

G-PHEC 2026

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK

CITTADINANZATTIVA

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

Mariano Votta
Cittadinanzattiva / Active Citizenship Network

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
CITTADINANZATTIVA

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


MINISTERO DELLA SALUTE

Con decreto del Presidente della Repubblica in data 19 settembre 2006 è stata conferita

alla Cittadinanzattiva
Tribunale per i diritti del Malato

La medaglia d'oro
Al Merito della Sanità Pubblica

Roma, 14 dicembre 2006

Il Ministro

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

Active Citizenship Network

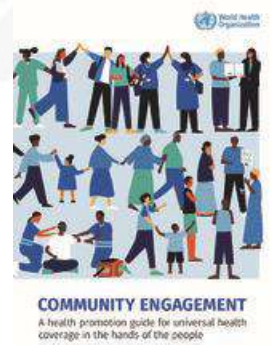
- The European branch of Cittadinanzattiva, established in 2001
- One of the most widespread network, with more the 100 civic, patients and user organisations
- Promotes the European citizens' point of view in all public policies areas, focusing on healthcare, consumers and corporate social responsibility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

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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.*

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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

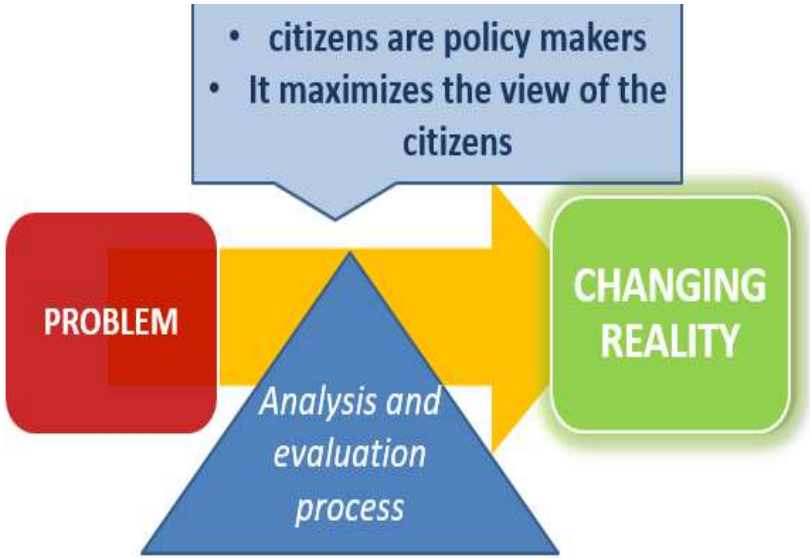
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Civic evaluation



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

AUDIT CIVICO® di CITTADINANZATTIVA



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

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

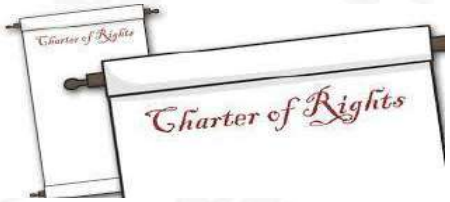
All non-Covid vaccinations: Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B, Measles-mumps-rubella, Chickenpox, Meningococcal B, Meningococcal ACWY, Rotavirus, Papillomavirus, Pneumococcus, Herpes Zoster, Influenza.

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

More info here (IT)

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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.

CHARTER OF RIGHTS

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.



