



Expert Conference on Vaccination
**“Building public trust as a pathway
to vaccine acceptance”**

21–22 November 2022, Prague, Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



EU2022.CZ



Vlastimil Válek
Minister of Health

Dear colleagues,
ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the heart of Europe, Prague. I am honoured that the most esteemed European experts and stakeholders accepted our invitation to the Expert Conference on vaccination: **Building public trust as a pathway to vaccine acceptance**, which is organized under the Czech Presidency of the Council of EU.

You are opening a brochure, which will guide you through your stay in Prague to make it as pleasant as possible. On the following pages, you will find useful information that will help you to get acquainted with the Conference, its program,

honoured speakers, and practical advice.

The conference is taking place in one of the most famous Czech hotels in the heart of Prague's diplomatic district, which has hosted many world figures including politicians, athletes and actors.

The Czech Presidency focuses on of the most challenging and important topics of today's healthcare. The third expert conference of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU follows the successful conferences on oncology and rare diseases.

We gathered here to discuss the most important thing we can do to protect our health and the whole population against illnesses. Vaccination represents a key component of the health care that brings the world close to eradicating diseases. Furthermore, vaccination is also investment in the future. It not only improves our health, but it is also a good way of increasing economic and social perspectives.

Despite all what vaccines has achieved for the humankind, we are facing a major threat to the public health. The vaccine hesitancy is a growing challenge for the future that needs to be addressed. Although vaccine hesitancy is not a new phenomenon, we still need to better understand why people worry about getting vaccinated so that we can tackle it. We have witnessed the scope of the problem during the last two years of Covid-19 pandemic, which gave us many valuable lessons to build on. The importance of vaccination needs to be emphasized also

because of the ageing population and other crises we face such as the climate change and migration. Vaccine hesitancy is a growing problem that requires our attention. Every health care system is different, which needs to be respected. However, we already know that the cooperation and coordinated approach is the key in solving and preparing for upcoming challenges and crises. The EU is a crucial actor in this regard and throughout its existence has created an environment for strengthening cooperation and coordination. I am extremely grateful that you have come to Prague from all over Europe to discuss, share your experiences and dedicate your time to improving public health.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all agree that vaccination is important, but it is also important to do it in the most effective way. I am sure this Conference will provide us with a fruitful discussion, which we can further build on to strengthen the vaccine confidence. I wish you a most pleasant stay in Prague.

Scope and purpose

Immunization is one of the greatest success stories in public health, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines are considered as one of the most powerful and cost-effective tools of infectious disease outbreaks prevention and control. Although the benefits of vaccines far outweigh the risks and vaccination has made an enormous contribution to human health, vaccination coverage has, according to the WHO, plateaued in recent years and has even dropped since 2020. The vaccine hesitancy is a wicked problem being ranked by the WHO among the 10 biggest threats to health. The size and scope of the issue was further highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy has been substantially influenced by diverse factors, among which concerns about the perceived safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, exacerbated by the rapid spread of misinformation, may prevail in a number of Member States.

Building on the Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases from 2018 and valuable lessons learned during last years of COVID-19 pandemic, the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU intends to address this unfavourable trend. Stagnating vaccination rates and increasing reluctance to vaccinate could pose a major problem in the future, as in the context of global development, specifically climate change, the emergence of

new diseases and new health crises can be expected. Even though immunization programmes are in the competence of Member States, given the cross-border nature of infectious diseases and the common challenges faced by national immunisation programmes, a more coordinated EU approach would be beneficial to prevent the spread of epidemics and vaccine-preventable diseases more effectively.

This intention to strengthen EU cooperation to prepare for upcoming challenges and support joint efforts to tackle vaccination hesitancy and increasing public confidence in vaccination is reflected in the draft of Council conclusions on vaccination, which is to be submitted for adoption by Health Ministers at the EPS-CO Council in December.

The Conference will provide a platform for Member States and relevant stakeholders from the European Commission and EU agencies, representatives from WHO, European healthcare professionals' and patients' organizations, vaccine producers and other relevant experts to discuss some practical aspects of the draft of Council conclusions on vaccination and several other key issues that require increased attention.

The Conference program focuses on the following thematic blocks:

Building vaccine acceptance through communication

Vaccination is one of the few activities in the field of disease prevention that meets all the conditions set

by contemporary “evidence-based” medicine, and its questioning is one of the fashionable but totally undesirable phenomena of post-modern society, which emphasizes the freedom of individual decision-making without the necessary balance of duties and responsibilities, in the sense of the principle of solidarity with the society in which they live. The power and negative impact of disinformation on vaccination uptake was felt most significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the WHO, the flood of false or inaccurate information about the virus, which is spreading rapidly through social media, can cause confusion, create mistrust and undermine an effective public health response.

