Country Meeting 2026

Adult Immunization in Ireland: successes, lessons learned and the way forward

Agenda

Version: 16/11/2026

18 – 19 November 2026

Dublin, Ireland

Intended impact

This invitation-only AIB country meeting in November 2026 aims to advance a shared understanding of the current state of adult immunization in Ireland and explore how national insights can inform wider European cooperation and policy development. The purpose is to assess how adult vaccination is embedded within Ireland's health system and to identify opportunities to strengthen life-course immunization in line with EU priorities.

Country meetings are organized to discuss country-specific aspects of adult immunization together with local experts. During these meetings, the board invites local academics, health care professionals, public health representatives and policy makers and representatives from the Ministry of Health to present on adult immunization strategies implemented in the country where the meeting is organized, as well as educational, communication and community initiatives aimed at increasing adult vaccine acceptance. The AIB advisors contribute both their own country's expertise and insights gathered from previous country and technical meetings. The aim of these meetings is to establish a collaborative network of (inter)national experts of different fields, creating a platform for the exchange of knowledge and best practices in adult immunization. The location of the country meeting is determined based on advisors' recommendations, taking into account factors such as the political landscape, public health situation, the current state of adult immunization implementation, potential collaborations with stakeholders, and opportunities for learning.

This meeting will collect best practices and generate practical recommendations to support resilient, equitable adult vaccination systems aligned with EU health objectives. The meeting materials and outcomes will be disseminated widely to maximize impact across European public health communities.

Target audience

- Irish and European public health authorities, policymakers, academic experts, and stakeholders involved in Life-course immunization planning and delivery
- AIB advisors and observers

Meeting venue

The meeting will take place in Dublin, Ireland – **HOTEL RIU Plaza Gresham Dublin.**

The meeting will start on **Wednesday, November 18th 2026**, from 9h00 – 18h00 GMT; the end is foreseen on **Thursday November 19th 2026**, from around 9h00 - 15h30 GMT.

Please note: This is a preliminary meeting agenda. Some speakers, panellists, and chairs have not yet confirmed their participation. All timings and content are subject to change.

Meeting objectives

1. Review the structure of the healthcare system in Ireland, focusing on how adult vaccination programs are integrated into the national vaccination plan. Analyse current policies and strategies for adult vaccination, highlight political and governmental support for the expansion of immunization program. Discuss the purchase, distribution and funding of adult vaccines.
2. Provide an overview of the epidemiology and disease burden of VPI (vaccine-preventable infections) among adults in Ireland. Explain the functioning of infectious disease surveillance and control programs in Ireland. Discuss the effectiveness of current surveillance systems in detecting and responding to vaccine-preventable diseases in adults.
3. Explore the organization and delivery of adult vaccination services from different perspectives. Review the success of delivery through community-based pharmacists.
4. Discuss the recording and reporting of vaccination data in Ireland, including coverage rate, vaccine impact monitoring and vigilance practices.
5. Analyse the population's vaccination demand and acceptance, addressing issues such as vaccine confidence.
6. Present the strategies and programs implemented in Ireland to vaccinate specific adult population groups, highlighting the challenges and opportunities.
7. Explore future prospects and potential solutions to overcome barriers and enhance adult immunization efforts in Ireland and other European countries.

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Meeting agenda

DAY 1 – November 18th 2026		
Session 1: Opening, introduction and objectives		
Chairs: *Prof Karina Butler and Prof Pierre Van Damme*		
09:00	**Opening remarks**	**Prof Paolo Bonanni** *University of Florence*
09:05	**Introduction of the AIB** (history of AIB)	
09:15	**Meeting objectives (background and rational)** Participant engagement: Key challenges to adult immunisation in Ireland	**Greet Hendrickx** *University of Antwerp*
09:30	**Aging is living**	**Dr Shahin Huseynov** *WHO Europe*
09:45	Tour de table	
Session 2: Healthcare system and the adult immunization plan		
Chairs: *Prof Kingston Mills and Dr Shahin Huseynov*		
09:55	**Ireland: health system summary**	**Prof Karina Butler** *Former chair of NIAC*
10:15	**Ireland's national (adult) immunisation plan: current status and upcoming changes**	
10:35	Discussion	
10:55	Coffee Break	
Session 3: Overview of the epidemiology and disease burden of VPIs among adults		
Chairs: *Dr Ligita Jancoriene and Prof Javier Díez-Domingo*		
11:25	**Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for older adults**	**Prof Roy K Philip** *University of Limerick*
11:45	**Recent trends in pertussis**	**Prof Kingston Mills** *Trinity College Dublin*
12:05	**The need for elderly vaccination in Ireland: how can a vaccine protect against Alzheimer's disease?**	**Prof Luke O'Neill** *School of Biochemistry and Immunology, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, Trinity College Dublin*
12:25	**The socioeconomic and societal value of adult immunisation programmes**	**Simon Brassel** *Senior Principal Economist, Office of Health Economics (OHE)*
12:45	Discussion	