The Charter of rights of the vaccination services

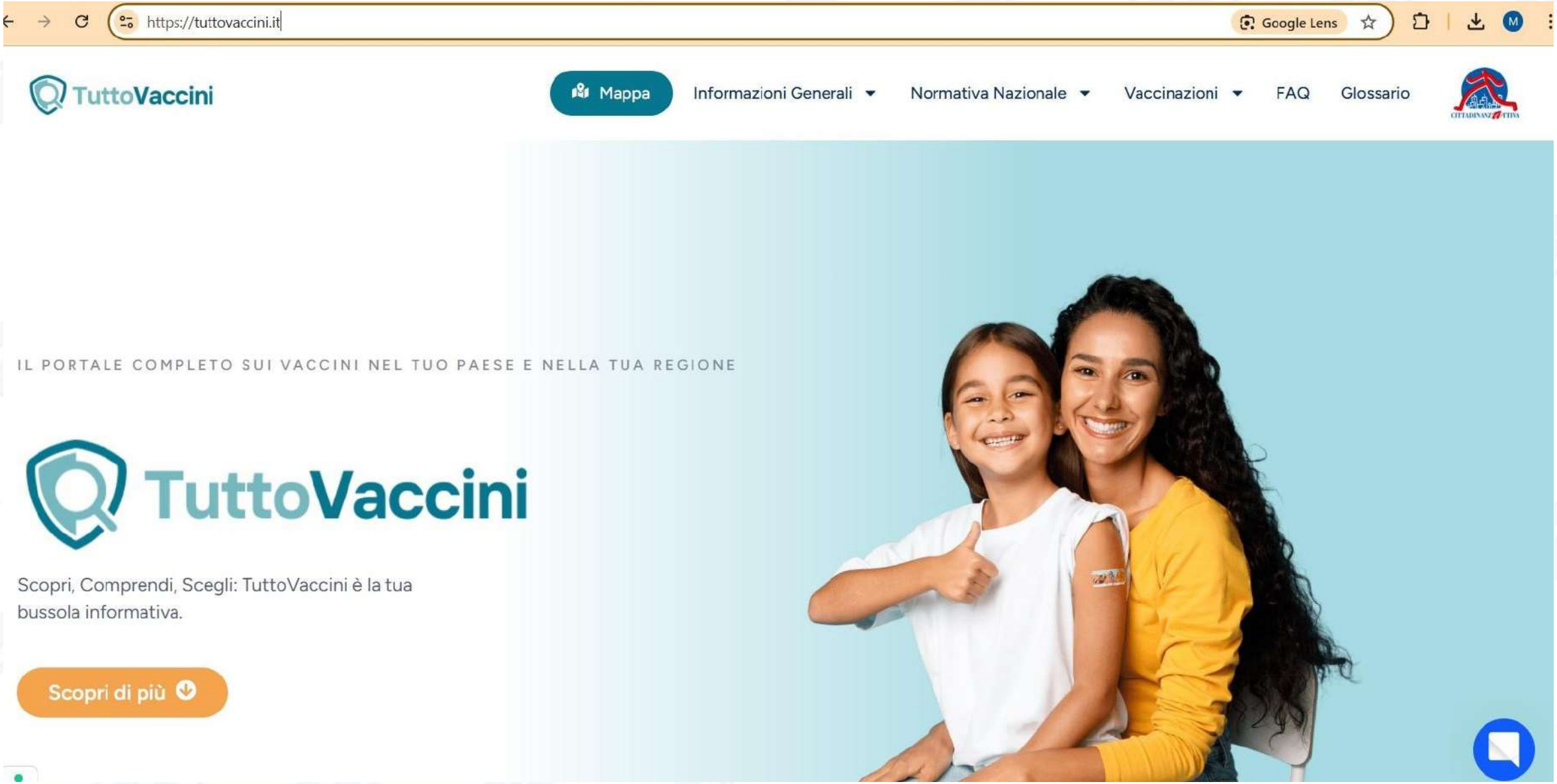
1. Guarantee uniform access throughout the territory
2. Information, communication and transparency
3. Training and updating
4. Digitalisation and simplification
5. Strategies for achieving vaccination prevention targets and coverage
6. Continuous improvement and quality assessment



For the download, click here (IT)

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Dedicated website: https://tuttovaccini.it/



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

ilsole24ore.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

TuttoVaccini

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 sieri 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 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 pericoloso virus». Ma non è la prima volta che il caso dello stop ai vaccini viene sollevato. Già a maggio scorso, vale a dire, l'associazione CittadinanzAttiva aveva denunciato la criticità, facendosi portavoce del disservizio segnalato da numerosi pazienti. E datata 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 ricostruirne 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».