Although the problem of disinformation and vaccine hesitancy has been significantly highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, we should not limit it only to COVID-19. Already in 2019, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker held a global vaccination summit in Brussels in response to the growing number of people, particularly in Europe, who are refusing to have their children vaccinated because of false information filling social media. Global leaders and health experts agreed at the summit that eliminating the spread of fake news and misinformation on vaccination is as important task as ensuring the availability of vaccines.

With this in mind, we should build on the outcomes of the summit and make use of experience we have gained in recent years to make the

fight against mis and disinformation more effective in order to increase vaccination uptake.

The role of primary care in communication

Prevention of infectious diseases through vaccination, particularly for children, has been in the hands of general practitioners for children and adolescents over a long period of time. In recent years, however, the first recommendations for adult vaccination have been established. This change of mindset was advanced, on the one hand, by the use of existing vaccines for adult vaccination (specification of vaccine dose rates, re-vaccination intervals, specification of duration of protection) and also by the development of new vaccines indicated for use in adults. At the same time, the changes in the epidemiology of certain diseases, such as the shift in pertussis from childhood to adulthood, advanced the discussions as well.

The experience with the COVID-19 pandemic can help us modernize current paradigms and approaches to vaccination. At a time when large numbers of people needed to be vaccinated in a relatively short time, Member States came up with a number of innovative solutions, whether in the form of setting up vaccination centres, making vaccination available in pharmacies or involving general practitioners (GPs) more intensively.

We should draw on this experience and make use of the momentum, especially in the case of the more

intense involvement of GPs. A simple argument can be made that the GPs have traditionally been regarded by society as the first line of care. Also, various opinion surveys have shown that the GPs are seen as the ones who should provide patients with information about vaccines, and subsequently should be in charge of its administration.

EU expert forum on tackling vaccine hesitancy

Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context specific varying across time, place and vaccines and it cannot be addressed by a one fit all solution. On the contrary, it is necessary to take a comprehensive approach and involve all relevant actors in order to come up with a successful solution.

Member States, at the meeting of the Working Group on Public Health (High Level) on 26 July 2022, expressed support for the establishment of an Expert Group to address the topic of vaccine hesitancy. It was stressed that the problem of vaccine reluctance must be addressed comprehensively, involving experts from several sectors, e.g. education experts, communication experts, behavioural experts, etc.

The Presidency has reflected this request in the draft of Council conclusions on vaccination to be adopted by Health Ministers at the EPSCO Council in December. The aim of the Conference is to discuss the practical form of this group to best fulfil its purpose.

Future of vaccination: accessibility and development of innovative vaccines

The latest scientific evidence shows that climate change and human health are closely linked. The threat of infectious diseases is increasing as data show that environmental changes are worsening respiratory health problems, increasing the spread of diseases which are now absent in certain parts of the EU and promoting antimicrobial resistance. The health impacts of environmental change also disproportionately affect underserved populations.

Research and development of new vaccines, known as preclinical and clinical trials, is a complex, long-term process during which the safety, efficacy and quality of a new product are examined. Before a vaccine reaches the market and patients, it goes through three phases of testing. Its properties and capabilities are tested at dozens of research centres across the world and in collaboration with many physicians and volunteers.

If we do not want to face spread of further epidemics in the future, we should take advantage of the situation and focus on research and development of new vaccines for diseases that can be expected to spread in the EU in the context of climate change

Vaccination in digital age

Digitalisation offers great potential to improve vaccine uptake, supporting the need for effective life-course immunisation services. Although the Regulation on European Health Data Space is currently under negotiation and is expected to deepen the digitalisation of health systems in the EU, we should already be discussing ways to use the benefits and achievements of digitalisation in order to improve vaccination coverage in the EU.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that Member States benefit from joint collaboration. Particularly the establishment of the EU Digital COVID Certificate was an important milestone. Ministers of Health have expressed their support for establishment of an EU Vaccination passport during the Informal meeting of Health Ministers in Prague organized by the Czech Presidency in September this year. Ministers also stressed that this instrument should not be used to restrict cross-border movement, but rather to promote its facilitation.

It is obvious that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the developments and the time has come to discuss the opportunities that digitalisation offer us to improve vaccination rates in the EU.

