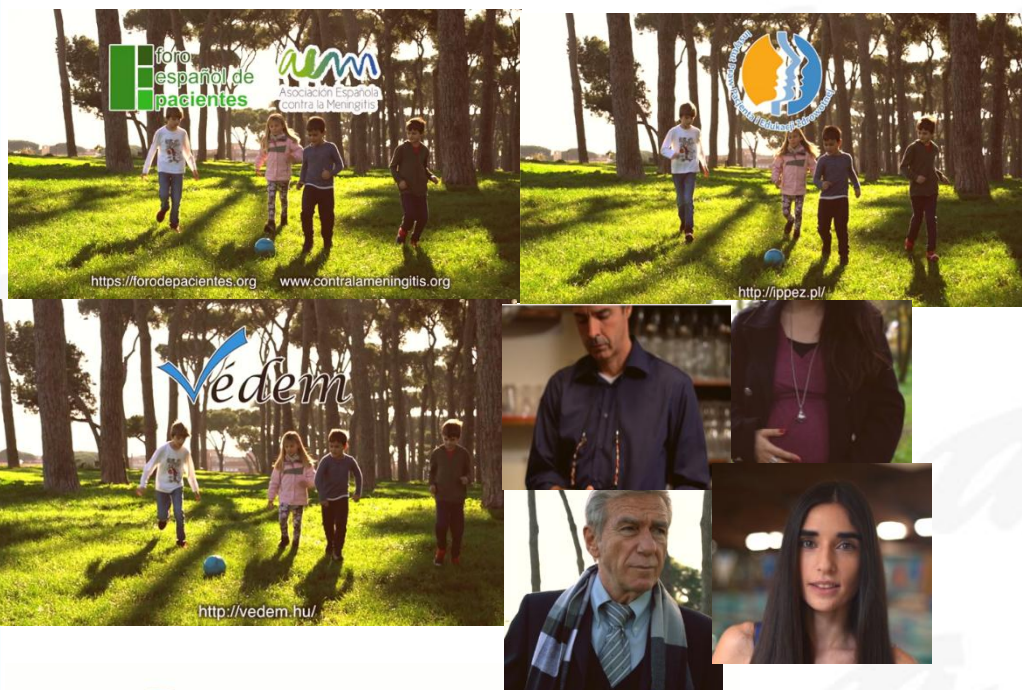
Greek
Patients
Association

 **Universidad del
Paciente y la Familia**



From citizens to citizens a more reliable communication

#VaccinAction 2022 Eu Social media campaign on the value of adult immunization



#VaccinAction

www.activecitizenship.net

The spot has been realized in the framework of the "European active citizens for vaccination" project also thanks to:



@vaccinesToday



EU VIDEO

"Together, as active and aware citizens, we can protect ourselves: become the champion of your future!"



Every year, vaccine preventable respiratory diseases (VPRDs) result in significant illness and hospitalisations across the EU. Vaccines can protect against VPRDs, protecting individuals, communities, and healthcare systems. Institutions must recognise the role of civil society organizations in increasing awareness around adult vaccination through education and outreach.

Take#VaccinAction

today and talk to your healthcare professional!

Reference: Choe YJ, Smit MA, Memel LA. Seasonality of respiratory viruses and bacterial pathogens. Antimicrob Resist Infect Control. 2019;8:125. Link: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31367344/> Date of Access: 27/06/22



Did you know that D the disease, which c with those for child



COVID updated VIDEO

CITTADINANZA ATTIVA

Take #VaccinAction

and verify your #VaxFacts today!



Diphtheria can cause severe health problems which can lead to organ damage, suffocation and permanent skin damage. Much like with many life-threatening diseases, diphtheria is completely preventable through vaccination. **Get vaccinated to protect yourself and those around you from disease.**

Reference: Benefits of vaccination for individuals. European Vaccination Information Portal. Link: Benefits of vaccination for individuals (vaccination-info.eu) Date of Access: 14/07/23

The #VaccinAction 2023 campaign has been developed by the Active Citizenship Network in cooperation with national patient advocacy groups.

#VaccinAction 2023 www.activecitizenship.net

Greek Patients' Association MHN MALTA HEALTH NETWORK napo Zdravski pacijent

With the unconditional support of GSK Johnson & Johnson MSD INVENTING FOR LIFE Pfizer sanofi

Take #VaccinAction

and verify your #VaxFacts through the European Vaccination Information Portal.