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Mattino (ed. Avellino) 25 Oct., 2024



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





sanità informazione

ADVOCACY SALUTE PREVENZIONE SANITÀ ONE HEALTH PANDEMIE LAVORO E PROFESSIONI IDEE, LIBRI E CONTRIBUTI

SALUTE 2 Aprile 2021

Vaccini e liste riserva, Cittadinanzattiva: «Solo la Toscana pubblica online il form per registrarsi»

Cittadinanzattiva: «Grandi differenze nella modalità per le altre Regioni. Servono criteri nazionali per evitare sprechi e accelerare la campagna vaccinale»

di Redazione

Grande caos e carenza di informazioni chiare sulle cosiddette "liste di riserva" per i vaccini anti-Covid. L'assenza di una regolamentazione omogenea genera un'inevitabile confusione nei cittadini che hanno inviato a **Cittadinanzattiva** diverse segnalazioni nelle quali sottolineano una necessità di maggiore trasparenza sulle liste, in particolare chiedono dove poter reperire tali liste e quali siano i criteri per accedervi ed essere contattati.

Per questo Cittadinanzattiva ha preso in esame ciò che succede nelle varie regioni, analizzando le informazioni presenti sui siti regionali, oppure telefonando ai numeri verdi regionali e, anche, attraverso la rassegna stampa locale. **«Solo la Toscana** – spiega in una nota Cittadinanzattiva – **mette a disposizione**, all'interno della piattaforma per la prenotazione del vaccino, **un riquadro**

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

Quotidiano Sanità 14 June, 2024



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

VACCINES & PHARMACY

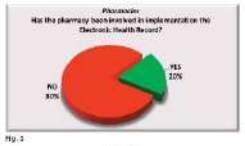
Cittadinanzattiva discusses the findings of a recent report into the role played by pharmacies in Italy as a part of the move towards 'pharmacies of services'

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



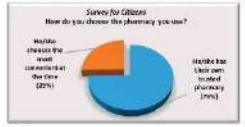


Fig. 1

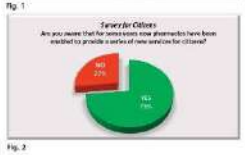


Fig. 2

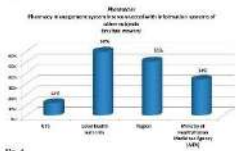


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

hinder the entire transition to the 'pharmacy of services', which includes (Fig. 3 & 4):

- The poor involvement of pharmacies (only 20%) in implementing the Electronic Health Record;
- Insufficiently sharing, for the purpose of supporting therapeutic adherence, telematics data between the pharmacy's management and the information systems both of the Ministry of Health/Italian Medicines Agency-AIFA (34%) and especially GPs (only 12% of the pharmacy's results were connected with the family doctors); and
- The necessity to strengthen dialogue and co-operation on a local level with the realities of civic associations involved in the protection of health as a common good.

A peculiarity of this second edition of the civic survey is the direct contribution made by of information coming from citizens. Indeed, a survey dedicated to

FARMA7

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. Incoraggiante la risposta dei cittadini, che nel 30.8% dei casi

Health policy 131 (2023) 104796

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Health policy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/healthpol

Health Reform Monitor

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

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

DOI: 10.24966/VRV-0193/100017

HERALD

HSOA Journal of Vaccines Research and Vaccination

Research Article

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

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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

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".

FARMACISTA 33

Professione Farmacista | Ricerca e cura | Prodotti e alimenti

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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, Hpv 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

RIF day

Calendariodella

VINCI e SCE

IL TUO PREMIO

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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



Pneumococcal vaccination survey



Spain



Italy

France



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

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Submitted: 20 April 2018
Accepted: 01 June 2018
Published: 04 June 2018
ISSN: 2378-9379

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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, Iceland 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).

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WHY WE MUST ADDRESS VACCINE-PREVENTABLE LUNG INFECTIONS THIS WINTER

Mariano Votta
August 25th, 2022

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] [2] [3].

