European Union-WHO action to support deployment of COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination in Eastern Partnership countries, 2021-2023

ABOUT THE PROJECT

- A joint effort of the European Union (EU) and WHO Regional Office for Europe in six countries of the Eastern Partnership – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.
- A 3-year, €40 million project to help countries prepare for deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, including through the COVAX facility and the EU Vaccine Sharing Mechanism, plan for and implement vaccination campaigns, facilitate and monitor COVID-19 vaccination uptake.
- Part of the Team Europe response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Eastern Partnership, of close to €1 billion targeting short-term health needs and longer-term socio-economic recovery.
- Builds on, and is complementary to, the on-going EU-WHO Solidarity for Health Initiative in the Eastern Partnership in support to the partner countries’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ESSENTIAL SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

IN THE SHORT-TERM, THE PROJECT WILL HELP:

- Support developing/updating national vaccine deployment plans and defining service delivery modalities.
- Procure essential supplies to deliver vaccines safely and manage adverse events, e.g. personal protective equipment and medical equipment including anaphylaxis kits.
- Train health workers on vaccine handling and vaccine characteristics.
- Scale up IT capacity and information management systems for effective data monitoring and evaluation, including to monitor vaccine safety.
- Develop communication material, surveys to understand population’s perceptions, and information campaigns on vaccines.
- Design and implement interventions aimed at vulnerable populations, including outreach vaccination activities.

IN THE MEDIUM AND LONGER-TERM, THE PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS:

- A progressive reopening of societies and economies
- Strengthened and resilient national immunization systems
- Improved long-term capacities of health workforce in vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization

The implementation of this initiative will be led by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and WHO country offices in the 6 partner countries, in close coordination with the EU Delegations, national authorities and development partners, including those in the United Nations system.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination, see:

- WHO/Europe website on COVID-19 pandemic
- European Commission’s coordination to a common European response to the COVID-19 outbreak
- European Union Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)
- European Union Solidarity for Health Initiative in the Eastern Partnership countries

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