Is the vaccination information you are receiving true? **Get the right information from the right source.**

2023 campaign has been developed by the Active Citizenship Network in cooperation with national patient advocacy groups.

Greek Patients' Association MHN MALTA HEALTH NETWORK napo Zdravski pacijent

With the unconditional support of GSK Johnson & Johnson MSD INVENTING FOR LIFE Pfizer sanofi

Take #VaccinAction

and verify your #VaxFacts today!



Are you fully vaccinated? **Vaccination is one of our best defences against the spread of disease.** However, many adults have missed a vaccination, which puts you and those around you at risk of catching harmful diseases. **Check if you have had the nationally recommended vaccinations and consult a medical professional in case any catchups are needed.**

Reference: Benefits of vaccination for individuals. European Vaccination Information Portal. Link: Benefits of vaccination for individuals (vaccination-info.eu) Date of Access: 14/07/23

The #VaccinAction 2023 campaign has been developed by the Active Citizenship Network in cooperation with national patient advocacy groups.

#VaccinAction 2023 www.activecitizenship.net

Greek Patients' Association MHN MALTA HEALTH NETWORK napo Zdravski pacijent

With the unconditional support of GSK Johnson & Johnson MSD INVENTING FOR LIFE Pfizer sanofi

Take #VaccinAction

and verify your #VaxFacts today!



Roughly 1 in 5 pregnant women with rubella infections miscarry. A further 9 out of 10 babies born to mothers who had rubella in early pregnancy, will suffer from congenital rubella syndrome, which can cause deafness, heart defects and learning disabilities. **Vaccination is the simple solution.** Do your part to reduce the spread of harmful diseases such as Rubella.

Reference: Benefits of vaccination for individuals. European Vaccination Information Portal. Link: Benefits of vaccination for individuals (vaccination-info.eu) Date of Access: 14/07/23

Take #VaccinAction

and verify your #VaxFacts today!



Did you know that the Moon is made of cheese?! If you didn't believe this, then why do you believe conspiracy theories about vaccines? **Get the right information from the right source.**

The #VaccinAction 2023 campaign has been developed by the Active Citizenship Network in cooperation with national patient advocacy groups.

#VaccinAction 2023 www.activecitizenship.net

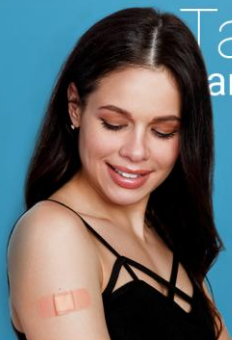
Greek Patients' Association MHN MALTA HEALTH NETWORK napo Zdravski pacijent

With the unconditional support of GSK Johnson & Johnson MSD INVENTING FOR LIFE Pfizer sanofi

Developed & disseminated by ACN in cooperation with national PAGs from Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece and Malta

Take #VaccinAction

and verify your #VaxFacts today!



Diseases such as influenza, meningitis, pneumonia, rubella, Covid-19 and hepatitis can all have serious health consequences. **Vaccination protects you and those around you from disease,** reducing the risk of diseases spreading among family members, schoolmates, colleagues, friends, neighbours, and other people in the community.

Reference: Benefits of vaccination for the community. European Vaccination Information Portal. Link: Benefits of vaccination for the community (vaccination-info.eu) Date of Access: 14/07/23

The #VaccinAction 2023 campaign has been developed by the Active Citizenship Network in cooperation with national patient advocacy groups.

#VaccinAction 2023 www.activecitizenship.net

Greek Patients' Association MHN MALTA HEALTH NETWORK napo Zdravski pacijent

With the unconditional support of GSK Johnson & Johnson MSD INVENTING FOR LIFE Pfizer sanofi

Take #VaccinAction

and verify your #VaxFacts today!



Did you know that pigs can fly?! If you didn't believe this, then why do you believe vaccines are used for reasons other than improving health outcomes? **Get the right information from the right source.**

The #VaccinAction 2023 campaign has been developed by the Active Citizenship Network in cooperation with national patient advocacy groups.

#VaccinAction 2023 www.activecitizenship.net

Greek Patients' Association MHN MALTA HEALTH NETWORK napo Zdravski pacijent

With the unconditional support of GSK Johnson & Johnson MSD INVENTING FOR LIFE Pfizer sanofi





The #VaccinAction 2024 campaign has been created by the Active Citizenship Network in cooperation with 18 patient advocacy groups across 12 countries.