Programme

Monday, 21. 11. 2022

Time	Programme	Speaker
13:30 – 14:00	Registration and welcome coffee	
14:00 – 14:10	Welcome remarks from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health of the Czech Republic	Mr. Vlastimil Válek
14:10 – 14:20	Remarks from the Commissioner for Values and Transparency	Ms. Věra Jourová
14:20 – 14:30	Remarks from the Director of the ECDC	Ms. Andrea Ammon
14:30 – 14:40	Remarks from the Executive Director of the EMA	Ms. Emer Cooke
14:40 – 16:00	BLOCK I. BUILDING VACCINE ACCEPTANCE THROUGH COMMUNICATION	
	Representative of ECDC Director	Ms. Andrea Ammon
	Representative of DG SANTE Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis management	Ms. Isabel de la Mata
	UNICEF perspective Social and Behaviour Change Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	Mr. Sergiu Tomsa
	Finland's experience Chief specialist from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare	Ms. Mia Kontio
	Denmark's experience Deputy director of the Danish Health Authority	Ms. Kristine Møll Harboe
	Industry perspective Executive Director of Vaccines Europe	Ms. Sibilija Quilici
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee break	

Time	Programme	Speaker
16:15 – 17:40	PARALLEL SESSION I THE ROLE OF PRIMARY CARE IN COMMUNICATION	
	<p>Estonia's experience Chief specialist from the Estonian Health Board</p> <p>Sweden's experience Outgoing Swedish Vaccine Coordinator</p> <p>Portugal's experience Coordinator of the Vaccination Center, the Directorate-General for Health, Portugal Ministry of Health</p> <p>Primary care perspective European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)</p> <p>Pharmacy perspective Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)</p> <p>Vaccinologist University of Antwerp</p> <p>Patient perspective European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)</p>	<p>Ms. Kerli Reintamm</p> <p>Mr. Richard Bergström</p> <p>Ms. Diana Costa</p> <p>Ms. Madalina Georgeta Vesa</p> <p>Mr. Jorge Batista</p> <p>Ms. Greet Hendrickx</p> <p>Ms. Rosa Castro</p>
16:15 – 17:40	PARALLEL SESSION II EU EXPERT FORUM ON TACKLING VACCINE HESITANCY	

Time	Programme	Speaker
	<p>Representative of ECDC</p>	Mr. Piotr Kramarz
	<p>Deputy Head of Unit Disease Programmes and Deputy Chief Scientist</p>	
	<p>Representative of EMA</p>	Ms. Melanie Carr
	<p>Head of the Stakeholders and Communication Division</p>	
	<p>Representative of DG SANTE</p>	Ms. Isabel de La Mata
	<p>Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis management</p>	
	<p>Representative of WHO</p>	Mr. Siddhartha Sankar Datta
	<p>Regional Adviser for Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization</p>	
	<p>Communication expert</p>	Mr. Josef Havelka
	<p>Managing director of Contagious (marketing company)</p>	
	<p>Vaccinologist</p>	Mr. Matti Söllberg
	<p>Professor and biomedical analyst, Karolinska Institutet</p>	
	<p>NGO perspective</p>	Ms. Daphné Holt
	<p>Coalition for Life Course Immunisation (CLCI)</p>	

17:40 – 18:00 SUMMARY OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

Time	Programme	Speaker
	Moderator of the Parallel session I Society of General Practice, J. E. Purkyně Czech Medical Association	Ms. Ludmila Bezdíčková
	Moderator of the Parallel session II Czech Permanent Representation in Brussels	Ms. Kristýna Králová
19:00	Evening reception	

Tuesday, 22. 11. 2022

Time	Programme	Speaker
08:30 - 09:00	Welcome coffee	
09:00 - 10:45	BLOCK II. FUTURE OF VACCINATION: ACCESSIBILITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE VACCINES	
	Representative of HERA Director-General	Mr. Pierre Delsaux
	Representative of EMA Head of the Stakeholders and Communication Division	Ms. Melanie Carr
	Czech's experience Deputy Minister of Health	Mr. Jakub Dvořáček
	Spain's experience Head of Biotechnology and Biological Products, the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices	Mr. Agustin Portela
	Industry perspective Executive Director of Vaccines Europe	Ms. Sibilía Quilici
	BARDA (USA) perspective BARDA DRiVe Director	Mr. Sandeep Patel

Time	Programme	Speaker
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:45	BLOCK III. VACCINATION IN DIGITAL AGE	
	Representative of DG SANTE Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis management	Ms. Isabel de La Mata
	Representative of WHO Regional Adviser for Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization	Mr. Siddhartha Sankar Datta
	Patient perspective European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)	Ms. Rosa Castro
	Primary care perspective Vice President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the Coalition for Vaccination	Mr. Ray Walley
	Data protection expert Expert at the Czech Permanent Representation in Brussels (during CZ PRES); Data Protection Coordinator, DG SANTE	Mr. Dalibor Vojta
12:45 – 13:00	CONFERENCE SUMMARY	
	Conference summary and closing remarks by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health of the Czech Republic	Mr. Vlastimil Válek

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Ms. Andrea Ammon
(Welcome remarks and Block I.)

