



Systematic Reviews on Vaccines

SYSVAC

Global Registry of Systematic Reviews to Strengthen National Immunisation Programmes and Decision-Making Processes

Duration

2019–2021

Budget/year

approx. 160,000 EUR

Partner countries

Global

Challenges addressed by the project

The quality and credibility of vaccine recommendations increase when a systematic and transparent process is used to develop them. Systematic reviews form the basis for such a process. However, both conducting systematic reviews and locating existing reviews on vaccine-related topics require significant time, personnel, and specific expertise. Particularly in low- to middle-income countries, National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) often have limited resources and skills to do this kind of work. Increasing NITAGs' access to and facilitating their use of existing systematic reviews would allow them to allocate their resources more efficiently and streamline the process of developing vaccine recommendations of high quality.

Objectives

The goal of the project is to establish, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, a user-friendly registry of systematic reviews related to vaccinations and to promote its use through the development of methods and training tools for using systematic reviews. The registry, along with the methods and training tools, have the potential to provide substantial support to national and international decision-makers in the field of immunisation.

Overview of activities

The establishment of a freely-accessible, comprehensive, and user-friendly registry of systematic reviews related to vaccinations and vaccine-preventable diseases is at the core of the project and is intended to support the development of evidence-based vaccine recommendations by NITAGs globally. In 2019, international experts came together for a workshop on methodological concepts related to the appraisal and use of existing reviews, registry components, and concepts for implementation. Based on their results, the registry has been refined and an online course has been developed to introduce methods for the use of existing reviews. The (limited) registry with a focus on COVID-19 and the E-learning course have been launched in December 2020. The full registry including reviews on all vaccine-preventable diseases will be launched at the end of 2021.



Supported by:



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Expert workshop for SYSVAC, 2019 (Photo ©RKI)



E-learning course: "Mary" guides through
the different steps of using existing reviews
(Photo ©Benntec GmbH)



SYSVAC includes an online registry for vaccine-
related systematic reviews (Photo ©pexels.com)



Partner institutions

- » World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland¹
- » London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), England²

Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

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1 The WHO hosts the secretariat of the Global NITAG Network and manages the NITAG Resource Center website, which hosts the registry.
2 LSHTM developed a prototype of the registry and will help RKI to expand it and make it more user-friendly.