



LIFE COURSE IMMUNISATION SUMMIT

22-24 NOVEMBER 2023

A REPORT ON THE KEY DISCUSSIONS AND TAKEAWAYS



The summit underscored the importance of life-course immunisation, as laid out in the manifesto. It highlighted the need for enhanced public education, increased funding, and research in adult vaccination. It stressed the importance of addressing healthcare disparities, improving communication strategies, and innovating in vaccine development.

BE STRONG LEADERS

- Shared EU health competencies can help unite member states around health and prevention.
- The EU has made progress in shaping vaccine policy through recommendations, council conclusions, and the development of joint action groups.

MAKE VACCINATION A SOCIETAL GOOD

- In the context of climate change and conflict, we must ensure the most vulnerable in our society are protected from preventable infectious diseases.
- Investment in early warning systems and tailored refugee support can help protect society.

MOBILISE HEALTH WORKERS

- Health workers remain the most trusted source of health and vaccine recommendations.
- There are several tools available to help health workers engage with communities about vaccination.

INNOVATE ACCESS

- Advances in vaccine technology, including mRNA, can support dynamic approaches to vaccine development in line with emerging threats.
- Global preparedness and collaboration are needed to ensure equitable distribution of novel vaccine technology.

DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

- More data is needed to inform vaccine policies better and understand the comprehensive value of vaccination in preventing and reducing other chronic health conditions.
- Vaccination may protect against cognitive decline, but these findings require further research and the availability of novel data.

BUILD A BROAD COALITION

- To engage and serve multiple population groups of different ages, we must collaborate to increase local engagement and remove structural barriers.
- Broad collaboration is needed to address complex health equity challenges.

BUDGET FOR PREVENTION

- The cost of vaccine-preventable disease is high, and life-course vaccination can support European economic stability and health security.
- Demonstrate the economic value of vaccination to health and finance ministries.

TAKEAWAYS FOR THE NEXT CLCI MANIFESTO

- Focus on vulnerable groups, including refugees and older adults.
- Advocate for EU collaboration and leadership in vaccination as part of the free movement of people under Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.
- Support innovative technologies and data transparency.
- Campaign for increased funding and resource allocation for vaccination, especially in the context of climate change.

The Life Course Immunisation Summit

Charting the Path Forward:
Innovating and Advancing Life-Course Vaccination in Europe

7 STEPS TO LIFE-COURSE VACCINATION IN EUROPE

Vaccination can protect people of all ages. Here are 7 steps to delivering a sustainable approach to life-course immunisation.



1 STRONG LEADERSHIP

Europe needs strong leadership at all levels. We need to hear the voices of policymakers, healthcare professionals, and those who receive vaccines.



2 MAKE VACCINATION A SOCIETAL GOOD

Vaccination at all ages and stages of life must become the 'norm'. The societal benefits of vaccination must be reinforced to support demand from informed consumers.



3 MOBILISE HEALTH WORKERS

Healthcare professionals remain the most trusted group to deliver positive messages about vaccination - they need to be engaged to build public confidence.



4 INNOVATIVE ACCESS

Innovative actions are needed to increase access for citizens by broadening opportunities to receive information about vaccines - and for receiving vaccines themselves.



5 DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

Improved post-immunisation surveillance, data collection and research on the benefits of the life-course approach to vaccination are needed to support decision-making.



6 A BROAD COALITION

Industry, healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients and the general public must come together to deliver on our shared goal of increased vaccine uptake at all ages and stages of life.