was appointed Director of ECDC in June 2017. From April 2011 to April 2015, she was a Deputy to the Director and Head of Unit for Resource Management and Coordination. From May 2015, she was ECDC's Acting Director. She joined ECDC as the Head of the Surveillance Unit in 2005. The unit was responsible for developing The European Surveillance System (TESSy), implementing a long-term surveillance strategy for the European Union (EU), evaluating the Dedicated Surveillance Networks (DSN), performing step-by-step transfer of DSN activities to ECDC, revising the EU case definitions and producing an Annual Epidemiological Report on infectious diseases in the EU. Before joining ECDC, she served in several roles at the Robert Koch-Institute. She maintained and further developed the German national surveillance system. She coordinated the national outbreak response team for current and emerging infections, emergency planning for influenza, epidemiological research programmes in infectious diseases, provided scientific advice for government Ministries, Members of Parliament, and the public and directed the national Field Epidemiology Training Programme.



Mr. Jorge Batista
(Parallel session I.)

is the current Professional Affairs Advisor of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), representing the voice of community pharmacists in Brussels. Before joining PGEU, Jorge was Secretary General of the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society, having also occupied the position of International Affairs Lead, and Pharmacist responsible for the Professional Development Programme in the same organisation. He is also a PhD. candidate in International Health at the Portuguese Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, specializing in Health Policies and Development.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Mr. Richard Bergström
(Parallel session I.)

is a pharmacist by training. Until 1992 he worked at the Medical Products Agency as Assistant Head of Registration. Afterwards he moved to Switzerland where he worked for nine years in regulatory affairs at Roche and Novartis. He also served as Director-General of LIF, the Swedish Pharmaceutical Industry Association. He held the position as Director General of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). Richard Bergström was also appointed by the Swedish Government to the Board of the Karolinska Institutet. In 2020 he has been appointed to be Sweden's vaccine coordinator, which forms an important part of the vaccine strategy presented by the Swedish government in May 2020. His appointment runs until 2022. He received his MSc Pharmacy degree from the University of Uppsala.



Ms. Melanie Carr
(Parallel session II. and Block II.)

is Head of the Stakeholders and Communication Division and a member of the Executive Board at the European Medicines Agency (EMA). She joined EMA in 1996 and has held various roles in pharmacovigilance, the centralised procedure for marketing authorisation, orphan medicines, the SME office and corporate stakeholders department. In her current role she is responsible for stakeholder relations management, communication, and crisis management. She has a degree in Pharmacy from the University of Nottingham in the UK and worked as a regulatory professional in the pharmaceutical industry prior to joining EMA.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Ms. Rosa Castro
(Parallel session I. and Block III.)

is the Senior Policy Manager for Healthcare Delivery and EPHA Networks' Coordinator. Among other activities, she represents EPHA in the Patients' and Consumers Working Party at the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and on the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Civil Society Advisory Forum. She obtained a PhD in European Law and Economics, and an MA in Bioethics and Science Policy, wrote a book and articles on patents and health, was a postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute, and at Duke University, USA, and lectured on intellectual property and health law. Before joining EPHA in 2021, she also worked in Brussels as Senior Scientific Policy Officer at the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) and as Senior Policy Advisor at a public policy consultancy.



Ms. Emer Cooke
(Welcome remarks)

is as of 16 November 2020 the new Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency. She also takes the role of Chair of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA). She was the Director responsible for all medical product-related regulatory activities at the World Health Organization in Geneva between November 2016 and November 2020. In this role, Ms Cooke was responsible for leading WHO's global work on regulation of health technologies and working with member states and international partners to assure the quality, safety and efficacy of appropriate health technologies. From September 1998 to July 2002, she worked in the Pharmaceuticals unit of the European Commission. Ms. Cooke is a pharmacist with Masters degrees in Science and Business Administration.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Ms. Diana Costa
(Parallel session I.)

has a master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Lisbon. Her research – initiated in 2015 - was focused on public health concerns regarding vaccination and vaccine-preventable diseases and, more concretely, about flu, tuberculosis, and pneumococcal vaccination. Diana had her first experience working on vaccination at the Directorate-General of Health (DGS) for four months in 2018. Afterwards, Diana returned to DGS in October 2020 to work on COVID-19 vaccination, while also being a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for COVID-19 Vaccination (NITAG), and in September 2022 she integrated a newly formed Vaccination Group. She obtained certificates from a postgraduate training in Management for Health Professionals at NOVA School of Business and Economics, and a postgraduate course in Health Law. Additionally, she completed a professional development certificate program in Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in 2022, and is currently a PhD Student in Pharmacoepidemiology at the University of Lisbon.



