



World Health
Organization

European Region



Implementing Life-Course Approach, the Key Pillar of the European Immunization Agenda 2030

Adult Immunization Board Kick-off Meeting
Antwerp, Belgium 08 Nov 2022

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Outline & acknowledgements

- Definition
- Benefits
- Policy context
- Implementation status
- Key components needed for an effective life-course immunization policy implementation
- Summary & conclusions

Acknowledgements: WHO Headquarters technical guidance & Health Policy Partnership document on 'Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization'

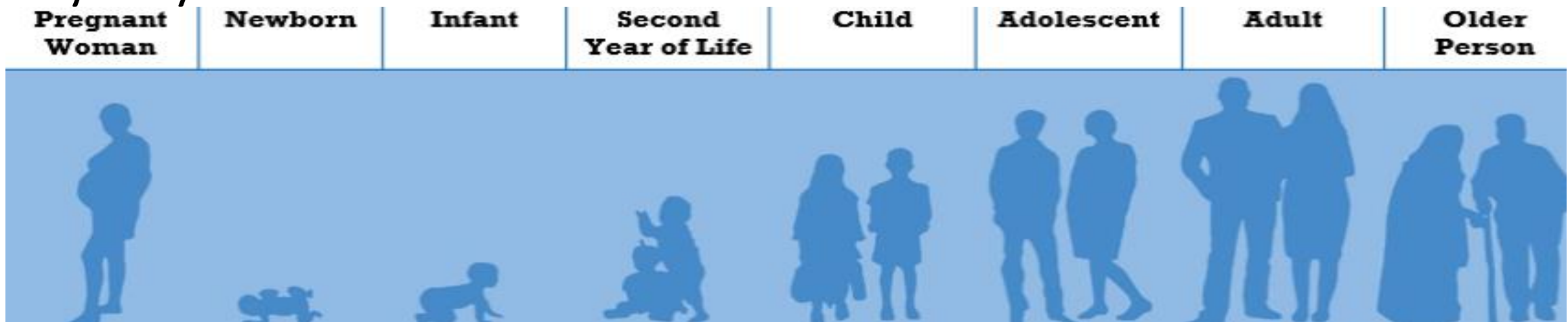


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What do we mean by a life-course approach to immunization

The life-course approach to immunization recognizes the role of immunization as a **strategy to prevent diseases and maximize health over one's entire life**, regardless of an individual's age.

A life-course approach requires that **immunization schedules and access to vaccination respond to an individual's stage in life, their lifestyle and specific vulnerabilities/risks to infectious disease** that they may face.



Source: Definition from 'Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018', Life-course illustration from WHO Headquarters



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Benefits of immunization across the life-course

- Immunization during pregnancy can benefit a woman and her baby (i.e., seasonal influenza, pertussis, ...)
- Adolescence is the best time to immunize people against some diseases (i.e., HPV, meningococcal, ...)
- Immunizing older people can prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases
- People with some chronic conditions are more likely to develop serious complications from vaccine-preventable diseases (i.e., influenza, pneumococcal disease, ...)
- Immunizing caregivers and health care professionals can have multiple benefits (i.e., influenza, hepatitis B, measles, ...)
- Some migrants may be particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases

Source: Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018 & Summary of WHO position papers – Immunization of Health Workers, Table 4, WHO



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Population-wide health and economic benefits of LCA

- Immunization beyond childhood is recognized a cost-effective prevention of death and disease across age groups (reduced mortality, increased productivity - work days gained, healthcare costs saved, care for others, approximately fourfold return on investment – data for the Netherlands)
- At a health system level, a life-course approach to immunization offers a platform to achieve global targets for universal health coverage through strengthening primary health care
- High vaccine coverage offers benefits beyond the individual, having the potential to protect whole communities through herd immunity
- Comprehensive immunization across the life course may also offer sustainable protection against AMR

Source: Adapted from 'Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018'



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European Immunization Agenda 2030

“Contributes to a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age fully benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being.”

