

Adult Immunization Board

Kick-off meeting, 8 Nov 2022, Antwerp (Belgium)

Session 1: Opening and Objectives

A collaboration of



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Adult Immunization Board: From idea to concept



Low adult vaccination coverage Barriers and opportunities experienced during implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination strategies in almost all European countries
Increase in questions on adult immunization / life course vaccination ...

=> Need for an independent, international, and multidisciplinary reflection on adult immunization in Europe

Based on good experience with existing multidisciplinary advisory boards



Concept: **Adult Immunization Board**

-> To provide multidisciplinary support for the implementation and optimization of adult immunization (programs) in Europe

Who?

■ Adults?

- 18 plus?
- 50 plus?
- 65 plus?
- Active population?
- Travelers?

■ Demographics & characteristics:

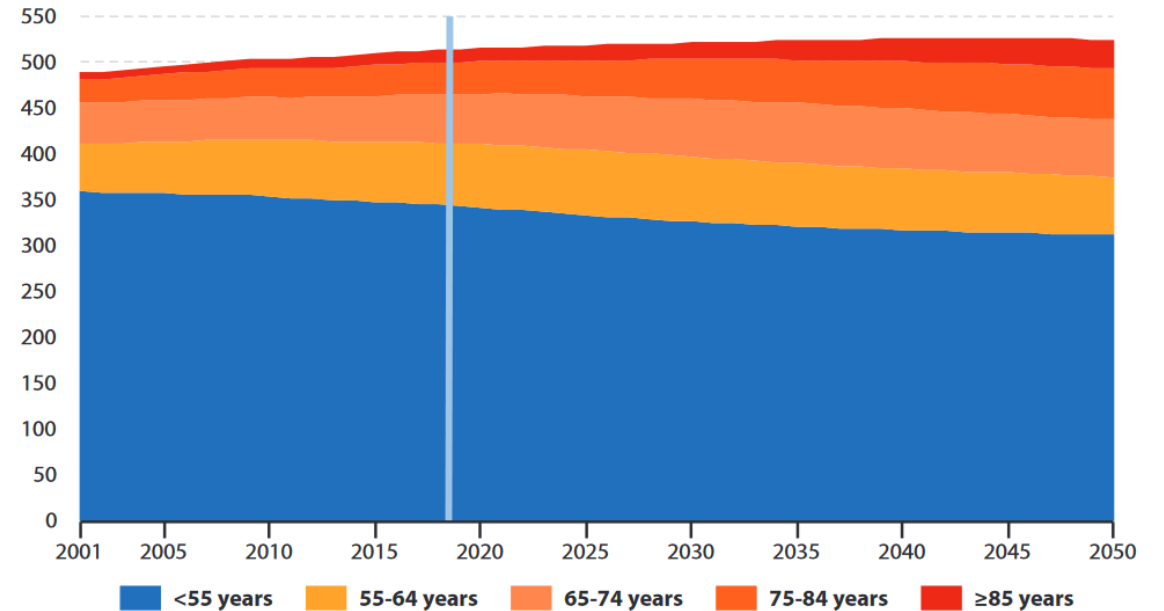
- Increasing population – aging
- Immuno-senescence
- Co-morbidity / medication



Demographic ageing in EU member states: Growing number and share of older people

- In early **2018** there were **101.1 million older people (aged 65 years or more)** living in the 28 EU countries, which is almost **one fifth (19.7 %)** of the total population.
- During the next three decades, this figure is projected to rise to **149.2 million inhabitants in 2050 (28.5 % of the total population)**.