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 -

Mariano Votta[1]*, Daniela Quaggia[2] and Maira Cardillo[3]

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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): 024-028.

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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

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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 cardio- and cerebrovascular events, represent a potential long-term burden of disease following flu infection [7].

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 Europe[1]: immunisation is vital to preventing diseases and protecting life.

ACN's commitment has been appreciated by the



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
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Publications on Vaccination (II)

MedCrave
Step into the World of Research
International Journal of Vaccines and Vaccination

Opinion

Open Access CrossMark

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 Quaggia[2]

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

More info here

Journal of Biomedical Research & Environmental Sciences
COMMUNITY HEALTH CASE REPORT

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

Mariano Votta[1*], Daniela Quaggia[2], Giulia Decarolis[3], Elena Moya[4], Josè Luis Baquero Ubeda[5] and Maira Cardillo[6]

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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.

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DOI: 10.37871/jbres1161
Submitted: 02 November 2020
Accepted: 12 November 2020
Published: 18 November 2020

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OPEN ACCESS

Subjects: General Science

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 Penderia, Vicepresidenta de la Asociación Española contra la Meningitis
Dr. Mariano Votta, Director de Active Citizenship Network

foro español de pacientes

SyncSci
Adv Health Behav, 2020, 3(1): 136-144
DOI: 10.25082/AHB.2020.01.005

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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

Daniela Quaggia[1] Mariano Votta[2*] Giulia Decarolis[3]

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

AÇORIANO ORIENTAL
QUINTA-FEIRA, 24 DE DEZEMBRO DE 2020

A Vacinação contra o coronavírus



SAÚDE
MARIA TERESA FLOR DE LIMA
MÉDICA*

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 vacinar-se logo que possível, mas também 39% que não querem ou estão indecisas.

Não sabemos se a vacina será eficaz, se será segura, se terá efeitos secundários, se será para todos ou só para alguns, se será para uma ou várias doses, se será para uma ou várias vacinas, se será para todos os anos, se será para todas as variantes do vírus, se será para todas as idades, se será para todas as pessoas, se será para todas as regiões, se será para todas as culturas, se será para todas as religiões, se será para todas as línguas, se será para todas as raças, se será para todas as cores, se será para todas as etnias, se será para todas as nacionalidades, se será para todas as classes sociais, se será para todas as profissões

Publications on Vaccination (III)

MEDVIX PUBLICATIONS

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 Ferraiolo[2]

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

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Open Access
Volume 8 Issue 4
Research Article

