


EU training session





#vaccinAction

2023






The value that vaccines bring in the AMR fight and why new-generation antibiotics alone cannot resolve the AMR crisis

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INTRODUCTION

By Bianca Ferraiolo

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Good afternoon and welcome to the second online training session organized this year by Active Citizenship Network, the EU branch of the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva. It is part of the 2023 edition of the European project "VaccinAction: Protecting the value of vaccination during - and after - the COVID-19 pandemic across Europe: impact, experiences and perspectives from citizens' and patient advocacy groups & relevant stakeholders".

Probably, among those who are connected today, there are some participants who may not have had the opportunity to participate in our previous initiatives on these topics. Therefore, I would like to recall our commitment on vaccination policies. Without making a long and pointless list of the activities carried out over the years at national (Italy) and European level by the association I work for, it is good to recall that we work to

- increase the number of civil society actors involved in vaccination policies;
- support the 'life-course immunisation approach' for all vaccine-preventable diseases towards both political stakeholders and the general public;

- provide decision-makers and stakeholders, involved in the definition and implementation of vaccination policies, with a civic perspective that complements the perspective of other qualified actors involved in the issue.

Building alliances and dialogue with institutions, in a multi-stakeholder perspective, are long-standing characteristics of our approach.

Today, we continue our efforts to strengthen adult vaccination in Europe and to mobilise stakeholders. In particular, today we focus on the crucial role of vaccines in the fight against AMR, exploring why next-generation antibiotics alone cannot effectively address the AMR crisis, and we will delve into the cause-effect relationship in AMR mitigation.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top ten threats to global health, often underestimated. It surpasses car accidents and cancer in dangerousness, but – apparently - is not a priority in EU and Member States' public health policies. Fighting antimicrobial resistance requires preventive policies and expansion of vaccination programmes. Public awareness and involvement efforts are crucial. As always, in order to be better informed on the topic, we invited an independent expert and today we have the honor of having Professor Adam Cunningham, who is Professor of Functional Immunity at the Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy at University of Birmingham and co-Director of BactiVac, the bacterial vaccines network, as our lecturer.

If you wish to ask questions to the professor, you can do so at any time using the chat box.

Before giving him the floor, I would like to hand over to Mariano Votta, director of Active Citizenship Network, for a quick opening remark.