

# Adult Immunization Board - Technical meeting

*Strategies for introducing and implementing vaccines for adults into National Immunization Programs in Europe:  
Exemplary Approaches and Key Insights*

## Session 1: Opening, Introduction and Objectives



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# Introduction of the Adult Immunization Board

Greet Hendrickx (University of Antwerp)



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# Adult Immunization Board: From idea to concept

Growing number and share of older people

Concerning low adult vaccination coverage

Barriers experienced during implementation of adult (COVID-19) vaccination

Increasing number of questions about adult immunization / life course immunization

...

*Need for independent and multidisciplinary reflection on adult immunization in Europe*



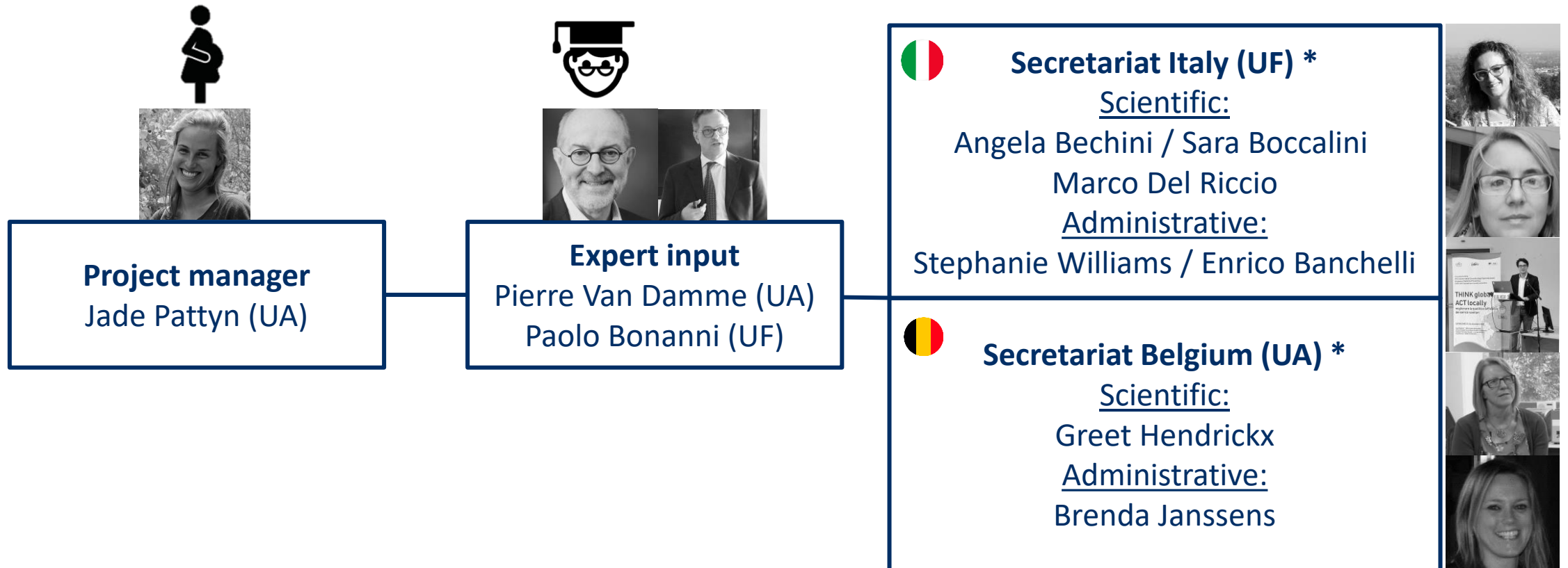
## **Adult Immunization Board**

*Based on good experience with existing multidisciplinary advisory groups*



# The AIB has a permanent executive secretariat

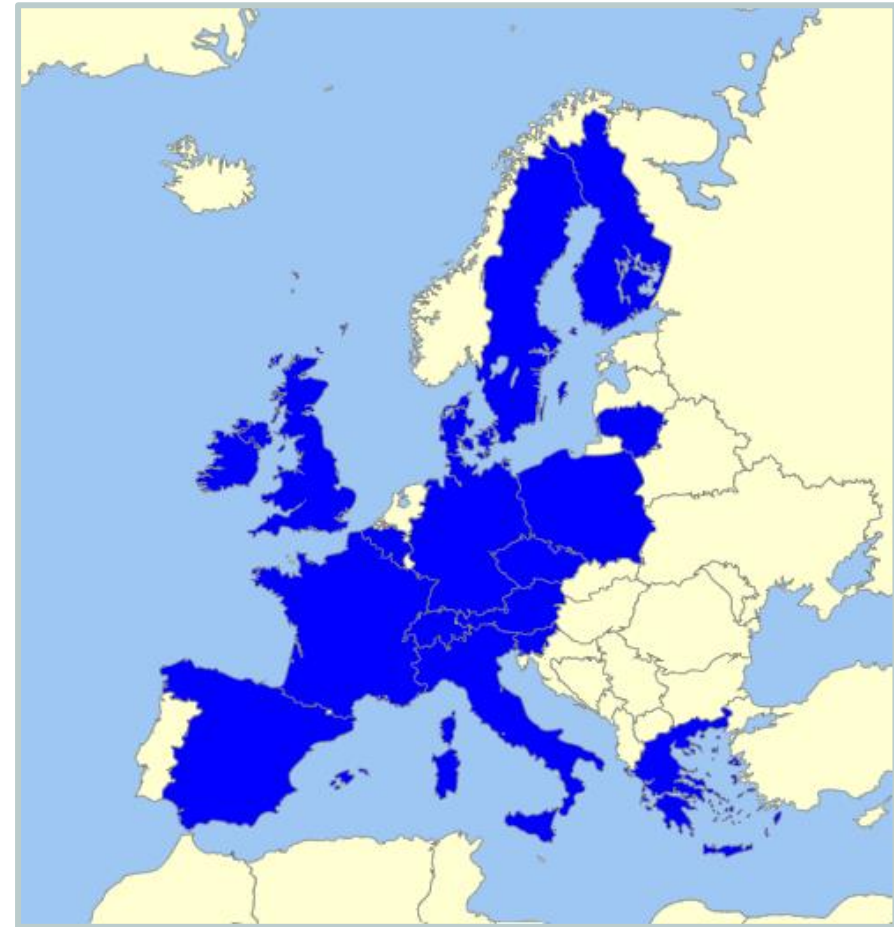
Collaboration between university of Antwerp (UA) and university of Florence (UF)



# Adult Immunization Board - Advisors

## Board members → Advisors

- Experts in different fields of adult immunization/representing different regions
  - *Expertise: Vaccinology, Infectious diseases, Immunology, Epidemiology, Vaccine technologies, Primary health care, Public health, Travel medicine, Vaccine Confidence Communication, Health economics, Aging*
  - *Characteristic: Engaged/ enthusiastic*
- Advisors act in their personal capacity
  - Provides open and honest discussions
- Advisors at AIB meetings are **not paid**



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

## Outcome:

- Experts from **different disciplines/sectors** welcomed the AIB initiative.
  - All potential AIB advisors present at the kick-off meeting joined the AIB initiative as an advisor
- The **new platform was well received and endorsed** as an appropriate and effective way to share info and exchange ideas & experiences across disciplines/ borders
- **Topics & countries** for upcoming meetings were discussed
- **AIB independence & profile of the potential AIB advisor**



*All meeting presentations are available on our website:*

<https://www.adultimmunizationboard.org/meetings/kick-off-meeting-november-2022/>



# AIB advisors

- Independent, international, multidisciplinary group of +/- 20 advisors
- Provide scientific evidence-based reflection and guidance on strategic, technical and policy issues that will occur as we move forward in the implementation and optimization of adult immunization programs



Niyazi Cakmak  
(WHO EURO)



Daphne Holt  
(CLCI)



