

## **A short summary highlighting the relevant activities conducted within the WP3 and the major results achieved**

### **1. Survey “First Survey of Immunisation Programs in Europe”**

This survey was conducted in collaboration between WP1 and WP3. A standard questionnaire “Survey on immunisation programs in Europe” was developed by WP1 and was piloted in Italy, France and Ireland. Basic information was sought on childhood and adult vaccination schedules, additional vaccines for occupational groups and travellers, vaccine coverage monitoring, use of computerised immunisation registries, and monitoring of adverse events following immunisation. Data were analysed and a report, “First Survey of Immunisation programs in Europe”, was written by WP3 and placed on the VENICE website in August 2007. The survey results were disseminated using the ECDC biweekly newsletter and also presented by Dr. Lucia Pastore Celentano at the second VENICE workshop held on April 11-13 2007 in Venice.

The results of this study have shown that vaccinations are an important priority in all national health systems in Europe, they are provided to all of the population in each MS, irrespective of the social and economic status. Each MS has a special regulatory authority for vaccines, the “traditional vaccinations” - have a quite homogenous schedule across different countries, but new vaccinations show a heterogeneous picture across MSs in terms of schedules, doses, purchase and population targeted.

### **2. Survey “Vaccination Coverage Assessment in Europe”**

The second survey, “Vaccine coverage assessment in Europe”, was conducted by WP3 and sought more specific information on performance and frequency of vaccine coverage indicators, age groups for vaccine coverage assessment, methods used in assessing vaccine coverage for childhood and adult vaccination, validation of vaccine coverage data, and use of immunisation registries for different vaccines in all MSs. The survey was piloted by VENICE project leading countries using a standardised questionnaire specifically developed for this purpose. This questionnaire was administered using a web-based system developed by the IT department of VENICE project office at ISS and placed on website. Analysis of data was carried out and the “Final report on Vaccination coverage Assessment in Europe” was placed on VENICE website in January 2008. The preliminary data of this survey was presented on the second Workshop VENICE project on April 11-13 2007 held in Venice by WP3 leader Dr. Darina O’Flanagan.

This survey found that all countries assess vaccine coverage where these vaccines are included in the national routine immunisation schedule. The MSs assess vaccination coverage at a variety of time intervals. MSs reported a variety of methods for assessing vaccination coverage. Increasingly, more MSs are using computerised immunisation registries as a tool to measure coverage. There is a lack of agreement on



standards for such registries, which is needed to allow more meaningful interpretation of data on vaccination coverage assessment.

### **3. Survey “National Seasonal Influenza Vaccination, survey 2007”**

In mid 2007 VENICE Project was asked by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to conduct a survey regarding National Seasonal Influenza Vaccination. The questionnaire for this survey was developed as part of WP3 in collaboration with ECDC. The short study protocol was written to describe survey management and its objectives. Three VENICE project-leading partners piloted the web-based questionnaire. After the pilot study, the questionnaire was reviewed and amended as necessary.

This study is currently on-going (as of January 16<sup>th</sup>). The deadline for completing questionnaires is January 20<sup>th</sup> 2008. Data will be analysed by the end of January and preliminary results will be presented in mid February at a meeting jointly organized by the European Commission (DG Sanco C3) and the Public Health Executive Agency to be held in Luxembourg. This meeting will provide a forum to discuss influenza risk groups and European strategies on influenza prevention programmes.