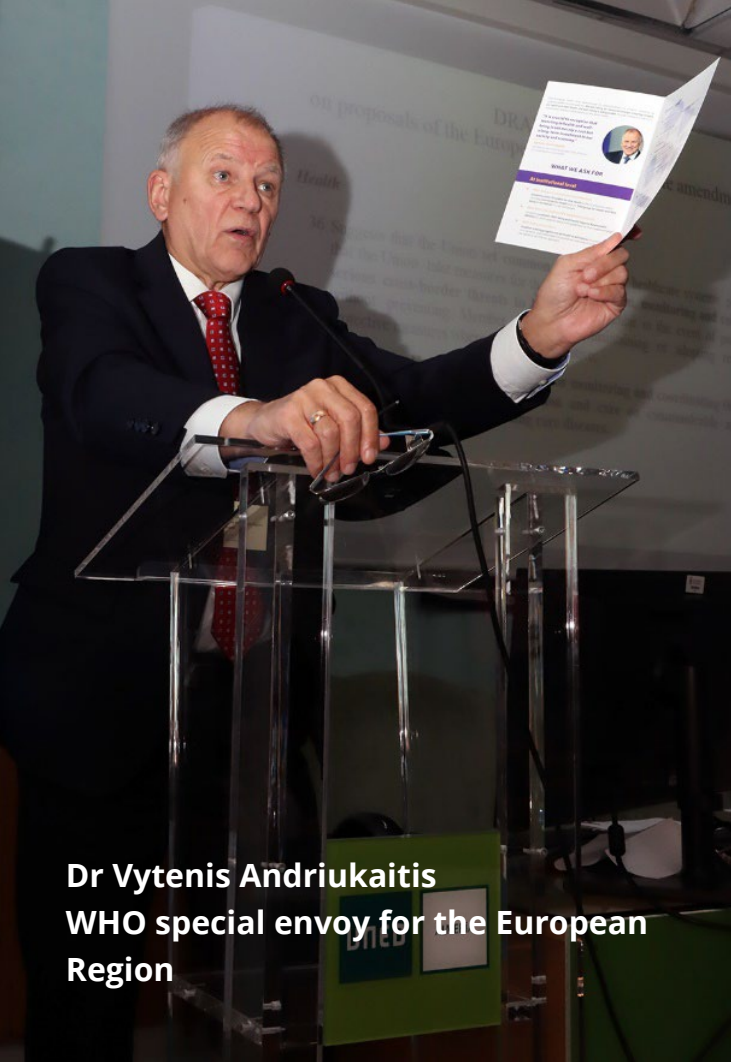
7 BUDGET FOR PREVENTION

Vaccination remains a powerful and cost-effective way to prevent hospitalisation and lost working time. With healthcare budgets under pressure, vaccination needs a protected funding stream.



Established in 2017, the LCI is a diverse network of expert members made up of associations from civil society, public health, patients, health NGOs and other advocacy groups, along with academics and health professionals from across Europe.

Coalition for Life-Course Immunisation
Registered Charity Number: 1182602
Registered UK Address: Horts House, 22 Whitecourt, Uley, GL115TG



Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis
WHO special envoy for the European Region

The Life Course Immunisation Summit was held in Almeria, Spain, on 22-24 November 2023. It convened 35 delegates, including 18 speakers, from various sectors such as medicine, patient organisations, advocacy groups, politics, academia, and industry across Europe. The [Coalition for Life Course Immunisation](#) and the [Balmis Institute](#) organised the event in collaboration with [Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia](#) (UNED). The talks and discussions were organised around CLCI's Manifesto: 7 Steps to Life Course Vaccination to identify progress, developments, and challenges to formulate the next iteration of the CLCI manifesto.

The summit achieved notable expansion of the CLCI network and increased its digital presence, with substantial growth in LinkedIn followers and significant engagement on various social media

platforms. This included substantial views and impressions for both the flagship video and post.

BE STRONG LEADERS

Vytenis Andriukaitis, WHO special envoy for the European Region, emphasised the critical nature of political will in health policy, which was notable during the COVID-19 pandemic. He advocates for decisive political action and commitment to implement effective health policies and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), especially in response to climate change and armed conflicts. The European Union's (EU) Joint Procurement Mechanism and the European Health Emergency Response Authority are examples of how EU cooperation can enhance health response capabilities. The free movement of people within the EU's single market means that adult immunisation sits squarely within the remit of EU action, as defined by Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. He highlights the need for amendments to the EU Treaty to enhance cooperation among Member States and implement shared EU health competencies. He points to the European Immunization Agenda 2030 and European Parliament resolutions as significant steps toward more robust health policy engagement in Europe.

Heike Galbraith of Dentons Global Advisors delved into the European Union's role in shaping vaccination policies. She discusses the factors driving these policies, including an ageing population, the economic and ethical benefits of vaccines, and the emergence of vaccine hesitancy. Key EU initiatives include the 2014 Council Conclusions, the 2018 Joint Action on Vaccination, and the Coalition for Vaccination. She emphasised the EU's strong response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the role of EU4Health and Horizon Europe in

supporting vaccination programs. Galbraith underscores the importance of sustainable funding, improved access to vaccination, and strategies to counter vaccine hesitancy as part of the EU's comprehensive approach to life course immunisation.

Establishing the [Adult Immunisation Board](#) and the CLCI call for an [MEP Interest Group on Life Course Immunisation](#), endorsed by 2 MEPs, marks a significant stride in fostering leadership in adult immunisation. These entities aim to enhance cross-disciplinary collaboration, raise awareness, and promote preventive healthcare through European immunisation.

WE MUST

- Advocate for EU cooperation enhancing health response capabilities, eg. The European Union's (EU) Joint Procurement Mechanism and the European Health Emergency Response Authority.
- Show policymakers that adult immunisation sits within the remit of EU action as part of the free movement of people within the EU's single market as defined by Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.
- Promote and build on EU initiatives in vaccination.
- Push for greater investment in adult vaccination program research and development, focusing on their role in preventing chronic diseases and reducing healthcare costs.