01

Reduce mortality and morbidity caused by vaccine-preventable diseases

02

Increase equitable access to new and existing vaccines for everyone

03

Strengthen primary health care & contribute towards universal health coverage

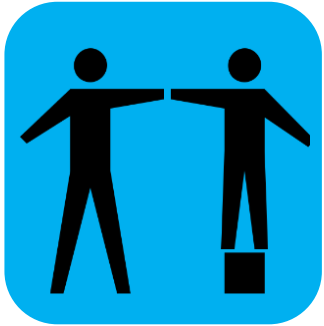


European Immunization Agenda 2030



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Key pillars



Equity in
immunization



Immunization across
life-course



Local solutions to
local challenges



**European Immunization
Agenda 2030**

Strategic pivots

- Increased local ownership
- Data-enabled, tailored subnational policies
- Life-course vaccination and platforms
- Monitoring, evaluation and accountability framework



European Immunization Agenda 2030



Strategic priorities of EIA2030

1

Primary Healthcare and Universal Health Coverage

Immunization programmes work in partnership and coordination with other health programmes, leveraging their respective capacities to strengthen the delivery of primary health care.

2

Commitment and Demand

National leaders advocate for and demonstrate their commitment to immunization programmes and vaccination is valued and actively sought by all people.

3

Coverage and Equity

Vaccination coverage is high, and all individuals have equitable access and high uptake of all vaccines in national immunization schedules.

4

Life-course and Integration

All people benefit from recommended immunizations throughout the life-course and tailored immunization services are effectively integrated with other essential services within and outside the health sector.

5

Outbreak and Emergencies

Vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks are rapidly detected and responded; immunization programmes remain resilient during emergencies.

6

Supply and Sustainability

All countries have an appropriate and sustainable financing for immunization programmes.

7

Research and Innovation

Operational research to increase the reach of immunization programmes



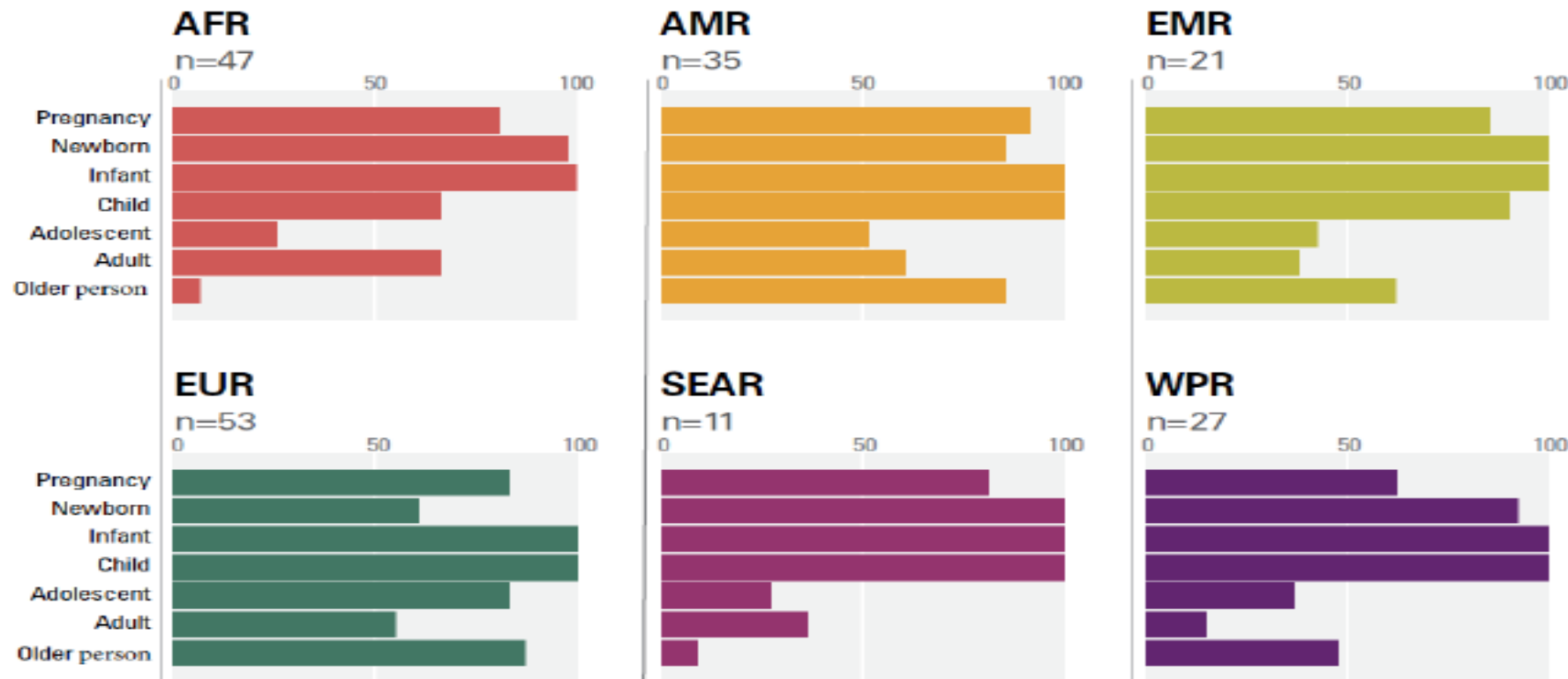
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Implementation status of LCA to immunization programmes