Journal of Medical and Clinical Studies
ISSN: 2582-0869

PUBTEXTO

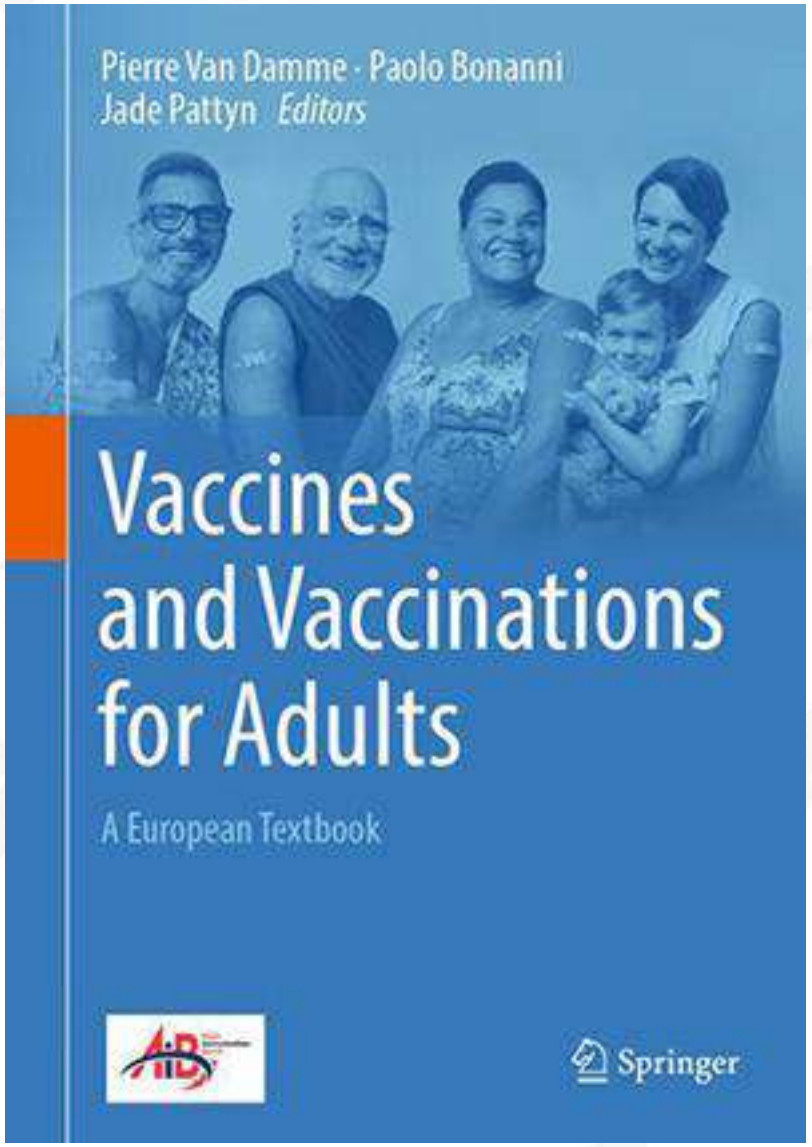
Bridging the Confidence Gap: Towards A Multistakeholder Alliance to Strengthen Equitable Vaccination in Central and Eastern Europe

Valcea L[a*], Chiorean E[b] and Votta M[c]

[a]Executive Director, Coalition of Patients' Organisations with Chronic Disease in Romania, Str. Țepes Voda 22, Sector 3, Bucuresti
[b]Coalition of Patients' Organisations with Chronic Disease in Romania, Str. Tepes Voda 22, Sector 3, Bucuresti
[c]Director, Active Citizenship Network, c/o Cittadinanzattiva APS, Via Imera, 2-00183 Rome, Italy

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
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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

Active Citizenship Network
Cittadinanzattiva

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 REVIEWS

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 M[1*], Quaggia D[2], Satinder Phull MPH[3] and Dhulipala M[4]

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

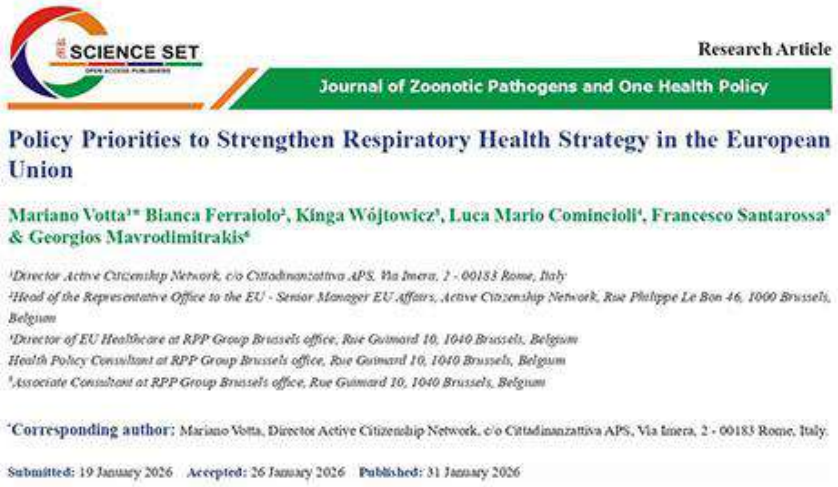
Citation: Votta M, Quaggia D, Satinder Phull MPH, Dhulipala M (2026) Leveraging Civil Society and Community Leadership to Support Public Vaccination Policies: Collection of Grassroots Mobilisation Initiatives across Europe. SunText Rev Case Rep Image 7(1): 173.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.51737/2766-4589.2026.173

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





SCIENCE SET

Research Article

Journal of Zoonotic Pathogens and One Health Policy

Policy Priorities to Strengthen Respiratory Health Strategy in the European Union

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

- 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

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
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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.