MAKE VACCINATION A SOCIETAL GOOD

Jean Pierre Michel, a distinguished geriatrician, underscored the importance of life course immunisation. He highlights ageing as a dynamic process significantly influenced by modifiable lifestyle and environmental factors. Michel's advocacy for adult vaccination is driven by the need to manage the substantial economic burden of vaccine-preventable diseases in adults. Emphasising the need for a paradigm shift, he calls for approaches that facilitate healthy ageing and mitigate hospitalisation and societal costs.



Dr Jean-Pierre Michel
University of Geneva

Ales Janda of Ulm University Hospital brought attention to the health challenges faced by refugees and migrants, particularly unaccompanied children. He advocates for improved health management and screening, suggesting centralised screening efforts to enhance health outcomes for these vulnerable groups and prevent future health crises. Addressing the complex

dynamics of ecological and climatic changes, he underscores the necessity for early

warning systems and enhanced surveillance to predict and mitigate pandemics.

WE MUST

- Emphasise the need for a paradigm shift that facilitates healthy ageing and mitigates hospitalisation and societal costs.
- Enhance health management for refugees and migrants through comprehensive health screening protocols and adequate medical care, especially for vulnerable groups like unaccompanied children.
- Encourage collaboration across disciplines to develop vaccination strategies that address population mobility and climate change challenges to ensure sustainable protection for the most vulnerable.

MOBILISE HEALTH WORKERS

Health workers remain the most trusted source of information and are vital to tackling vaccine hesitancy, improving public perception, and enhancing vaccine safety and access.

Barbara Rath from the [Vaccine Safety Initiative](#) detailed innovations and technologies helping mobilise health workers around vaccination. This included the ViVi Score App, which assists healthcare providers in assessing influenza-like illnesses and respiratory infections for better patient care. The [Immunisation Hubs Europe](#) (ImmuHubs), funded by the EU4Health programme, aims to increase vaccination coverage, especially among vulnerable groups, using community-based approaches and equipping healthcare professionals with essential tools and resources.

The Italian Quality Charter for Vaccination Services, as presented by Mariano Votta from the Active Citizenship Network, is a framework established to enhance the organisation and efficiency of vaccination

services in Italy. It focuses on principles that ensure effective and efficient healthcare services, emphasising the integration of digital tools. The Charter was developed in response to healthcare standards, access, and infrastructure disparities, especially highlighted during the pandemic. It aims to improve vaccination services, advocate for patient rights, and address challenges like



reduced staff and operational hours in vaccination centres.

The Charter is part of a broader commitment to promote active participation in healthcare policy and protect citizens' and patients' rights.

We must

- Implement strategies to address public vaccine hesitancy and enhance understanding of vaccination benefits.
- Leverage digital tools and innovations to support healthcare providers in delivering more informed patient care.
- Foster community-based approaches to improve vaccination access and coverage, particularly for at-risk populations.

INNOVATE ACCESS

Dr. Raul Ortiz de Lejarazu addressed the evolving landscape of vaccine development. He discussed the variability of pathogens, the importance of eliciting correct immune responses, and the challenges of population-specific vaccine needs. His emphasis on antigenic mapping, particularly of SARS-CoV-2 variants, and the necessity for global surveillance to monitor virus evolution highlights the dynamic nature of vaccine development.

Dr. Dirk Poelaert focused on the evolution of vaccine development, particularly the impact of mRNA technology. He stresses the importance of selecting appropriate antigens for diseases like RSV and HIV and advocates for global preparedness and equity in vaccine development. His call for a collaborative and cross-disciplinary approach to using new and existing vaccine platforms underlines the need for innovative solutions to combat infectious diseases.

We must

- Embrace and invest in cutting-edge vaccine platforms like mRNA technology to develop versatile and effective vaccines.
- Promote global collaboration and data sharing to enhance preparedness and response to emerging infectious diseases.
- Prioritise equitable access to vaccines globally, ensuring advancements in vaccine technology are accessible to all, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

Utilising data to understand the comprehensive and holistic value of vaccination throughout life is vital for informed vaccination strategies.

Data sharing and information accessibility across the EU must improve to share the benefits and challenges of vaccination across different populations with variable demographics and health status.

An open discussion between delegates highlighted new research which suggests a potential connection between vaccination, especially against influenza, and a reduced risk of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. This emphasises the broader benefits of vaccinations in potentially mitigating neuroinflammation, and neurodegeneration associated with specific infectious agents. More research and data are needed to illustrate the value of vaccination fully.

There are some tools available to utilise data:

The International Longevity Centre's Data Indexes, encompassing the [Pneumococcal Vaccination Atlas](#) (built in collaboration with

CLCI) and the [Healthy Ageing and Prevention Index](#), are tools that reveal insights into pneumococcal vaccination recommendations and gaps in coverage, aiming to inspire policy changes and improve access to preventive healthcare.

