

EU ACTIVITIES OF RELEVANCE TO HEPATITIS

PRESENTATION AT VHPB
TECHNICAL MEETING, 5-6 APRIL,
ANTWERP

A pair of hands is shown from a top-down perspective, palms facing up, holding a red and orange awareness ribbon. The ribbon is looped and draped across the palms. The background is a dark, textured grey surface.

ACHIEVE

ASSOCIATIONS COLLABORATING ON HEPATITIS TO
IMMUNIZE AND ELIMINATE THE VIRUSES IN EUROPE

The ACHIEVE coalition is enabled by the support of AbbVie, Abbott, Cepheid and Gilead Sciences

DISCLOSURE

Katharina Ossenberg is part of the Secretariat of ACHIEVE, which is run by FIPRA International.

ACHIEVE is a multistakeholder coalition. ACHIEVE full members are ELPA, LPI, EATG, VHPB, World Hepatitis Alliance, Correlation and ISGlobal. ACHIEVE is co-funded by Abbvie, Abbott, Cepheid and Gilead.

ACHIEVE [Ways of Working](#)

FIPRA is a Government Affairs Consultancy based in Brussels, advising clients across a number of practice areas, including Healthcare, Life Sciences & Wellbeing.

Other than ACHIEVE, Katharina advises Holgogic, a diagnostics company specialised in women health.

IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

Funding: Direct Grant to Member State Authorities (EU4Health 2023) **EUR 97.300.000**

Aim: support Member States improving their surveillance systems and to facilitate the development of interoperable (with the ECDC surveillance system hosted by **ECDC**), reliable and modern national surveillance systems,

Builds on outcomes of the Joint Action **UNITED4Surveillance (EU4Health 2021)**. Covers action assessment of national surveillance systems, **infrastructure development**, capacity building and piloting, implementation and uptake according to **Member State priority needs**.

Link to Hepatitis: Grant covers the creation of customisable surveillance systems for a range of “EU surveillance notifiable diseases”, from epidemic-prone diseases to diseases that are part of prevention and control programmes.

Dates: Q1-Q2/2023 expected publication of the call by HaDEA

JOINT ACTION ON CANCER AND OTHER NCDs PREVENTION – ACTION ON HEALTH DETERMINANTS

Funding: Direct Grant to Member State authorities (EU4Health 2022) EUR 75.000.000

Approach: Led by Member States (nominated national authorities), to reduce the cancer and NCD burden, by tackling health determinants, including tobacco, harmful alcohol use, nutrition, but also human papillomavirus and **viral hepatitis**.

Aims: identify major **gaps** in cancer prevention; support the **definition** and **roll-out** of **best practices** through population-based and/or targeted **campaigns**; the definition of public health guidelines, the technical preparation and roll out of new policy approaches (supporting NGOs), etc.

Desired impact: increased number of public health interventions being **scaled up** in all Member States to improve **disease prevention and health promotion**, and management policies related to cancer and other NCDs, reducing **health inequalities**.

Coordinator: Norwegian Directorate of Health

Dates: 16 February 2023 Member States submitted proposal to HaDEA for subsequent review by independent experts appointed by the Agency.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT GROUP (PHEG)

Policy Initiative:

- Coordinated by DG SANTE, the group includes official **Member States representatives (appointed by Ministries of Health)** from EU/EEA, as well as Commission and agencies
- The **PHEG** will assist the Commission in the preparation of policy and legislative initiatives, establish guidelines and indicators, and **exchange best practices** and **research results** between Member States to address major public health challenges in the EU.
- The group seeks to address both non-communicable and **communicable diseases**. HIV, TB, and **viral hepatitis** will be included in the remit of the group.
- Special **subgroups** will focus on mental health and **vaccination**.
- Member States will have the opportunity to **express their views** on the group's priorities in a survey in March.
- A call for **Good practice submissions** by stakeholders should take place in mid 2023, which will be validated according to criteria established by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON VACCINE-PREVENTABLE CANCERS

Policy Initiative:

- One of the key initiatives of **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, the European Commission will propose a so-called EU Council Recommendation on vaccine preventable cancers, focusing on HPV and **HBV immunisation**.
- **HBV goal:** increase access and uptake for all affected population groups: migrants, people in prison settings, men who have sex with men (MSM), and people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), as well as pregnant women and healthcare workers, besides boosting childhood/ infant vaccination rates, which appear to be below targets set.
- Action to increase vaccination uptake will include: (1) reducing physical obstacles to vaccination; (2) targeted communication efforts; and (3) fighting mis- and disinformation, (4) monitoring of vaccination uptake, addressing data gaps.

Next steps: The Commission's **proposal** is expected for **late summer 2023**, with Health Ministers discussing, amending and adopting the final text for a Council Recommendation probably by **Q4 2023**.