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Surveillance and Prevention of
Vaccine Preventable **Hepatitis**



Outline of the presentation

- Background of the project
- Rationale of the project
- Objectives
- Timelines
- Outputs



Background

- Surveillance of infectious diseases
 - data collection and timely analysis
 - dissemination to those responsible to take appropriate action for prevention and control
- EC is committed to surveillance and control of communicable diseases
 - Community network Decision No 2119/98/EC
 - Viral hepatitis A and B to be progressively covered Decision 2000/96/EC
 - EC regulation No 851/2004 on ECDC



Vaccine-preventable viral hepatitis: rationale

- Hepatitis B
 - Major public health problem, enlarged by international travel / migration
 - WHO position on universal immunisation
- Hepatitis A
 - Travel-related (incoming / outgoing) infectious disease
 - Transitional / intermediate endemicity in some European countries
 - Discussion on universal immunisation programmes



Vaccine-preventable viral hepatitis: rationale (2)

- Diversity of the surveillance systems and prevention programmes
 - Due to differences in epidemiology and priority setting
 - Prevention and control measurements were taken at regional / national level
 - Well-known, but without clear overall view especially in view of the EU enlargement
- If decision/advice will be provided from EU level there is a clear need for an international approach



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- **Concerted action** (DG Research of EC)
 - 36 months, started September 2002
 - fifth framework programme
- **Feasibility study for a future network**
 - Vaccine-preventable hepatitis
 - Targeting EU member states + Associated States + Israel (later Norway and Turkey)
 - (Unique) partnership between various players in the field
 - Ministries of Health, Institutes for Public Health, WHO/EURO
 - Expert epidemiologists and public health specialists
 - Academia
 - Communication with coordinators of related EC projects



Objectives of EUROHEP.NET

- To give, for hepatitis A and B, an overall picture of the existing
 - Surveillance systems
 - Epidemiology
 - Burden of disease data
 - Vaccination effectiveness
 - Prevention programmes
- To study the feasibility of a future European network
 - Integrate expertise from different actors involved in infectious disease surveillance and prevention
 - Formulate guidelines for standardisation
 - Identify the hurdles for standardisation and/or implementation



Workpackages

- WP1: take stock of the existing national surveillance systems
- WP2: take stock of existing national viral hepatitis prevention programmes
- WP3.1: optimise the surveillance systems and formulate guidelines to enable uniform measurement and reporting of the epidemiology
- WP3.2: disease burden
- WP3.3: vaccination effectiveness



Workpackages

- WP4: adaptation or simplification of hepatitis B vaccination programmes
- WP5: hepatitis A preventive programmes especially in the countries with changing prevalence
- WP6: integration of all guidelines, recommendations and hurdles into one coherent report
- WP7: creation of a website which will contain all data and be a communication tool for the project members
- WP8: overall co-ordination of the project and organisation of international meeting



Time line 2002-2004

Description	2002		2003				2004		
	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep
Commitment	█								
Website		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Survey and results		█	█	█					
Analyse results			█	█	█				
Co-ordination and dissemination of results	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Publication of results						█	█	█	█
Eupha workshop							█	█	█
Formulate guidelines					█	█	█		
Analyse and optimise guidelines							█	█	█

- 2002
 - Official invitation to MOH, Public Health Institutes
 - Identification of country representatives
 - Website, including online survey
- 2003
 - Completion online survey + additional validation
 - From analysis of results to draft guidelines
- 2004
 - Elaborate guidelines for standardisation
 - Work on publication and presentation of first results



Time line 2004-2005

Description	2004			2005							
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Website	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Co-ordination and dissemination of results	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Draft guidelines on website for comments	█										
Check guidelines with the countries		█	█	█	█	█	█	█			
Organise resuming conference							█				
Final report											█
Essential requirements	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Presentation of results	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█			

- 2004
 - Presentation / publication of results
 - In book form and via website
 - Distribution of draft guidelines to countries
- 2005
 - Feedback from countries on drafted guidelines
 - Organisation of resuming conference (Malta, 04/2005)
 - Write final report
 - Guidelines for standardisation
 - Feasibility and implementability of essential requirements for future network



Output/Dessimination

- Book summerizing survey results and giving 22 country overviews
- Workshop at the EUPHA congress, 7-9 October 2004 in Oslo: 'Surveillance and prevention of viral hepatitis A and B in Europe: lessons learnt and considerations for the future' abstract published in *Eur J Public Health* Supplement Volume 14 Number 4 December 2004



Output/Dessimination cont'

- Publications
 - “Introducing universal hepatitis B vaccination in Europe: differences still remain between countries” *Eurosurveillance* 2004; 9(4):67-68
 - “Surveillance and prevention of viral hepatitis A and B in Europe. Lessons learnt and considerations for the future” *EUPHA book 2004* (accepted)
 - “Hepatitis A and B surveillance and immunization programmes in Europe: EUROHEP.NET project. Results from the EUROHEP.NET project” *Arch Public Health* (submitted)
 - “Measurement and reporting of burden of disease for hepatitis A. Results of the EUROHEP.NET feasibility survey.” *Eur J Public Health* (submitted)



Output/Dessimination cont'

- Web site www.eurohep.net
 - progress meeting reports (restricted area only)
 - annual progress reports / presentations
 - pdf version of booklet
 - results of Malta meeting (planned)
- Resuming meeting in Malta
- Final report





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- Contributes to a better understanding of the diversity of the current surveillance and vaccination strategies
- Identifies potential hurdles towards standardisation and implementation
- Facilitates the establishment of a European network for surveillance and prevention of viral hepatitis A and B within this region