Mariano Votta  
(Active Citizenship  
Network)



Alojz Ihan  
(Slovenia)



Odile Launay  
(France)



Giovanni Gabutti  
(Italy)



Helena Maltezou  
(Greece)



Heini Salo  
(Finland)



Jacek Wysocki  
(Poland)



Antoni Torres  
(Spain)



Ligita Jancoriene  
(Lithuania)



Heidi Larson  
(Belgium / UK)



Per Ljungman  
(Sweden)



Robert Steffen  
(Switzerland)



Pierre Van Damme  
(Belgium)



Birgit Weinberger  
(Austria)



Sotirios Tsiodras  
(Greece)



Stefania Maggi  
(Italy)



Thomas Weinke  
(Germany)



Johan Flamaing  
(Belgium)



Roman Chlibek  
(Czech Republic)



Paolo Bonanni  
(Italy)



Javier Díez-Domingo  
(Spain)



# AIB - Mission and Objectives

- **AIB is established with the aim of contributing to the reduction of mortality and morbidity from vaccine-preventable infections and diseases in European adults.**
  - provide evidence-based guidance on fundamental technical and strategic issues
  - monitoring the progress of adult immunization programs at European and (sub)national levels.



# AIB – Way of working: 2 meeting per year

- **1) Technical meeting**
  - to discuss specific technical aspect on adult immunization with subject-matter experts
- **2) Country meeting**
  - to discuss country specific aspects of adult immunization together with local experts
  - create a platform where people of the country involved in adult immunization can discuss and start future initiatives
- **Meeting on invitation only to keep group small -> guarantee interaction/ discussion**
- **The focus audience are policymakers, researchers, public health experts, HCP**

# Meetings - Way of working



Meeting topics- countries  
Objectives – meeting outcome

Literature –web review



Draft agenda  
Potential speakers  
Potential participants



**Adult Immunization Board (AIB)**  
*Technical meeting:*

*Assessing the health burden of vaccine-preventable infections in European Adults: challenges and opportunities*

University of Antwerp  
(Belgium)

**DRAFT**

Please note that this is a preliminary draft of the AIB meeting objectives/ agenda

**Preliminary Meeting Objectives:**

- Provide an overview of current vaccine-preventable infections (VPIs) in the adult population (≥18y)
- Discuss the methodology and challenges in computing the health burden of adult VPIs (focus on Europe)
- Understand how the health burden estimates of adult VPIs shape national vaccination policies and practices and inform public health priorities
- Evaluate the current VPIs health burden evidence to provide a convincing case for strengthening adult vaccination in Europe

**Intended Impact:**

Accurate information about the health burden of VPIs in adults is needed for several reasons:

- To understand the need and justification for consolidating actual and propose new adult vaccination programmes
- To measure the impact of adult vaccination programs on individual and population health, health systems, economic and social factors
- To collate the rationale to improve prevention / vaccination strategies for adult diseases (e.g. update or revise immunization schedules, implement targeted delivery strategies, etc.)
- To support health policy recommendations and priorities

The purpose of the first AIB technical meeting is to identify and discuss the challenges and opportunities when assessing the health burden of VPIs in European adults.

**Target audience (± 60 participants):**

The Adult Immunization Board will bring together European vaccinologists, epidemiologists, opinion leaders, policymakers, public health and health care professionals of different specialties, patient groups, professional medical and paramedical organizations. A diverse set of data will be presented and programs, strategies, successes and challenges will be discussed.

# (Upcoming) meetings / activities

Meeting	Date	Type	Topic	Location
Meeting 1	8 Nov 2022	Kick off AIB	“Proto-board” meeting to establish the basic structure and functions of the Board and to plan the agendas of future meetings	Antwerp
Meeting 2	20-21 April 2023	Technical	Assessing the health burden of vaccine-preventable infections in European Adults: challenges and opportunities	Antwerp
Meeting 3	6-7 Dec 2023	Country	Adult immunization in Italy: lessons learned and the way forward	Florence
Meeting 4	18-19 April 2024	Technical	Strategies for introducing and implementing vaccines for adults into National Immunization Programs in Europe	Prague
Meeting 5	H2 2024	Country	Adult immunization in ? : lessons learned and the way forward	TBD
Meeting 6	H1 2025	Technical	Topic (TBD)	TBD
...				

