

Would you like to explore more recommendations and suggested actions? Find out more strategies and best practices for healthcare professionals outlined by the project experts: how can doctors communicate effectively with young people and their parents and carers? How can public health messaging on HPV vaccination have the biggest impact?

Read the PROTECT-EUROPE full report
available via the QR code below



Contact us! Send an email at
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PROTECTING-EUROPE

Eliminating the cancers caused
by HPV through improved
vaccination programmes



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Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a widespread, sexually transmitted infection that can affect all genders and can lead to various types of cancer.

But what if we told you that there is a way to significantly reduce the risk of developing these cancers?

Gender-neutral vaccination, aimed especially at young teenagers, can help prevent several cancers including cervical, anal, penile, vaginal, and head and neck cancers. Civil society organisations, healthcare professionals and the public health workforce can all play an invaluable role in promoting vaccination to achieve a high enough level of coverage among the population and achieve herd immunity.



Key objectives of PROTECT-EUROPE

Co-ordinated by the European Cancer Organisation, PROTECT-EUROPE is a two year EU co-funded programme bringing together more than 30 organisations from 16 countries to promote HPV vaccination, create resources to support policymakers in increasing vaccination coverage, and engage with communities and stakeholders at different levels to stimulate positive action.

HOW?

Below are the key recommendations for future actions that everyone, from national governments to healthcare professionals, from public health advocates to researchers, can take.



All countries' vaccination programmes must be delivered on a gender-neutral basis with a target uptake of 90%



Healthcare professionals (HCPs) must receive appropriate advice, guidance and training on effective communication with young people and their parents/carers



Post-qualification education for HCPs should be provided on a continuous and ongoing basis



HCPs must be fully aware of, and reflect in their practice, the need to communicate appropriately with different demographic groups



HPV vaccination programmes are best delivered through schools and should be supported by targeted, interactive educational interventions



Social media and e-health platforms can play a useful role and can be adapted for specific communities



Public health messaging promoting vaccination should be evaluated both in terms of process and outcomes



Resources supporting the work of professionals involved in promoting uptake must be maintained on a long-term basis



Regular environmental scanning is required to ensure that factors that could influence the uptake of HPV vaccination are reflected in the support provided to HCPs



All countries should appoint a national HPV elimination Board or Committee comprising a range of specialists to create a national HPV elimination strategy which would include communications