



Training primary healthcare professionals in the area of vaccination and vaccine hesitancy

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Dear colleagues,

The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has commissioned the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) to conduct a training needs assessment in the area of vaccinology and vaccine acceptance with the aim of collecting information useful to develop training courses on these topics. The assessment targets frontline health workers and public health professionals involved in immunisation programmes in EU/EEA. It is a web-based questionnaire and includes questions on knowledge, learning needs, and attendance to existing courses in vaccinology and vaccine acceptance including COVID-19.

ASPHER on behalf of ECDC invites you to participate by completing an online survey. The survey is developed in Survey Monkey and it will take 20-30 minutes to complete. You can reply by clicking on the link below or using the QR code:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vacc_trainingneeds



Rationale for this project

Vaccine acceptance is increasingly a topic of concern, and empowering health professionals to deal with this public health threat is vitally needed. Health professionals, working at the primary healthcare (PHC) level (physicians, nurses, community workers, etc.) are at the frontline of interaction with those that are taking decisions around vaccination such as parents, adolescents and care takers. Some of these also serve as trainers for their peers.

Public health (PH) professionals and some PHC professionals are involved in, or responsible for vaccine preventable diseases at national and sub-national levels, and may be involved in training, or in designing training curricula for the PHC professionals on increasing vaccination acceptance. Although these professionals have a background knowledge and skills on vaccines and immunisation, they would benefit from:

1. updating their knowledge; and
2. strengthening their skills to deal with vaccine hesitancy, including COVID-19 related vaccine

hesitancy, for their professional development and in order to train PHC professionals.

Who is organising, funding, and reviewing the project?

In the framework of the Council Recommendation on vaccination, ECDC has been asked to support Member States with training, including Training of Trainers (TOT) in the area of immunisation, vaccine acceptance and communication around vaccination. Moreover, ECDC received requests for support from Member States in the same area of work.

ECDC has commissioned ASPHER under a service contract, to carry out the design of a competency-based e-learning course on vaccinology and a competency-based blended training course on behaviour change communication about vaccine acceptance.

Why and how have I been invited to take part in the survey?

Potential participants have been identified through ECDC and ASPHER networks, and other associations, networks and professional bodies serving primary health care and public health professionals in Europe.

How do I agree to participate in this survey?

If you respond to the survey, we will take that as indicating your agreement to participate. Please be assured that the survey is anonymous; you cannot be identified from your response.

How will my privacy be protected?

The ASPHER consortium will process the data collected in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Please be informed that the questionnaire does not collect any personal data or information that allows individual identification or contact details from participants.

What are the benefits of taking part in this survey?

Given the importance of up-to-date information on vaccinology and the need to empower frontline health workers to better communicate with patients about vaccine acceptance, compounded by the changing context of COVID-19 vaccination programmes, ECDC and ASPHER want to ensure comprehensive feedback from frontline experts and end-users for the training material. Your contribution is key to ensure a comprehensive and meaningful product.

How will the results be reported and available?

The results of this project will be analysed in an aggregated way and will be published by ECDC and shared on their website. They will be used to further inform the ECDC work in vaccinology and vaccine acceptance.

The e-learning course on vaccinology will be available on the ECDC Virtual Academy (EVA) and will be accessible freely to everybody interested. The blended course on communicating around vaccine acceptance will have the TOT format and will be delivered at the national level.

How can I contact the project team?

If you have any questions about the project, you may contact us at anna.odone@unipv.it, signorelli.carlo@hsr.it and lore.leighton@aspher.org.

We thank you most sincerely for taking the time to read this and for completing the survey.

Yours sincerely,

The Project Scientific Leads* and Coordination Team† of the ASPHER VXTrain Consortium on behalf of ECDC

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