VaccinAction 2024
www.activecitizenship.net



Created in collaboration with:

Stripe

With the unconditional support of





"A myth I would like to bust is that getting a vaccine will make you ill with the disease that the vaccine is designed to prevent. **That simply is not true.**"

Sorin Gradinaru
My Child My Heart - Association (COPAC), Romania

ACN
#VaccinAction2024
All together We
Stand for
Vaccination



"A myth that I would like to bust is that vaccination is dangerous in pregnancy; **instead it protects two people, the mum, and the child.**"

Daniela Quaglias
Cittadinanzattiva-Active Citizenship Network, Italy



ACN
#VaccinAction2024 -
Inequalities Video 1 -
Cyprus



"I would like to **dispel the myth** that natural infection is better than vaccination."

Marta Kulpa
Foundation Institute for Patients' Rights and Health Education, Poland

ACN
#VaccinAction2024
- Inequalities Video
2 - Austria



"A myth I would like to bust is the belief that the vaccine will make people worse. **Some individuals may spread this misinformation to others, but it is not true.**"

Vida Augustiniene
Council Of Representatives Of Patient Organisations Of Lithuania



"A myth that I would like to bust is the belief that getting a vaccine will implant a 5G chip in you. **Don't believe that - it is not true.**"

Renata Ilieva
Bulgarian Association for Patients' Defence, Bulgaria



"A myth that I would like to bust is that vaccines are only for very young or very old people. **In reality, everyone can be affected by infectious diseases, and vaccines are important for people of all ages.**"

Marleen Struss
EPECS, Netherlands

ACN #VaccinAction2024 -
Inequalities Video 3 -
Netherlands

ACN #VaccinAction2024 -
Inequalities Video 4 - Ireland

Read more ([A](#) - [B](#) - [C](#))

ACN #VaccinAction2024 -
Inequalities Video 5 -
Malta





EU Parliament: Institutional dialogue for a political approach on vaccination at the EU level

✓ Strengthening vaccination policies towards the European elections: from recommendations to concrete experiences – 2024

- ✓ Prioritizing care for high-risk COVID-19 patients in the EU: policy recommendations - 2023
- ✓ Waiting for the next Council conclusions: focus on adult vaccination - 2022
- ✓ Addressing the challenges of concomitant deployment of COVID-19 and influenza vaccination - 2021
- ✓ Routine vaccinations in time of covid-19 across Europe: a multi-stakeholder evaluation - 2021
- ✓ "Joined for Vaccination: Addressing vaccine hesitancy and increasing uptake in EU" – 2020
- ✓ "Active citizens in Europe advocate for vaccination" - 2019
- ✓ "The challenges of life-course vaccination to enhance public health protection in Europe" - 2018



*Involve other
MEPs & Interest
groups at the EU
Parliament
dedicated to the
protection of
public health and
the respect of
patients' rights*



*To involve Members of the European Parliament
from different countries and political groups
with the support of non institutional actors*



*Sharing best practices to
promote the value of
innovation at the EU level*



Council recommendation on the value of immunisation against respiratory infections: a step towards an EU Respiratory Health Plan?

18 March 2026, 14:00-16:00

room ASP5E3, European Parliament, Brussels

Hosted by MEP Michalis Hadjipantela (Cyprus, EPP group)

Promoted by:



Member of:



Advisory partner:



Media partners:



With the unconditional support of:



“10 Policy Recommendations to Promote Vaccination” and the MEP endorsement

"The [10 Policy Recommendations to Promote Vaccination](#)", developed by Active Citizenship Network in the context of the EU project VaccinAction together with 35 civil society organisations from 16 EU countries, represent a concrete call to action for European institutions. Grounded in the European Charter of Patients' Rights, the recommendations highlight the importance of transparency, equity, and patient participation. Now is the time to put health back at the centre of the political agenda by strengthening healthcare systems, tackling preventable diseases and ensuring access to vaccines for all ages. As a surgeon and Member of the European Parliament, I support this Manifesto because I believe that prevention is fundamental to building a healthier, fairer and more resilient Europe".

