



European Academy of Paediatrics
Paediatric Section of U.E.M.S (European Union of Medical Specialists)



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<https://coalitionforvaccination.com/news/39/coalition-for-vaccination-conference-brings-together-the-health-community-in-brussels>

The relevance of the EU Commission Coalition for Vaccination initiative from the perspective of the paediatric community

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European Academy of Paediatrics EAP/UEMS PS

The European Academy of Paediatrics / UEMS Section of Paediatrics represents European region paediatricians who are among the most trusted Health Professionals for children's care.

We are all aware that vaccination hesitancy/confidence can influence Early Child Development in a vicious circle not allowing children to develop to their full potential. It is known that practicing paediatricians spend one hour per workday on average on vaccine safety consultations.

Health care providers indeed influence parents' decisions and the majority of parents in Europe believe in the importance of childhood vaccination. However, significant lack of confidence has been found in several European countries (among parents as well as health care providers), highlighting the need for continuous monitoring, awareness and response plans.

In the era of digital health it is important to have a standardized European system for monitoring vaccinations also to facilitate health care across borders. Electronic health records should be used to support continuity of care and shared understanding of care needs.

Nurses and GPs (partly also pharmacists) are also involved in vaccination in many countries. TEAMWORK is therefore essential with proper and regularly updated CME and CPD in the science of immunization and communication techniques, which must be guaranteed for all the Health Professionals involved.



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TEAM-working in the field of vaccinations with a focus on prevention and health promotion has always been highly motivating for paediatricians and extremely relevant for the EAP and the paediatric community.

Family centred health services should include tailored integrated care in the community achieved through a trusting relationship between parents / grandparents and empathically listening paediatricians to obtain optimal confidence in vaccinations.

The EAP Vaccine confidence among parents large scale study in eighteen European countries demonstrated for the first time the possible influence of different types of healthcare professionals on parental decisions and calls for further research.

Monitoring and CME/CPD efforts - aimed mostly at those professionals who might not be likely to recommend vaccination - are strongly suggested to strengthen the positive influence of health care providers on vaccine confidence as mentioned in the CfV Childhood Vaccination Statement.

CONCLUSION

It is essential to motivate all health care providers to “revisit the theory” and enter the field of vaccination communication stepping beyond traditional approaches in education. SEKI , a VIVI and EAP initiative, is an integral part of IMMUNION and the Coalition for Vaccination and will be developed into a one-stop training resource for healthcare professionals in Europe. The European Board of Pediatrics/UEMS SP has ample experience in harmonising training content across Europe and will help develop the long-term trajectory for the SEKI training credits.

It is not enough to expect that multidisciplinary working can suddenly start and be effective in practice. It must start in the classroom with inter-professional education where possible. There should be shared education on vaccination confidence issues and shared inter-professional education on decision-making. ViVI and EAP will leverage their respective international networks to extend the reach of the SEKI program.