# Technical meeting (20-21 April 2023, Antwerp)

## Assessing the health burden of vaccine-preventable infections in European Adults

### Meeting Objectives

- To provide an overview of current vaccine-preventable infections (VPIs) in the adult population ( $\geq 18$  years of age)
- To discuss the methodology and challenges in calculating the health burden (HB) of adult VPIs (focus on Europe)
- To understand how HB estimates of adult VPIs shape national vaccination policies & practices & inform public health priorities
- To evaluate current VPIs HB evidence to provide a convincing case for strengthening adult vaccination in Europe





# Technical meeting (20-21 April 2023, Antwerp)

- *The purpose of the first AIB technical meeting is to identify and discuss the challenges and opportunities when assessing the health burden of VPIs in European adults.*
- *All meeting presentations are available on our website:*

<https://www.adultimmunizationboard.org/meetings/technical-meeting-april-2023/>



## MEETING REPORT

### Assessing the health burden of vaccine-preventable infections in European adults: challenges and opportunities translated into action

Jade Pattyn<sup>1</sup>, Paolo Bonanni<sup>2</sup>, on behalf of the Adult Immunization Board working group<sup>3</sup>

1. Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Institute, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
2. Department of Health Sciences, University of Florence, Florence, Italy
3. Members of the Adult Immunization Board working group are listed under Acknowledgements

Correspondence: Jade Pattyn (jade.pattyn@uantwerpen.be)

#### Citation style for this article:

Pattyn Jade, Bonanni Paolo, on behalf of the Adult Immunization Board working group. Assessing the health burden of vaccine-preventable infections in European adults: challenges and opportunities translated into action. Euro Surveill. 2023;28(48):pii=2300791. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2023.28.48.2300791>

Article submitted on 15 Nov 2023 / accepted on 28 Nov 2023 / published on 30 Nov 2023

# Country meeting (6-7 December 2023, Florence) Adult immunization in Italy: lessons learned and the way forward

## Intended impact / target population:

- To discuss **country specific aspects of adult immunization** together with local experts.
- The aim of these meetings is to **establish a collaborative network of national experts of different fields, creating a platform for the exchange of knowledge and best practices** in adult immunization.



*All meeting presentations are available on our website:  
<https://www.adultimmunizationboard.org/meetings/country-meeting-december-2023/>*




# Communication strategy / AIB output

- All meeting materials (slides + background document + conclusions) are published on the website
  - <https://www.adultimmunizationboard.org/>
- Summary meeting reports will be published in peer-reviewed journals
- LinkedIn page to report latest news
- Output will be presented at different networking activities (*ECCMID, ERS, Vaccine (journal) congress, European Public Health Conference, ESCAIDE/ECDC, ...*)

The image shows two screenshots of the Adult Immunization Board (AIB) website and its LinkedIn profile. The top screenshot is the website's homepage, featuring a dark blue header with the title "Adult Immunization Board" and the subtitle "By the University of Antwerp and University of Florence". Below the header, there is a section titled "Our mission:" followed by a paragraph of text and a photograph of a meeting. The bottom screenshot is the LinkedIn profile page for the "Adult Immunization Board - AIB", showing the profile picture, name, and a brief description of the organization as a platform for multidisciplinary guidelines for adult immunization.