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

JLC JAMES LIND CARE.

napo

Българска Асоциация за Закрила на Пациентите



COPAC
Coalitia Organizatiilor Pacientilor cu Afectiuni Cronice din Romania

Greek Patients Association

Universidad del Paciente y la Familia

MOG
ASSOCIAÇÃO · MOVIMENTO ONCOLÓGICO GINECOLÓGICO

PATIENT OMBUDSMAN
International Council Of The

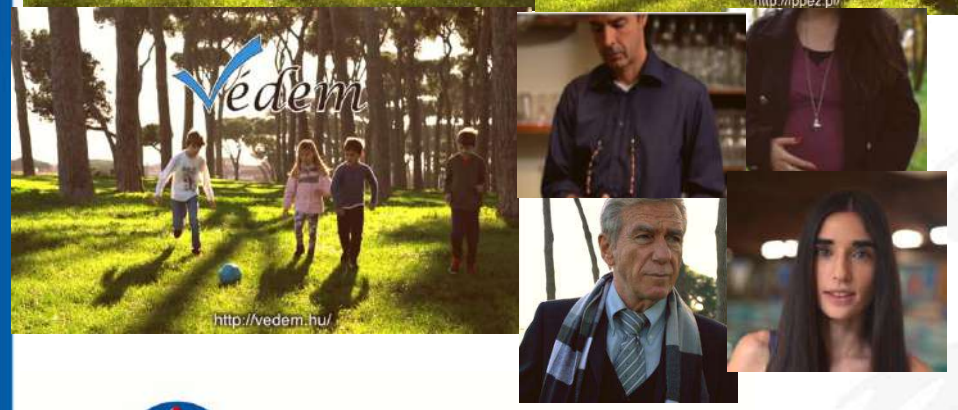
HRVATSKA UDRUGA ZA PRAVA PACIJENATA
Croatian Association for Patients' Rights

From citizens to citizens a more reliable communication

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







ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
CITTADINANZATTIVA

#VaccinAction

www.activecitizenship.net

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

Irish Patients' Association · Védem · foro español de pacientes · Asociación Española contra la Meningitis

EU VIDEO

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



COVID updated VIDEO











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





ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK
CITTADINANZATTIVA



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

GSK MSD Pfizer sanofi



[ACN #VaccinAction2024 All together We Stand for Vaccination]



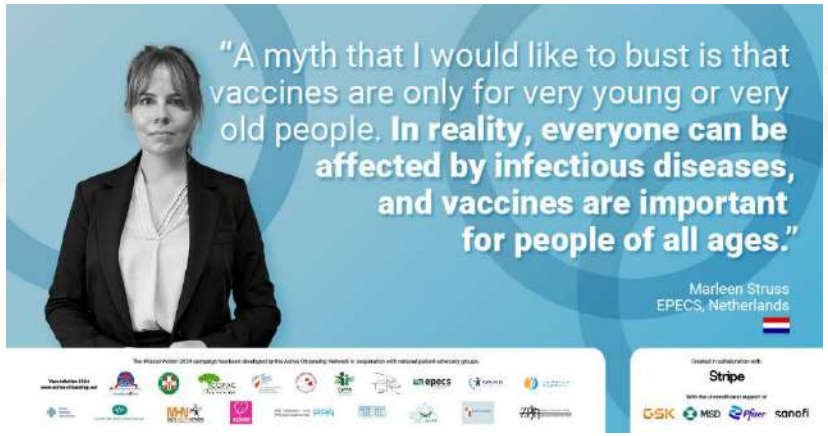
[ACN #VaccinAction2024 - Inequalities Video 1 – Cyprus]



[ACN #VaccinAction2024 - Inequalities Video 2 – Austria]