Mr. Siddhartha Sankar Datta
(Parallel session II. and Block III.)

a medical graduate from India with a Master's in Public Health from Manchester Metropolitan University UK, has been involved in the field of immunization since 2004 when he joined the National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), WHO India as a Surveillance Medical Officer followed by his tenure as State Routine Immunization Officer in Uttar Pradesh under WHO-NPSP India. He joined WHO Papua New Guinea in 2010 and thereafter served in WHO Lao PDR as Immunization Team Lead until 2016. Upon his relocation to Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization programme in WHO Europe in 2016, he has served in the Accelerated Disease Control team followed in late 2017 by managing the newly formed Immunization and Surveillance Data team as an acting Team Lead. Since Jan 2019, he took over the role of Regional Adviser. Over the past 18 years working in subnational, national and regional levels, he has served in three WHO Regions and brings the experience of understanding the varied needs of the Member States.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Mr. Pierre Delsaux
(Block II.)

is Director-General to the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (DG HERA). After studying Law at the University of Liège, he obtained his Master of Law at the Northwestern University, Chicago. He was Legal Secretary at the European Court of Justice. He worked in the private sector before joining the European Commission in 1991. He started his career within the European Commission in the Directorate General for Competition. In 2007, he was appointed Director responsible for regulating the financial services. In 2011, he was appointed Deputy Director General with responsibilities for the Single Market in the EU. From November 2015, he was in charge of Space Policy and Defence. On 01/01/2020 he was appointed Deputy Director General at the European Commission Directorate General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS). On 1st December 2021, he joined the Directorate General for Health (DG SANTE).



Mr. Jakub Dvořáček
(Block II.)

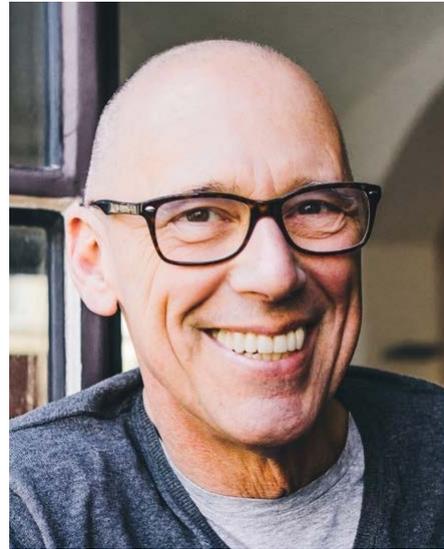
joined the Ministry of Health and took up the role of Deputy Minister for CZPRES in February. He has been the Executive Director of Association of the Innovative Pharmaceutical Industry since 2011. From 2009 to 2011 he served as Director of the Investment Division in CzechInvest, investment promotion agency at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, supporting the inflow of foreign direct investments to the Czech Republic and managing the network of foreign offices. Concurrently he served as an advisor to the minister at the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. Previously he held number of management positions in Caritas Czech Republic managing large health awareness programs, development and humanitarian projects around the world. He graduated from Charles University (Prague) and later accomplished postgraduate program Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA). In 2020, he completed his Master of Laws studies (LL.M.)

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Ms. Kirstine Moll Harboe
(Block I.)

is a medical doctor and PhD., specialized in clinical pharmacology and currently a Deputy Director at the Danish Health Authority at the department for Preparedness and infectious diseases. As a deputy director, she is responsible for vaccine deployment. Dr. Harboe has many clinical experiences from various medical specialities and solid regulatory experience from EMA. Her fields of expertise and interest are pharmacology, paediatric regulation, biosimilar development, scientific advice, vaccines or internal medicine. During the Covid-19 pandemic she was involved in the regulatory approval of COVID-19 vaccines.



Mr. Josef Havelka
(Parallel session II.)

is a Czech communication expert. He lived and worked in Germany, where he gained experiences at the global advertising agency Leo Burnett. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he was offered to return to Prague to set up and run the Czech office of Leo Burnett. From the agency's director in Prague, he became the director for Central and Eastern Europe and eventually worked for the well-known Ogilvy or the Czech bank Česká spořitelna. Currently, he heads the Czech branch of the creative agency Contagious.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Ms. Greet Hendrickx
(Parallel session I.)

is a biomedical engineer working as a project manager in different disciplines focussing on vaccine-preventable diseases, and since 2007 in the Centrum of evaluation of Vaccination, at the University of Antwerp. Managing the executive secretariat of the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board and the Adult Immunization Board. Since the last 5 years, she was involved in (European) projects on vaccine confidence, preparedness and education (e.g. VACSATC, EU-JAV, VACCELERATE, IMMUNION,...) and part of the European Hub of the Vaccine Confidence project.