Although being part of the global and regional policies (*Decade of Vaccines – Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011-2020; Immunization Agenda 2030*) since 2010, progress within countries have been slow

Status of life course vaccination by WHO region

Percentage of countries with universal vaccination recommendations for each life course stage

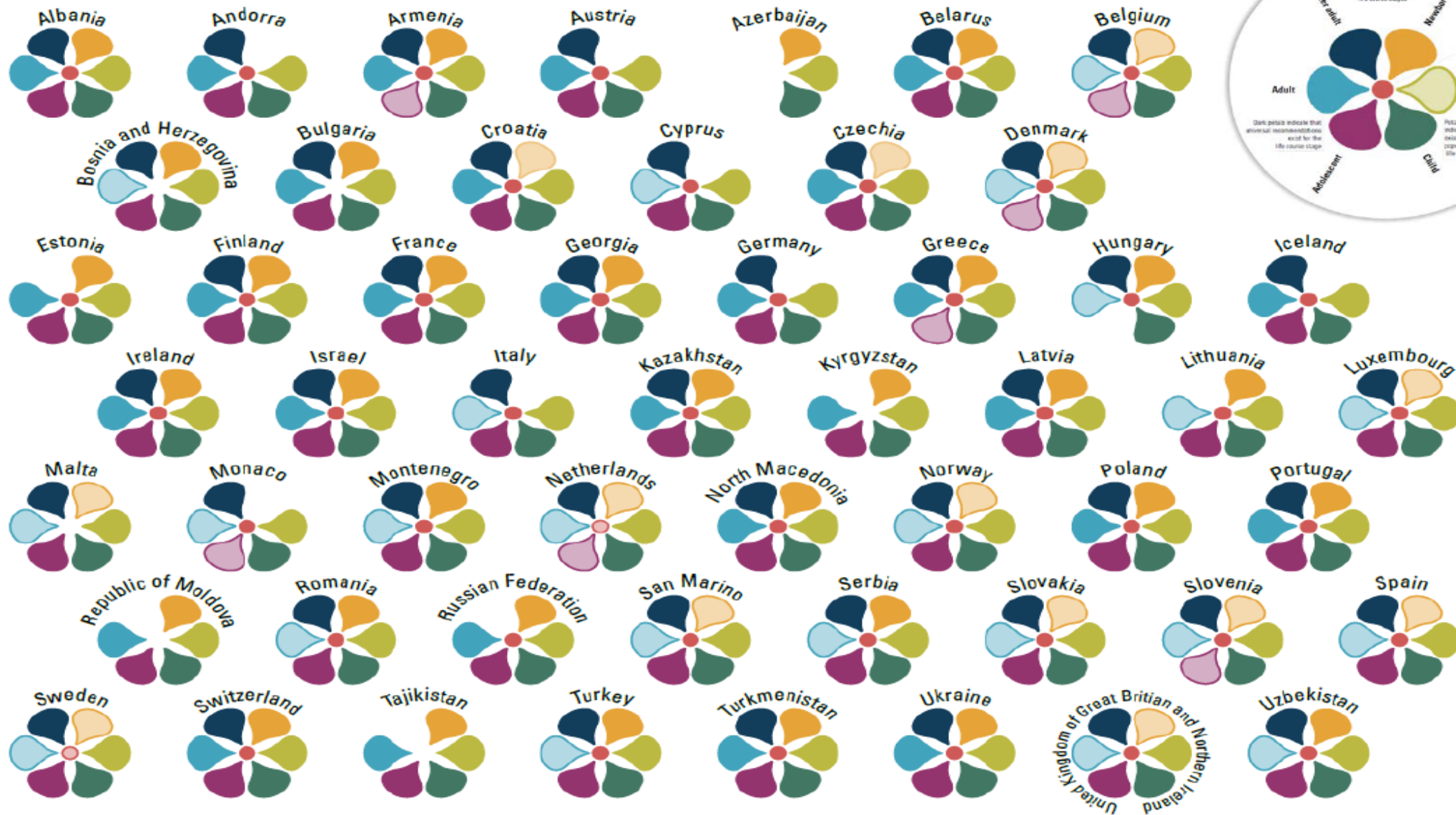


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Five key components needed for an effective life-course immunization policy implementation

*Effectiveness is subject to support by a **conducive legislative environment and long-term cross-governmental commitment***

1. Comprehensive immunization programme policy that supports vaccine availability with life-course approach
2. Public demand for immunization
3. Engaged healthcare professionals
4. Multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral coordination
5. Robust data informing policies and programmes

Source: Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018



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1. Comprehensive immunization programme policy that supports vaccine availability with life-course approach

- Immunization schedule covers whole life course
- Recommendations are evidence-based and reviewed regularly
- Reliable vaccine supply chain in place
- Immunization across life course prioritized and adequately resourced
- Vaccines available for underserved communities

Source: Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018



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2. Public demand for immunization

- Public awareness campaigns encourage vaccine uptake across the life course (informed & guided by findings of insights studies)
- Active civil society organizations involved in vaccine promotion

Source: Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018



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3. Engaged healthcare professionals (HCPs)

- HCPs educated about benefits of life-course immunization
- HCPs supported to be vaccinated

Source: Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018