# Unrestricted Grant – Vaccines Europe

- The executive secretariat of the Adult Immunization Board benefits from **being seated at the University of Antwerp and the University of Florence**, where it has the **infrastructure and administrative services** of the universities at its disposal.
- The AIB is **supported for its activities and meetings** by an **unrestricted grant from**  Vaccines Europe. All meeting funds are collected by the AIB secretariat. **Meeting topics and editorial control of the output and website rests entirely with the executive secretariat** of the Adult Immunization Board according to all ethical rules of both Universities.
- For the Board and its advisors, **strict operational and scientific independence** is essential. Adult Immunization Board advisors and invited experts get only **travel and subsistence reimbursed** according to the Universities Rules, **no honorary or other forms of remuneration are paid**.

# Introduction of the meeting definitions, framework and expected outcomes

Prof. Paolo Bonanni (University of Florence)



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# Intended impact and target population:

## Strategies for introducing and implementing vaccines for adults into National Immunization Programs in Europe: Exemplary Approaches and Key Insights

- **Background:**
  - Increasing **implementation of vaccines for adults** within lifelong vaccination initiatives across several EU countries (e.g., RSV, COVID-19)
- **Meeting aim**
  - To **explore the latest strategies and valuable insights** regarding the implementation of adult vaccines into National Immunization Programs.
  - AIB seeks to **gather diverse perspectives** from **various:**
    - Context, Disciplines, Vaccines for adults

# Meeting definitions

<p>Adult immunization</p>	<p>Adult immunization refers to the administration of vaccines (active immunization) or antibodies (passive immunization) to <b>individuals who are 18 years of age or older</b> in order to protect them against various infectious diseases, before or after exposure. <i>Source: AIB secretariat</i></p>
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>The act of introducing something: such as the act of bringing something into practice or use for the first time. <i>Source: Cambridge dictionary</i> Introducing a vaccine refers to a (sub)national recommendation and inclusion of a vaccine in immunization programs. <i>Source: AIB secretariat</i></p>
<p>Implementation</p>	<p>The process of moving an idea from concept to reality. It refers to a building process rather than a design process. <i>Source: Cambridge dictionary</i> Implementing a vaccine involves the detailed process of defining targets, distribution, ensuring access, managing logistics, monitoring coverages, to achieve widespread vaccination. <i>Source: AIB Secretariat</i></p>
<p>Implementation science</p>	<p>Implementation science is the scientific study of the methods to promote the uptake of research findings into routine healthcare in clinical, organisational, or policy contexts. <i>Source: Wensing M. Implementation science in healthcare: Introduction and perspective. Z Evid Fortbild Qual Gesundheitswes. 2015;109(2):97-102.</i></p>

# Objectives of this Meeting

Provide **updated information** for the **introduction and implementation** of **vaccines for adults** into **national immunization programs** in European countries now and in the coming years.





# Objectives of this Meeting

## Decision-making

- Explore and understand the evolving criteria influencing national decision-making processes for the introduction of vaccines for adults
- Identify pivotal factors facilitating effective decision-making in different European countries

## Session 2: Deciding on the introduction of vaccines for adults: what are the criteria for inclusion in a national vaccination program?

▮ **Chairs: Greet Hendrickx and Paolo Bonanni**

- 9:40 National decision-making for the introduction of new vaccines: a global systematic review, 2010-2020 ▶ **Morgane Donadel** ▶ **Abigail Shefer** ▶ **online**
- 10:00 Vaccine delivery costing to support decision-making  
▶ **Karene Hoi Ting Yeung** ▶ **online**
- 10:20 Role of the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups in 13 European countries in the decision-making process on vaccine recommendations  
▶ **Domenico Martinelli**
- 10:35 The UK decision on RSV vaccination in adults in the national immunization program  
▶ **Harish Nair** ▶ **online**
- 10:50 Discussion
- 11:00 Coffee
- ▮ **Chairs: Giovanni Gabutti and Heini Salo**
- 11:30 The German decision on Pneumococcal vaccination in adults in the national immunization program ▶ **Ole Wichmann**
- 11:45 The Belgian decision on Herpes Zoster vaccination in adults in the national immunization program ▶ **Isabel Leroux-Roels**
- 12:00 Discussion