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13:05	Lunch	
Session 4: Implementation and delivery of adult vaccination services		
Chairs: *Prof Anne Moore and Prof Antoni Torres*		
14:05	**The national COVID-19 vaccination programme and major lessons learned**	**Prof Brian MacCraith** *Arizona State University*
14:25	**From vaccine delivery to policy influence – the strategic contribution of nurses to vaccination programmes**	**Kay Varden** *Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing*
14:45	**Vaccination by community pharmacists: impact, learnings and opportunities**	**Kathy Maher** *Former Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) President and past-Chair, Pharmacy Contractors Committee, IPU*
15:05	**Antenatal immunisation as an integral part of life-course immunisation programme**	**Prof Roy K Philip** *University of Limerick*
15:25	Discussion	
15:45	Coffee Break	
Session 5: Panel discussion: How to successfully deliver adult immunisation – lessons learned from Ireland		
Chairs: *Dr Susanna Kola-Palmer and Prof Thomas Weinke*		
16:15	Introduction Round table discussion	Participants: • Prof Karina Butler • Prof Kingston Mills • Simon Brassel • Kathy Maher • Prof Roy K Philip
16:25	Round table inputs	
16:55	**Round table discussion** Objective: Further explore the adult immunisation system in Ireland, including its strengths, weaknesses, and key lessons learned Focus: • Role of primary healthcare providers (GP, nurses, midwives, pharmacists...) for adult immunisation • Success factors for high flu vaccination coverage in older adults • Data-driven decision-making (recording, cost-effectiveness)	
17:45	Closure of day 1	

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DAY 2 – November 19th 2026		
Session 6: Vaccine demand and acceptance		
Chairs: *Dr Marco Del Riccio and Prof Per Ljungman*		
09:00	**Vaccine hesitancy in Ireland: the "4Cs" model**	**Prof Anne Moore** *University College Cork*
09:20	**Psychological and behavioural correlates of vaccine hesitancy in Ireland: reflections**	**Dr Susanna Kola-Palmer** *University of Huddersfield*
09:40	**Equity of access: ability to pay as a barrier to adult vaccination**	**Alison Bough** *Head of Policy & Advocacy, Active Retirement Ireland (ARI)* *Vice-President, AGE Platform Europe*
10:00	**Vaccination of healthcare workers**	**Prof Helena Maltezou** *National Public Health Organization, Greece*
10:20	Discussion	
10:40	Coffee break (30 min)	
Session 7: Panel discussion: Determinants of vaccine uptake – lessons learned from Ireland		
Chairs: *Kathy Maher and Prof Helena Maltezou*		
11:10	Introduction Round table discussion	Participants: • Dr Susanna Kola-Palmer • Alison Bough • Prof Anne Moore
11:20	Round table inputs	
11:45	**Round table discussion** Objective: Explore determinants of vaccine uptake in Ireland Focus: • Vaccine acceptance and hesitancy, including among healthcare workers and pregnant women • Equal access to vaccines • Community engagement in the design, communication and evaluation of adult immunisation programmes	
Session 8: Breakout groups and closing of the meeting		
Chairs: *Alison Bough and Prof Pierre Van Damme*		

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12:35	**Breakout groups** – discuss lessons learnt and the way forward (Group work; 40min)	Facilitation by the moderator of each group
13:15	Lunch	
14:15	**Breakout groups** – discuss lessons learnt and the way forward (Presentation of results; 20min)	Presentation of results by the spokesperson of each group
14:30	**Participant engagement**: Key recommendations for adult immunisation in Ireland	**AIB Secretariat**
14:45	**Meeting summary** by AIB rapporteur	**Katherine Newell** *P95*
15:15	**Closing of the meeting**	**Prof Pierre Van Damme** *University of Antwerp*

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