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4. Multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral coordination

- Immunization integrated into healthy living and healthy ageing policies
- Collaboration with other sectors supports vaccine delivery in non-clinical settings

Source: Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018



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5. Robust data informing policies and programmes

- Immunization coverage targets cover the life course
- Electronic databases collect and share immunization and infectious disease data
- Immunization data available to individuals and healthcare professionals

Source: Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization, HPP, 2018



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Summary & Conclusions

Requires:

- Coordinated advocacy efforts at policy level
- Engagement and collaborative work with civil society organizations (advocacy, coordination)
- Further normative & technical guidance on the life-course approach to immunization
- Technical collaborative work with countries to operationalize life-course approach
- Better understanding of barriers & drivers to vaccination through formative research and tailored interventions to reach the targeted populations
- Policy/strategy changes at the national immunization programme level (i.e., immunization policies integrated with broader policies; programme organization, governance and planning; comprehensive immunization policy, guidelines and standards; immunization schedule; evidence-based decisions; HCPs training; making use of different immunization delivery platforms; sustained resources (financial & other); awareness building, advocacy & communications; demand generation; community engagement; immunization information systems; expanded vaccine safety monitoring; partnerships - working with civil society organizations)
- Monitoring progress achieved against the key areas by countries (incremental & sustained)



**Thanks to Adult
Immunization Board
and great
appreciation for its
contributions to
public health**

