



SENSE

Strengthening National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups and their evidence-based decision-making in the WHO European Region and globally

Context

Vaccinations constitute a powerful public health measure for preventing millions of deaths every year. Effective immunisation programmes are crucial for resilient and sustainable health-care systems and global health security. NITAGs provide sustainable, evidence-based, country-specific recommendations to ministries of health to support them in their decision-making on immunisation policies. In the last few years, the number of NITAGs in WHO European Region Member States has increased significantly. Strengthening these NITAGs, especially in middle-income countries, offers the potential to increase national immunisation coverage and decrease the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases. Based on the experience gained in previous projects, SENSE seeks to improve the structure and operation of NITAGs by aligning them with WHO recommendations, implementing a systematic evidence-based recommendation-making process and enhancing collaboration among NITAGs. In cooperation with the RKI Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Public Health Research and WHO, the project is developing an automated, artificial intelligence-based method and dashboard which allows NITAGs to identify, synthesise and display systematic reviews of vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases. Implementation of the dashboard is accompanied by training and an e-learning course. Ultimately, these measures will allow policy-makers to take evidence-informed decisions on infection prevention and control measures, which will contribute to strengthening countries' public health systems.

Objective

Strengthening NITAGs in the WHO European Region (especially middle-income countries) and worldwide.

Thematic focus

Strengthening of public health systems

Infection prevention and control

Digital solution

Marketing authorisation and safety of medicinal products

Key facts

Duration

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025

Budget

~ EUR 960,000

Partner countries / Region

WHO EURO



Implemented by

Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

Commissioning party

German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

Activities



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Establishing a systematic, evidence-based process to generate recommendations to support policy decisions; improving the structure, functioning and cooperation of NITAGs, according to WHO recommendations



RESEARCH AND PROVISION OF EVIDENCE

Developing an automated artificial intelligence-based dashboard to identify, synthesise and display existing systematic reviews of immunisation and vaccine-preventable diseases



NETWORKING AND COOPERATION

Enhancing collaboration among NITAGs in the WHO European region and beyond

In cooperation with

- World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland
- WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe), Denmark
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Canada
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA
- National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) chairs/secretariats in participating WHO/Europe Member States

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GHPP, the Global Health Protection Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Health, promotes networking, exchange and cooperation between specialized German and international public health actors. By reducing health risks and strengthening health systems at the national, regional and international level, in particular relating to pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response, the GHPP fosters public health protection – worldwide.

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