Ms. Daphné Holt
(Parallel session II.)

is Chair of the Coalition for Life-Course Immunisation (CLCI). She joined the world of charity management in 1999 after 30 years in medical research and education with the UK Medical Research Council and at Imperial College in London. During her career in science and as a charity manager Daphné Holt has published and presented on meningococcal disease, especially in the newborn. She also served on the WHO Working Group on the terms of reference for the International Coordinating Group (ICG) on Vaccine Provision for Epidemic Meningitis Control. Daphné is a member of the editorial board of Vaccine Today.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Ms. Věra Jourová

(Welcome remarks)

is the current European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency and deals with democracy, the rule of law, disinformation, and media pluralism. Between 2014-2019 she was a European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. Prior to joining the EU institutions, she was a Czech Minister for Regional Development and a Deputy Minister. She also worked as a consultant on European Union funding and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. She holds a Degree in Law (Mgr.) and a Master's degree (Mgr.) in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague.



Ms. Mia Kontio

(Block I.)

is currently working as the team leader for the supervision of the national immunization programme in Finland. She has extensive experience in laboratory and epidemiological surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases mostly focusing on measles, mumps, rubella and hepatitis A. She has spent most of her professional career in the laboratory, and she has supervised the national measles and rubella reference laboratory in Finland for more than ten years. She is the leading national expert on measles, mumps and rubella as well as MMR vaccination. She has been involved in outbreak investigations, disease surveillance as well as population level studies. She is a member of the NITAG in Finland. As the head of the national immunization program she has had during the Covid-19 pandemic a very important role in also leading the national covid-19 vaccination program as well as being one of the main media spokespersons.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Mr. Piotr Kramarz
(Parallel session II.)

is a physician by training, board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. He holds a PhD. in immunology of viral infections and has eight years of clinical practice experience in a teaching hospital in Poland in the field of infectious diseases. He is a US CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) alumnus (class of 1997) and worked in the National Immunization Programme of the US CDC during his EIS programme. He has joined the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in 2007. He is currently the deputy head of Unit Disease Programmes and Deputy Chief Scientist of the Centre. During the COVID-19 pandemic he has worked as part of the roster of public health emergency managers of ECDC.



Ms. Isabel de la Mata
(Block I. and II. and Parallel session II.)

is a specialist in Preventive Medicine and Public Health and currently works as the Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis management in the EU Commission. She worked as Counsellor for Health and Consumers at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU, as Deputy Director General for Health Planning at the Spanish Ministry of Health, as Adviser to the Vice-minister of Health and several other posts at the Ministry of Health of Spain and the Regional Departments in the Basque Country and in Madrid. She has worked with WHO, including as a member of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee, Pan American Health Organisation, Inter-American Development Bank, and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Mr. Sandeep Patel
(Block II.)

is the current Director of the Division of Research, Innovation, & Ventures (DRIVE) at the Biomedical Research & Development Authority (BARDA), within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). At DRIVE, he has overseen a diverse portfolio of investments, partnerships, and novel financing strategies aimed at advancing potentially transformative technologies and capabilities to improve our ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to health emergencies like pandemics. This includes 65+ technology development partnerships in areas such as microneedle patch-based vaccine delivery, novel and home-based diagnostics, the launch of HHS' first public-private venture capital fund BARDA Ventures, the BARDA Accelerator Network, and the Blue Knight startup incubator partnership. He co-founded and led the \$35M+ public-private partnership, KidneyX, which aims to develop breakthrough therapies for kidney disease, notably an artificial kidney to displace dialysis. He also spearheaded the Presidential Advancing American Kidney Health Initiative, which aimed to reform the nation's organ transplant system to improve access to life-saving organs, get more patients off dialysis, and improve prevention of kidney failure.



Mr. Agustin Portela
(Block II.)

is a Head of the Biotechnology and Biological Products Area at the Department of Medicine for Human Use dealing with clinical aspects for human vaccines at the Spanish Agency of Medicine and Medical Devices. Most of his professional career has been developed in the Virology field. He is a member of the "EMA vaccines Working Party" and a member of the "COVID-19 EMA pandemic Task Force". He is also a Member of the Spanish National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAG). Between 1986 and 2000, he was a head of research a lab in molecular biology of several viruses. He gained PhD in Biological Sciences at Universidad Autonoma in Madrid.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Ms. Sibilja Quilici
(Block I. and II.)

is an Executive Director of Vaccines Europe at EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations). With nearly 15 years of experience in working for the vaccine industry, she holds a track record in studies valuing the full benefits of preventative measures (such as vaccines), from a micro and macro socio-medicoeconomic perspective, addressing all relevant stakeholder concerns (supra-national institutions, government, industry, society, healthcare professionals and citizens). She holds an International MBA in entrepreneurship and MScs in Health Economics & biostatistics.