[ACN #VaccinAction2024 - Inequalities Video 3 – Netherlands]

[ACN #VaccinAction2024 - Inequalities Video 4 – Ireland]

Read more ([A] – [B] - [C])

[ACN #VaccinAction2024 - Inequalities Video 5 – Malta]

Active Citizenship Network
Cittadinanzattiva



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

European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare

Member of the European Parliament Interest Group

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: Active Citizenship Network – Cittadinanzattiva

Member of: Steering Group on Prevention of Respiratory Infections; co-OPERATOR

Advisory partner: RPP

Media partners: Medvix Publications; Health Europa; TrendSanità; @VaccinesToday

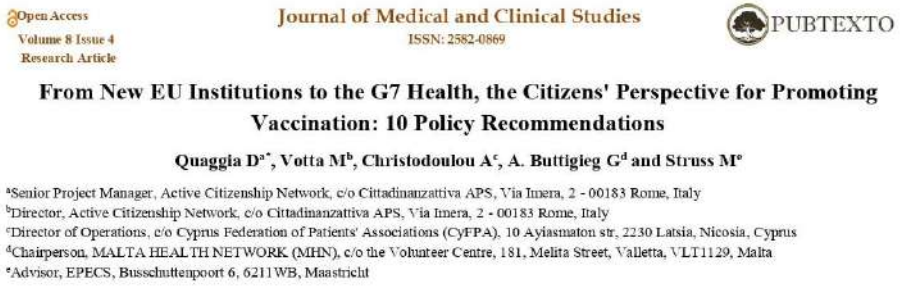
With the unconditional support of: Pfizer

“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

PUBTEXTO

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]

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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:

EU-JAV EUROPEAN JOINT ACTION ON VACCINATION

innovative immunisation hubs

DRIVE
Development of Robust and Innovative Vaccine Effectiveness

ecdc
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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



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

The Mission Board on Vaccination in Europe

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

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Jubilee 2025

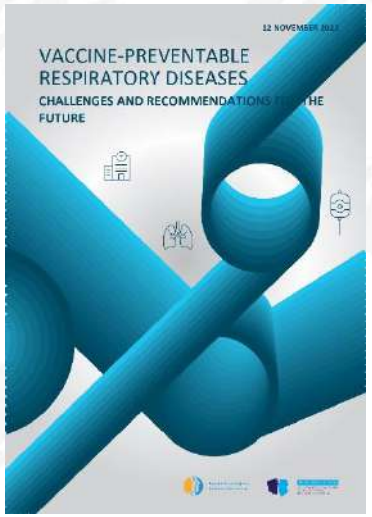
- *2025:* For the Jubilee 2025, Rome was estimated to welcome over 35 million people from all over the world. Prevention campaign "*Know the path. Walk with care*", urging citizens and visitors to monitor for respiratory symptoms and to get tested if they suspect any symptoms. Read more

- 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.



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Support to not institutional activities (I)























Support to not institutional activities (II)



10-11 July 2025 I 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"

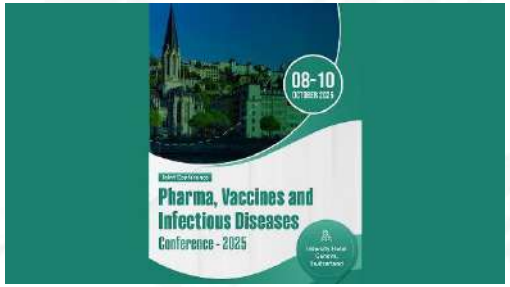
4 November 2025 | Bruxelles (Belgium): Celebrating 5 Years of VAC4EU



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

11 June 2025 I 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 - F - etc.)





Our cooperation with Vaccines Europe

Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination

Steering Group on Prevention of Respiratory Infections

Based on a transparent, constructive and long-term dialogue

#EUFLUDAY PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

Adult Immunization Board

The Mission Board on Vaccination in Europe

- 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)













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

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EU Policy Lab – Workshops - Training & Advocacy initiatives















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.

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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 approch 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?

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