[Read more and watch the video message](#) (in Italian) by MEP Ignazio Marino (Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance)

[JOURNAL OF MEDICAL AND CLINICAL STUDIES](#) (Published date: 28 October, 2025): [From New EU Institutions to the G7 Health, the Citizens' Perspective for Promoting Vaccination: 10 Policy Recommendations](#)

Open Access
Volume 8 Issue 4
Research Article

Journal of Medical and Clinical Studies
ISSN: 2582-0869



From New EU Institutions to the G7 Health, the Citizens' Perspective for Promoting Vaccination: 10 Policy Recommendations

Quaggia D^a, Votta M^b, Christodoulou A^c, A. Buttigieg G^d and Struss M^e

^aSenior Project Manager, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2 - 00183 Rome, Italy

^bDirector, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2 - 00183 Rome, Italy

^cDirector of Operations, c/o Cyprus Federation of Patients' Associations (CyFPA), 10 Ayiasmaton str, 2230 Latsia, Nicosia, Cyprus

^dChairperson, MALTA HEALTH NETWORK (MHN), c/o the Volunteer Centre, 181, Melita Street, Valletta, VLT1129, Malta

^eAdvisor, EPECS, Busschuttenpoort 6, 6211 WB, Maastricht

Grazie Ignazio Roberto Marino,
MD, ScD per il sostegno alla...



**10 Policy recommendations
for promoting vaccination:**
the citizens' perspective for the new EU Institutions



Support to EU institutional initiatives



In 2022, ACN was officially appointed by the EU Commission as a member of the [HERA Civil Society Forum](#), the expert group of the HERA Advisory Forum, led by the European Health Emergency preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). The Civil Society Forum makes the interactions between interested parties easier and acts as a contact point between HERA and stakeholders representing patients, consumers and healthcare professionals.



Coalition for Vaccination:



**innovative
immunisation
hubs**



ACN's involvement in ECDC e-learning course on online vaccine misinformation
How to answer vaccine misinformation online?

Support the prevention & management of the Flu & Covid by filling in our **SymptomSurvey!**



EU-funded projects

- Consortium member of [Co-Operator: Developing a Country-Observatory to share best practices for vaccination promotion](#);
- Member of a consortium that presented a proposal on hpv-vaccination in the context of EU4Health Programme;
- Member of a consortium that applied the ECDC expression of interest on "*Policy study on strategies to increase vaccine uptake in adult populations*".
- Providing external support for the [IMPORTANCE-Implications of Positive Airway Pressure and Home Mechanical Ventilation - TowArds optimal patient CarE](#), a European Respiratory Society Clinical Research Collaboration.



Institutional commitments & Public consultations

Public Consultations:

- **2025 - [Public consultation led by the European Commission on the “EU cardiovascular health plan”](#)**. Among the 677 feedback, you can also find [the one from Cittadinanzattiva-Active Citizenship Network](#), calling also for a stronger integration of vaccination within the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan, in line with the message recently reiterated by the European Society of Cardiology in its paper “[Vaccination as a new form of cardiovascular prevention](#)”.
- **2025 - [EU4Health Consultation on the 2026 Work Programme](#)**, aimed to gather stakeholders’ views on current and future Union health priorities, as well as strategic orientations for key health needs to be addressed in the 2026 Annual Work Programme and beyond. As a Member of the [Mission Board on Vaccination in Europe](#), we highlighted: 1) disease prevention – including vaccine-preventable diseases should be the primary focus of the EU4Health programme in 2026; 2) strengthen national immunisation systems are the major priorities not yet addressed by EU4Health work programmes. [Read more](#)
- **2025 - [Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\) 2028–2034](#)**: As a Member of the [Mission Board on Vaccination in Europe](#), we called attention to the vital role that prevention and immunisation play in supporting a competitive, productive and resilient Europe. The MBVE, a multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary expert group on vaccination, welcomes the recognition of health in the new European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) and urges the EU to prioritise prevention policies, and vaccination in particular, as a foundational pillar of Europe's future. [Read more](#)



Institutional commitments:

- Cittadinanzattiva the only citizens’ association officially involved in the [Scientific Committee for Post-Marketing Monitoring of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (CSV-Covid19), set up on 14 December 2020 by the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA) in agreement with the Ministry of Health and the Extraordinary Commissioner for the Covid-19 Emergency.
- During the [World AMR Awareness Week](#) (18-24 November 2025), Cittadinanzattiva announced its selection as a member of the [WHO Civil Society Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#). The Task Force was launched to support and strengthen the World Health Organization’s engagement with non-governmental organisations, including civil society groups, worldwide. [Read more](#)

