

## ABSTRACTS SESSION 1

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### **International Vaccination Policies: Maximizing benefit of vaccines – measles vaccination as an example**

Abstract:

Immunization is the most important public health tool available to minimize morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases and should therefore be recognized as a core component of the human right to health and an individual, community and governmental responsibility. The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) envisions that the full benefits of immunization are extended to all individuals while the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa) envisions a world safe from global health threats posed by infectious diseases. GHSa emphasizes the use of measles immunization as a proxy indicator for overall immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases.

GVAP was adapted to address the specific needs and challenges related to immunization in the WHO European Region by the development of the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015–2020 (EVAP) in line with Health 2020 and other key regional health strategies and policies. EVAP aims to guide Member States in the European Region towards their joint vision of a Region free of vaccine-preventable diseases. It establishes six goals (sustain polio-free status, eliminate measles and rubella, control hepatitis B infection, meet regional vaccination coverage targets at all administrative levels throughout the Region, make evidence-based decisions on introduction of new vaccines and achieve financial sustainability of national immunization programmes) and outlines a path to achieve them through defined objectives, priority action areas, proposed actions and an evaluation and monitoring framework. Achievement of the outcomes of the actions undertaken within EVAP will be measured against these goals.

The Regional measles and rubella elimination goal will depend largely on obtaining political commitment (EVAP objective 1), achieving high coverage and closing immunity gaps (objectives 2 and 3) and ensuring high-quality, case-based surveillance (objective 4). In attaining this goal, improvements in immunization systems are expected to increase accessibility and reach with other vaccines with a wider impact on childhood morbidity and mortality reduction.

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