

ThinkYoung
Presents

Young Coalition for Prevention and Vaccination

BRUSSELS
JAN 2020

EUROPE OF THE FUTURE

YOUTH MANIFESTO:
LET'S STEP UP FOR VACCINATION

*Think*Young

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PROMOTE EDUCATION FOR PREVENTION AND VACCINATION AWARENESS



Encourage Member States to implement **public health courses on immunisation** in national education curricula starting from primary school.



Enhance **education on prevention and vaccination** of students in healthcare disciplines, including communication proficiencies addressing hesitancy.



Stimulate **interprofessional collaboration** between healthcare professionals and the scientific community to engage civil society and to promote accessible educational material on the value of vaccination.

CALL TO ACTION

According to the World Health Organization, vaccine hesitancy has been identified as one of the ten threats to global health in 2019.¹ Notably, Europe is the most sceptical Region in the world regarding vaccine safety and its effectiveness.² In order to reduce this hesitancy and increase vaccination coverage rates, the YC4PV is highlighting the need to foster education and improve learning methods on the importance, safety and value of vaccination. The YC4PV aims to target the entire population and focuses on education as a tool to spread awareness among citizens, addressing students of all ages, starting from primary school to university. Furthermore, the YC4PV is emphasising the importance of interprofessional collaboration and education amongst healthcare professionals to actively advocate on the value of vaccination towards their patients.

¹ WHO. (2019). Ten threats to global health in 2019. Retrieved from Emergencies: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/ten-threats-to-global-health-in-2019>

² Gallup. (2019). Wellcome Global Monitor: How does the world feel about science and health?

FOSTER THE LIFE COURSE APPROACH TO VACCINATION



Foster healthcare professionals to integrate **comprehensive prevention and vaccination consultation** into regular appointments with patients throughout all stages of life – from childhood to old age.



Facilitate opportunities for citizens to **receive vaccination beyond traditional healthcare settings**, such as universities, pharmacies, workplaces and travel sites.



Encourage the EU to **improve the use of existing national platforms**, which provide up-to-date and personalised reminders to citizens and healthcare professionals to facilitate the responsiveness towards timely vaccination.

CALL TO ACTION

The life course-approach to vaccination functions as an umbrella which protects the entire population, from children to older adults, from healthy individuals to patients, in all stages of their lives against vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition, the life course approach helps protect the health of young people, active citizens, and future generations. Consequently, it also contributes to the economic sustainability of European healthcare systems.³ The YC4PV is calling to facilitate actions towards a more comprehensive approach to vaccination, protecting individuals at all stages of their life. To benefit from the full potential of vaccination, the YC4PV is calling on equity in access to vaccination and increased convenience by, for example, facilitating opportunities beyond traditional healthcare settings and providing personalised reminders.

³ LARGERON, N., LÉVY, P., WASSEM, J., & BRESSE, X. (2015). Role of vaccination in the sustainability of healthcare systems. *Journal of Market Access & Health Policy*.

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ACCELERATE DIGITALISATION TO IMPROVE PREVENTION AND VACCINATION



Urge the **creation of an EU platform**, including accessible and reliable information on vaccine safety and vaccine-preventable diseases from existing scientific literature.



Enhance the **development of digital solutions** that allow secure cross-border transfer of information on personal vaccine history, accessible to vaccination providers and citizens.



Call for further **social media actions**, exploring the feasibility of a 'verified account' system to certify reliable information on vaccination and other public health related issues with a trust mark-based visual system.

CALL TO ACTION

This era of digital transformation provides a unique opportunity to improve and accelerate access to reliable information on vaccines and vaccination. The YC4PV is calling to empower the population and healthcare professionals by utilising existing digital solutions to facilitate immunisation records and their use across borders. In addition, the YC4PV is calling to reform the use of social media to ensure the certification of individual or organisational accounts to deliver reliable information on vaccination, similar to the WHO Vaccine Safety Net which applies to websites.⁴

⁴ WHO. (2019, March 18). Vaccine Safety Net. Retrieved from Global Vaccine Safety: https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/initiative/communication/network/vaccine_safety_websites/en/



YC4PV SPECIAL ADDRESS TO THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

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To empower **young people** and to leverage the **Young Coalition for Prevention and Vaccination** to support and promote EU initiatives on vaccination at the national and EU level, to ensure **long term and sustainable transformation** towards resilient immunisation systems across Europe.

About ThinkYoung

ThinkYoung is the first think tank that focuses on young people. It was founded in 2007 and has expanded to have offices in Brussels, Geneva, Madrid and Hong Kong. It is a not-for-profit organisation, with the aim of making the world a better place for young people, by involving them in decision making processes and by providing decision makers with high quality research on key issues affecting young people. ThinkYoung conducts studies and surveys, makes documentary movies, writes policy proposals and develops education programmes: up to date, ThinkYoung projects have reached over 600,000 young people. Based on its research on young people`s necessities, ThinkYoung creates trainings and workshops to empower youth with the tools to have a positive impact and make a change.

About the Young Coalition for Prevention and Vaccination

In 2017, ThinkYoung conducted a research on Youth Vaccine Perception which was designed to investigate the awareness level of vaccination among young Europeans. Our research revealed that only the 65% of the young people interviewed considered the benefits of vaccination to outweigh the risks. Therefore, ThinkYoung has developed a project aiming at raising awareness about the relevance of the topic and at engaging with young people.

ThinkYoung built in January 2019 the Young Coalition for Prevention and Vaccination (YC4PV) composed of 30 young healthcare professionals with more than 15 nationalities, either engaged in healthcare or in health policy. The YC4PV main objective is to advocate the important role of vaccination and prevention across Europe, both at the EU and national level. The YC4PV created a Manifesto capturing 10 recommendations for actions in the field of immunization addressed to the members of the European Institutions.

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