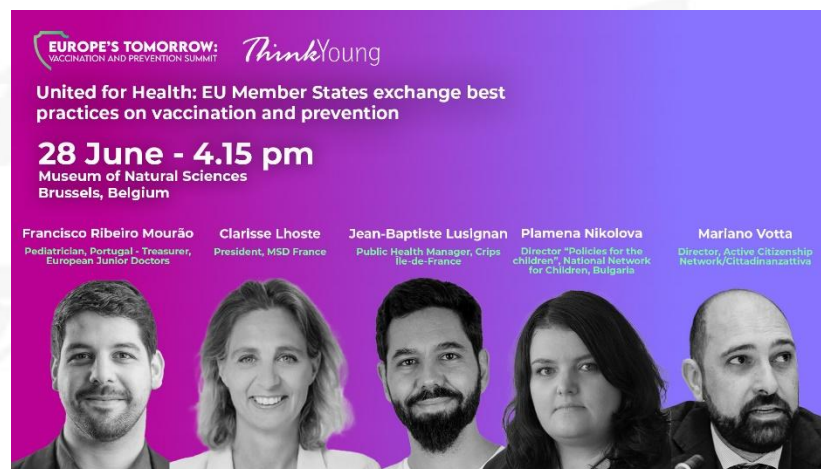
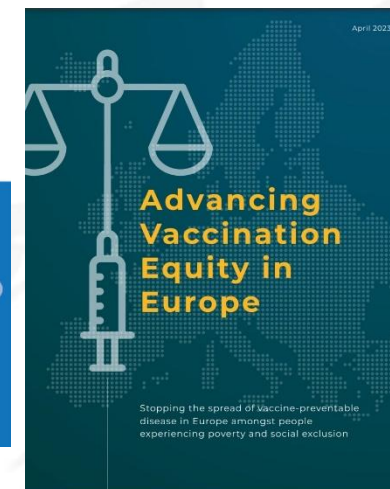
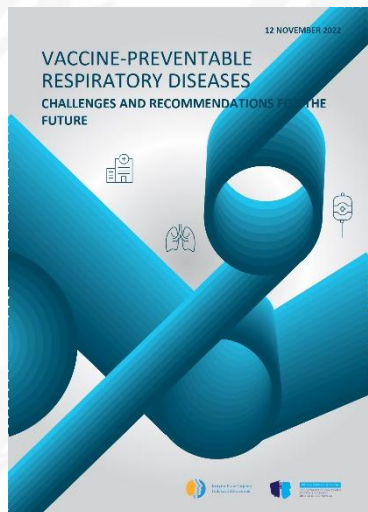


Jubilee 2025

- 2025: For the Jubilee 2025, Rome was estimated to welcome over 35 million people from all over the world. Prevention campaign "*Know the path. Walk with care*", urging citizens and visitors to monitor for respiratory symptoms and to get tested if they suspect any symptoms. [Read more](#)
- Launched in March 2025, the campaign adopted an omnichannel approach, with a presence in major media outlets and public spaces. In addition to ads in major national newspapers, the message was conveyed through Out of Home and Digital Out of Home at strategic points across the capital city: the subway, Rome's main train stations, and buses, as well as through social media (Facebook, Instagram), pharmacies, local radio stations, and digital advertising.



Support to not institutional activities (I)



Support to not institutional activities (II)



10-11 July 2025 | Wien (Austria): Vaccine Congress 2025 "Vaccine Research, Development, and Delivery: Towards a Healthier Future"

12-14 May 2025 | Osaka (Japan) - 2nd Global Summit on Vaccines and Immunology



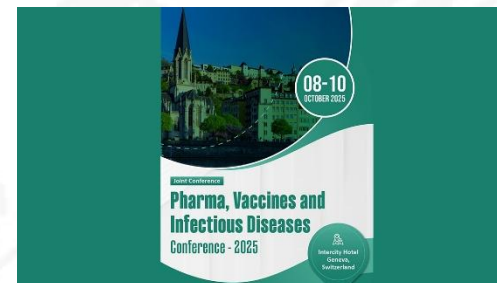
25 May 2025 | Bucharest (Romania): International Conference "Bridging the Confidence Gap: Empowering CEE Communities for Vaccination"

4 November 2025 | Bruxelles (Belgium): Celebrating 5 Years of VAC4EU

8-10 October 2025 | Geneva (Switzerland): Vaccines, Virology and Immunology Conference



11 June 2025 | Baveno (Italy): Vaccine Awareness and Literacy Powered by Patients and Patient Communities



5-7 November 2025 | Boston, MA (USA): 10th International Conference on Vaccines Research and Development (Vaccines R&D-2025)