[Country Vaccine Score \(CVS\)](#): The CVS framework evaluates a nation's capacity to deliver quality vaccination services, offering a valuable tool for enhancing vaccination programs and public health outcomes. The scoring process, involving crowdsourcing and central review, is recognised as an essential measure despite its limitations in reflecting ground realities.

We must

- Utilise research data to advocate for vaccination's broader health benefits, including the potential to reduce dementia risk.
- Employ tools like CVS to evaluate and enhance national vaccination programs, focusing on preventive healthcare.
- Continue public health campaigns and monitor vaccination trends to ensure comprehensive coverage.



Patrick Swain
ILC-UK

BUILD A BROAD COALITION

All talks emphasised the need for collaboration across different sectors and knowledge bases to achieve life course vaccination. Addressing barriers and seizing opportunities for various demographics and age groups was highlighted as essential for cooperation and collaboration.

Patrick Swain from ILC-UK highlighted the need to increase vaccine uptake in adults and at-risk groups. He pointed out that less than half of adults with health conditions are vaccinated for influenza and pneumococcal diseases. He identifies misinformation, political disunity, structural barriers, and personal hesitance as crucial challenges. Strategies to improve uptake include enhanced information sharing, increased



Silvia Romeo
European Cancer
Organisation

engagement, and improved access.

Silvia Romeo, from the European Cancer Organisation, presented the attitudes of young Europeans towards vaccination, noting a general positivity but lingering hesitancy influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlights the need for targeted communication strategies to address regional vaccine access and preference variations.

We must

- Enhance local engagement by collaborating with healthcare professionals and community activists to boost vaccine awareness and education.
- Focus on eliminating obstacles like cost and inaccessibility to improve vaccine access, especially for at-risk and younger populations.
- Work across sectors and borders to develop comprehensive health equity strategies, integrating political will, civic engagement, and effective policy implementation.

shift in how health is perceived economically.

Prof Jan Semenza from Umea University shed light on the relationship between ecology, climate change, and the emergence of pandemics. He highlights the need for investment in early warning systems to enhance vaccine development, especially for diseases exacerbated by climate change, like vector-borne illnesses.

We must

- Leverage national economic data to advocate for increased vaccination and preventive healthcare investment, recognising their financial and national security role.
- Engage diverse stakeholders, including health and finance ministries, to demonstrate and advocate for the economic advantages of life course vaccination policies and public health strategies.
- Encourage investment in early warning systems for diseases exacerbated by climate change, like vector-borne illnesses.

BUDGET FOR PREVENTION

The summit emphasised the economic benefits and cost-effectiveness of vaccination in the context of an ageing, highly mobile population. The role of effective national immunisation programs in national security and financial stability was illustrated using the COVID-19 pandemic as a prime example.

Sibilia Quilici from Vaccines Europe emphasised the importance of developing and disseminating economic data to demonstrate the value of vaccination in terms of GDP and the broader economy. She advocates for integrating health and vaccination into financial and national security strategies and calls for a paradigm



Sibilia Quilici
Vaccines Europe

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The summit underscored the importance of a life course approach to immunisation, highlighting the need for enhanced public education, increased funding, and research in adult vaccination. It stressed the importance of addressing healthcare disparities, improving communication strategies, and innovating in vaccine development. The findings and recommendations from this summit pave [the way for more effective and inclusive vaccination strategies](#), recognising the pivotal role of immunisation in public health across all ages.

For CLCI to refresh and redefine its manifesto based on the summit, the focus should be on advocacy strategies that align with learning from this summit:

- Emphasise the need for a paradigm shift that facilitates healthy ageing and mitigates hospitalisation and societal costs.
- Advocate for EU cooperation enhancing health response capabilities, eg. The European Union's (EU) Joint Procurement Mechanism and the European Health Emergency Response Authority.
- Show policymakers that adult immunisation sits within the remit of EU action as part of the free movement of people within the EU's single market as defined by Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.
- Promote and build on EU initiatives in vaccination to call for comprehensive vaccination strategies that include all age groups, focusing on underserved demographics like migrants, refugees, older adults and those with chronic conditions.
- Advocate for greater transparency in vaccine-related data and support

research initiatives that explore the broader benefits of vaccination, such as its potential role in reducing the risk of dementia.

- Emphasise the importance of collaboration between healthcare providers, governments, NGOs, and the private sector to enhance the effectiveness of vaccination campaigns and public health strategies.
- Lobby for increased funding and resource allocation for preventive healthcare, particularly vaccination programs, emphasising their role in national health and economic stability.
- Encourage investment in early warning systems and vaccine development for diseases exacerbated by climate change, like vector-borne illnesses.