Ms. Kerli Reintamm
(Parallel session I.)

works as a Chief Specialist in the Department of Communicable Diseases at the Republic of Estonia Health Board. Her everyday work is mainly related to everything that concerns immunization and vaccines against infectious diseases (from COVID-19 to national immunisation schedule vaccines such as poliomyelitis and HPV). Her tasks include developing guidance materials to health care workers and giving input to national vaccination strategies as well as informing the general public via media. With her work she is hoping to combat vaccine hesitancy and improve awareness of the benefits of vaccination. Kerli recently completed her Public Health degree (MSc) at the University of Tartu. In her thesis she studied the factors related to HPV prevalence among women starting cervical cancer screening in Estonia. She also has a degree in Gene Technology (BSc) and has previously worked at the University of Tartu Institute of Genomics to support Estonia's national personalised medicine project.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Mr. Matti Sällberg
(Parallel session II.)

is a Head of Department of Laboratory Medicine at Karolinska Institutet. He has more than 20 years of experience in vaccine development including leading vaccines to the clinical trials. His main research interests are in viral hepatitis and vaccine development. He has published over 140 scientific papers in the area. His research group was the first to take a therapeutic DNA vaccine delivered by in vivo electroporation for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C from the laboratory to phase I clinical testing. He has been the cofounder of several biotech companies, the most recent the Swedish Vaccine Factory (Svenska Vaccinfabriken).



Mr. Sergiu Tomsa
(Block I.)

is a Social and Behaviour Change Specialist with UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, providing technical advice, guidance and support to UNICEF country offices and national stakeholders in generating social and behaviour evidence, designing and testing behavioural insights solutions, developing and implementing behaviour and social change strategies in the areas of immunization, early childhood development, social inclusion, parenting and other. In the area of immunization, Sergiu has led in 2018 the development of a regional training package on interpersonal communication for immunization for health workers, focused on addressing health workers bias and hesitancy and equipping them with competencies and tools to identify, understand and address vaccine hesitancy and strengthen demand for immunization, used by countries across the region. He also developed guidance and job aids for health professionals, initiated a regional social listening programme with focus on COVID-19 and immunization. He has a master's degree in social psychology.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Ms. Madalina Georgeta Vesa
(Parallel session I.)

is a doctor in the field of family medicine. She worked in the Emergency Hospital in Romania, and she is a Member of the Immunization Working Group of the National Society of Family Medicine and she was a lecturer within the POSDRU European programme Breast, colorectal and cervix cancer screening. She is an author of seminars, workshops, symposia and presentations on the themes of vaccination in the medical conferences organized in Romania.



Mr. Dalibor Vojta
(Block III.)

is a lawyer. He has worked for the European Commission since 2006, last seven years dealing with personal data protection issues, since 2018 in the area of health (e.g., data protection aspects of the contact tracing and warning applications, EU Digital COVID Certificate). For the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union he joined the team at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the European Union as attaché for health and pharmaceuticals files.

Keynote speakers and panelists (in alphabetical order)



Mr. Ray Walley

(Block III.)

is a full-time General Practitioner and an Associated Clinical Professor at University College Dublin. Prof. Dr Walley was elected as first Vice President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), beginning a three-year term in 2019 and re-elected for a second term from 2022 to 2024. As First Vice President of CPME, he has responsibility for the Digital Health portfolio. He is a Member of The Irish National Health Service Covid 19 GP Advisory Team and was involved in the organisation of the successful National Covid19 vaccination programme centred in General Practice/ Primary care.

Practical information

This Practical Information Note provides general information on logistical and organisational aspects to help you prepare for the meeting. Please note that all information may be subject to change, in which case it will be communicated by the Czech Presidency in due time.

Accreditation

Please note that attendance at the Conference is by invitation only and only accredited delegates will have access to the main venue and evening reception.

Delegates were kindly requested to register via the online accreditation system of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union, through the designated Delegation Accreditation Officer (DAO) of the respective delegation. Your DAO should have received more detailed instructions.

In case you have not appointed your DAO yet, please proceed at your earliest convenience to register the DAO through an e-mail at accreditation.czpres@mzcr.cz. The DAO will receive the link to the accreditation system in due time. Please contact the email address mentioned above for further information on registration process.

Please note that the accreditation closes on 16th November. A confirmative email of attendance approval will be automatically sent after the system closes on 17th November. Please note that only accredited delegates will have access to the programme venues.

Each participant will receive their badge at the registration desk in the hotel lobby upon the arrival. Please make sure to wear your badges visibly at the meeting venue and evening reception. If you lose your badge, please contact the registration desk at the meeting venue without any delay.

All personal information provided during the accreditation will be processed only in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) obligations mentioned in the CZ PRES GDPR memorandum, which can be found on presidency website and accreditation system itself.