20-23 October 2025 | Valencia (Spain): 10th ESWI Influenza Conference 2025



4-5 December 2025 | Paris (France): 10th LifeCourse Prevention Summit

*...and much more
(A - B- C - D - E - E - etc.)*





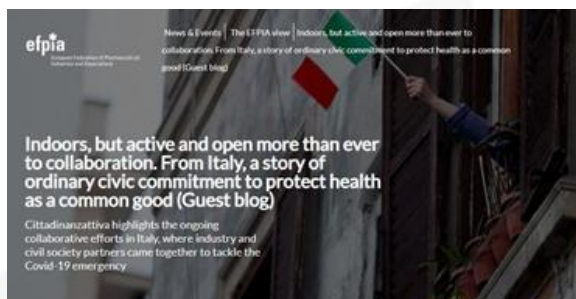
Our cooperation with Vaccines Europe



Based on a transparent, constructive and long-term dialogue



- Policy Recommendations outlining how European and national policymakers can empower healthcare professionals for everyone's protection (Oct 2023)
- The vaccines' contribution to unmet medical need in the context of the revision of the EU General Pharmaceutical legislation (September 2023)
- Joint Statement Managing the 2023-2024 seasonal influenza season with early planning, early demand forecasting and improved monitoring (June 2023)
- Joint Statement on Council Conclusions on vaccination as one of the most effective tools for preventing disease and improving public health (December 2022)
- Open letter calling for urgent action to address alarmingly low coverage rates for influenza vaccination (January 2022)
- Open letter calling for increased efforts at EU-level to protect healthcare professionals from influenza (October 2021)



- Podcast: How can the EU be better prepared for cross-border health threats? (Dec. 2021)
- Podcast: Will COVID-19 vaccines be safe? (Oct 2020)

”

Vaccines are one of the most prominent preventative health interventions, reducing the global burden of infectious disease, disability and inequity. However, their full value for public health can only be realised through unique interventions such as population-wide vaccination programmes. To ensure continued benefits to society, the UMN concept must recognise these unique features.

Mariano Votta
Director, Active Citizenship Network

 Vaccines Europe
An industry for healthy lives





*Protecting the value of vaccination during & after the COVID-19 pandemic across Europe:
impact, experiences and perspectives of citizen & patient advocacy groups
and relevant stakeholders*

EU Policy Lab – Workshops - Training & Advocacy initiatives

#vaccinaction
2024

**Active citizens in Europe
advocate for (adult) vaccination**

25th June 2024, Brussels

GSK MSD Pfizer sanofi TrendSanity

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
CITIZENANZ.ITVA

#vaccinaction
2025

**The future of vaccine development:
research, data, participation**

EU workshop
3 December 2025 • 12.30-18.00
Brussels

CSL Seqirus GSK MSD Pfizer sanofi HEALTH EQUITY TRENDSANITY

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
CITIZENANZ.ITVA

#vaccinaction
2024

**Vaccination Informal Platform (V.I.P.)
for life-course immunization promotion**

15th October 2024, Brussels

GSK MSD Pfizer sanofi TrendSanity

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
CITIZENANZ.ITVA



The Vaccination Informal Platform (V.I.P.) for life-course immunization promotion

The Vaccination Informal Platform (V.I.P.) for life-course immunization promotion, a collective of leaders of patient and citizen organizations across Europe promoted by Active Citizenship Network, has united with the desire to strengthen the exchange of experiences among the many expressions of active citizenship working to **support public vaccination policies**.



The ultimate goal is **to update a narrative** that, when it comes to vaccination, almost never refers to the active role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Patient Advocacy Groups (PAGs), instead focusing mainly on hesitant or even hostile attitudes toward vaccines, which, though present, do not represent the whole picture.

There are many of actors from the intermediated bodies of the society that can play a **constructive role with institutional and non-institutional stakeholders**, as well as act as a driving force for other organizations.

Community and civil society engagement on vaccination policy

- Do you recognize as a stakeholder the intermediate bodies of the society?
- How can you testify your support for PAGs/CSOs/NGOs committed to support the life-course approach on vaccination?
- Are you aware and in touch with national organizations devoted to the topic?
- What do you think about the involvement of PAGs & civic society organizations (CSOs) in the National Vaccination Plan?



Mariano Votta
Responsible EU Affairs at Cittadinanzattiva
Director Active Citizenship Network
m.votta@cittadinanzattiva.it



@marianovotta