# Objectives of this Meeting

## Implementation: planning and managing

- ❑ Investigate the status and evolution of vaccination programs for adults in EU
- ❑ Analyze the implementation procedures of vaccines for adults

### Session 3: Vaccine Implementation: planning and managing

▮ Chairs: Giovanni Gabutti and Heini Salo

- 12:15 Implementation science: What is it and why should we care for implementing, adopting and maintaining vaccination practices ▶ **Michel Wensing** ▶ online

#### Session 3.1 Investigate the current status & evolution of vaccination programs for adults in EU

▮ Chairs: Birgit Weinberger and Thomas Weinke

- 13:45 The current status & evolution of Vaccination Programs for Adults in Europe  
▶ **Helena Maltezos**
- 14:05 Discussion

#### Session 3.2 Objectives and goal(s) / targets of adult vaccination programs

- 14:15 Control, Elimination and eradication goals for communicable diseases (focus on prevention targets of different adult vaccination programs)  
▶ **Laila Khawar**
- 14:30 Scientific approaches toward improving cervical cancer elimination strategies  
▶ **Laia Bruni** ▶ online
- 14:45 Discussion
- 15:00 Coffee

#### Session 3.3 Identification of target population

▮ Chairs: Jacek Wysocki and Stefania Maggi

- 15:30 Assessing and improving the accuracy of target population estimates for immunization coverage ▶ **Carolina Danovaro-Holliday** ▶ online
- 15:45 Target population of COVID-19 adult vaccination in Europe: evolution and current status ▶ **Hanna Nohynek** ▶ online
- 16:00 Discussion

#### Session 3.4 Selection of introduction strategy and implementation activities (part 1)

- 16:10 Introducing and implementing vaccines for adults at a country level: Ensuring their sustainability and resilience (focus on organizational aspects)  
▶ **Forman Rebecca**
- 16:30 Introduction of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccines in Older Adults and Pregnant Women in the US (focus on organizational aspects)  
▶ **Michael Melgar** ▶ online
- 16:50 Introduction of Pertussis vaccination for pregnant women in Denmark (focus on organizational aspects) ▶ **Ida Aase Glode Helmuth**

#### Session 3.4 Selection of introduction strategy and implementation activities (part 2)

▮ Chairs: Sotirios Tsiodras and Odile Launay

- 9:00 Equipping healthcare professionals and students: The role of training for implementing vaccines for adults  
▶ **Kamel Senouci** ▶ online
- 9:15 Communicating with the public about vaccines: Implementation considerations  
▶ **Jacob Dag Berild**
- 9:30 The impact of pharmacist involvement on immunization uptake in Europe  
▶ **Marleen Haems**
- 9:45 How and why to set goals: lessons learned from the seasonal Influenza vaccination strategy  
▶ **Kanta Subbarao**
- 10:00 Discussion

# Objectives of this Meeting

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- ❑ Gain valuable insights from monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment examples across European adult vaccination programs
- ❑ Utilize lessons learned from real-world scenarios to enhance the efficiency and impact of adult vaccination introductions

## Session 4: Monitoring - impact assessment

▮ **Chairs: Robert Steffen and Ligita Jancoriene**

- 10:15 Assessing programme implementation and lessons learned: the WHO Tailoring Immunization Programmes (TIP) approach  
▶ **Tiina Likki**
- 10:30 Adult vaccination program as part of the life-time vaccination in Spain - its cost/investment  
▶ **Laura Sánchez-Cambronero**
- 10:45 Monitoring Influenza/COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness in Europe I-MOVE/VEBIS  
▶ **Esther Kissling**
- 11:00 Safety Monitoring of COVID-19 and other vaccines for adults in the EU  
▶ **Jean-Michel Dogné**
- 11:15 Discussion
- 11:30 Coffee

# Introduction of meeting participants

Prof. Paolo Bonanni (University of Florence)



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

- Please note that we have participants / speakers online – **hybrid meeting**
- **Physical Participants**
  - Please use the mic 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 presentations are for internal use only.  
No recordings will be put online.**