Conference venue and accommodation

The whole conference including the evening informal dinner will take place at Vienna House Diplomat Prague, a luxury hotel in the diplomatic quarter of Prague.

Address:
Evropská 370/15 Prague

Website:
<https://www.viennahouse.com/en/diplomat-prague/the-hotel/overview.html>

To access the conference please use the main entrance of the hotel. Please note that the Czech Presidency will cover the costs of accommodation only for selected keynote speakers. Other participants are responsible for booking and paying for their accommodation. For your convenience, the Czech Presidency

has made pre-reservations of hotel rooms at a discounted price. You will receive instructions and a link to book rooms after successful online accreditation. Kindly note that availability of rooms at hotels is on first-come first served basis.

If you have any questions regarding the accommodation, please send your enquiry to:
accreditation.czpres@mzcr.cz.

Transport

The Czech Presidency will cover the costs of transport only for selected keynote speakers. Other participants are kindly asked to make their own travel arrangements. The Czech Presidency is ready to advise you in any way possible.

The city of Prague has an excellent transport accessibility. Below you will find the instructions on how to get to the conference venue::

Arriving by plane

The connection between Václav Havel Airport Prague and Prague city centre is provided by taxi or public transport bus lines which operate at regular few-minute intervals. Both, taxi and bus stops are located directly in front of terminals. Please follow these steps when using public transport:

- From terminal 2 take bus nr. 119. Disembark at the stop "Nádraží Veleslavín".

- On “Nádraží Veleslavín” you can either take the metro green line A to the stop “Dejvická” in the direction Depo Hostivař or go by tram nr. 26 to the stop “Thákurova” in the direction Nádraží Hostivař.
- Exit the “Dejvická” or “Thákurova” station with the exit in direction of the Evropská street.
- The transfer should take max 45 minutes. You can find additional information on <https://www.prg.aero/en/public-transport-buses>

Arriving by train

Again, you can use taxi or public transport, the instructions for public transport are as follows:

- Take the metro line C (red) from the station “Hlavní nádraží” (main train station) in the direction “Háje” to the station “Muzeum”.
- From the station “Muzeum” transfer to the green line A. Then take the green line A to the station “Dejvická” in the direction Nemocnice Motol.
- Exit the “Dejvická” station with the exit in direction of the Evropská street.
- The transfer should take max 30 minutes.

Tickets

- The ticket is valid for all means of public transport in Prague.
- Ideal solution is a ticket for 90 minutes.
- Tickets are sold in machines directly on the bus stop (airport) or near the metro entrance (main train station). Most ticket machines accept contactless credit card payments. Tickets can also be purchased via SMS. Before entering the metro or tram, send an SMS with this text: **DPT42** to number **902 06**. it costs 42 crowns and is valid for 90 minutes. Or there is also possibility to buy it via Lítačka mobile app, which can be also used to search for the ideal public transport connection. The application is available for Android and iOS.

Evening Reception

The evening reception will take place at Vienna House Diplomat Prague from 19:00 on 21 November. All participants of the Conference are invited. The location of the evening reception will be marked in the hotel lobby.

Please note that the Conference and evening reception will be conducted in English only, no interpretation will be provided.

Prague

We cordially invite you to discover the city of Prague. To do this, please check the tourist website at: <https://www.prague.eu/en>

Other Information

Emergency number:

112 (fire brigade, medical assistance)

Electricity:

The voltage in Czech is 230V, 50 Hz.

Local time:

Central European Summer Time Zone (CEST) – GMT +2:00

Country code:

Czech Republic +420

Currency:

Czech crown, for the current rate please consult <https://www.cnb.cz/en/>

Tap water:

Czech water is regularly tested for quality and is safe to drink.

Contact

If you have any question regarding the substantive content of the meeting, please send your enquiry to: CZPRES@mzcr.cz

If you have any questions regarding the logistics, please send your enquiry to: accreditation.czpres@mzcr.cz

More information about the conference is available at: <https://www.mzcr.cz/building-public-trust-as-a-pathway-to-vaccine-acceptance/>

The website of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2022: <https://www.eu2022.cz> contains information on all topics related to the Presidency available in Czech, English and French.

You can also follow us on social media:

Twitter

https://twitter.com/EU2022_CZ

Facebook

<https://m.facebook.com/EU2022CZpres>

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/eu2022_cz/

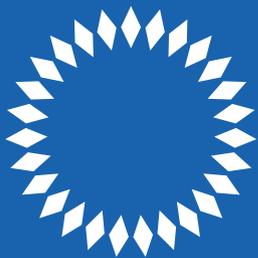
Official photos and videos of the Czech presidency is available on

Flicker

<https://www.flickr.com/people/193276846@N04/>

and **YouTube**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe5eK6yIlt-WfoLd_mJDkQA



EU2022.CZ