Figure 1.1: Population developments, by age class, EU-28 2001-2050 (million inhabitants)



Note: all data as of 1 January. 2008, 2010-2012, 2014-2015 and 2017: breaks in series. 2019-2050: population according to the 2018 projections, baseline variant (EUROPOP2018). The vertical line marks the divide between official historical data and EUROPOP2018 population projections.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_pjangroup](#) and [proj_18np](#))

Why? susceptibility versus exposure

- **A large age group of susceptibles (drives an epidemic!)**
- **Increasingly exposed to infectious diseases**
 - Through travel
 - Specific occupations (HCP)
 - Infectious diseases circulating more globally (pandemics, climate change!)
 - Migrating populations
- **Need for catch-up immunization because missed in the past**
- **Need for regular boosters**
- **New indications / adapted and new vaccines / new technologies and administration routes**

How? thresholds – barriers

- **Access issues (vaccinator: GPs, pharmacists, nurses, ... vaccination centres ...)**
- **Access to the vaccine / access to the information / how to find validated info**
- **How to communicate, how to inform HCP/General public**
- **How to understand the information/ social media**
- **A lot of unknown(s)**
 - On risks, infectious diseases, previous vaccination status, what is needed/ recommended
- **Why me?**
 - Am I at risk?
 - Feeling of being healthy
 - As long as I can do everything I do, as long as I can travel,
 - Perception of not belonging to a risk group
- **Differences in recommendations in different countries**
 - Why should I be vaccinated if not recommended over the border

Adult Immunization Board: From concept to creation

What happened before this Kick-off meeting:

- ✓ **Clarify the purpose and objectives of the 'Adult Immunization Board'**
 - General Purpose
 - To contribute to the prevention of vaccine-preventable infections and diseases in adults
 - To generate, develop and disseminate relevant information on adult immunization to a broad array of stakeholders
 - Objectives
 - Provide evidence-based guidance on key technical and strategic issues by organizing two meetings per year i.e., 1) technical meeting and 2) country/regional meeting
 - Monitor the progress of adult immunization programs at European, regional and country levels
- ✓ **Identify source for support:** Strict operational/scientific independence is essential.
 - Unrestricted grant from **Vaccines Europe**
 - Search for additional support (e.g. EU)
- ✓ **Build 'Adult Immunization Board' executive secretariat**
 - Collaboration of the team of Prof Paolo Bonanni and Prof Pierre Van Damme

AIB Executive Secretariat

A collaboration of university of Antwerp (UA) and university of Florence (UF)



Project manager
Jade Pattyn (UA)



Expert input
Pierre Van Damme (UA)
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PIN



Secretariat Belgium (UA) *

Scientific:
Greet Hendrickx
Administrative:
Brenda Janssens



From concept to creation

What still needs to be done

Reason for: Kick-off meeting with potential advisors/observers/stakeholders

- Form the multi-disciplinary board of adult immunization experts
- Fine-tune the strategy/mission of the Adult Immunization Board

Specific objectives of the meeting are:

- To learn from activities from the **Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board and HPV Prevention and Control Board** which serve as models for the Adult Immunization Board
- To get an **overview of past and ongoing initiatives /activities in the adult immunization field** (focus on Europe)
- To **define topics and activities** for the Adult Immunization Board that are complementary and synergistic with ongoing initiatives
- To discuss and **prioritize topics** for technical meetings
- To discuss and **prioritize regions/countries** for country meetings
- To draft a **work plan** for the Adult Immunization Board for the coming year

Meeting agenda

Session 1: Opening and objectives

Tour de table: Introductions

Session 2: Lessons learned from the VHPB and HPV board (Moderator: Poalo Bonnani)

Session 3: Ongoing activities in the adult immunization field (Moderator: Pierre Van Damme)

Session 4: Group discussion to prioritize topics/regions, discuss independence and profile of the AIB advisor

Session 5: Meeting conclusions and closing remarks

Tour de table: Introduction of the (virtual or physical) participants

- Please note that we have participants / speakers online – **hybrid meeting**
- **Physical Participants**
 - There is one mic on each table. Please use the mic on your table to ask questions and/or give comments. It will help the online participants to follow the questions and discussion in the meeting room
- **Online participants**
 - Please switch on your video while introducing yourself and every time you speak
 - Keep yourself on mute when not speaking

Video recordings of the meeting are for internal use only. No recordings will be put online.