

Network for
Education and
Support in
Immunisation

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Project: NESI
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NESI: Network for Education and Support in Immunisation
Save childrens' lives through immunisation!

Mission:

To improve the quality and sustainability of immunisation programmes and services in low and middle income countries, in particular through education and training.

Immunisation is one of the most cost- effective health care interventions. More than three million people, mostly children, die each year due to vaccine-preventable diseases. Continued and increased efforts are required to reach and maintain a high vaccination coverage in low- and middle- income countries.

The objectives of NESI are to provide education, training, and support in immunisation, to improve the quality and sustainability of immunisation programmes and services, and to ensure a better health for children.

NESI offers a broad range of activities, including the following:

Networking

- To establish and maintain a forum to discuss and co-ordinate actions related to education, training and support for immunisation programmes in low and middle-income countries.
- To create a network of specialists to deliver high-quality training in all aspects of immunisation - and at different stages of implementation of immunisation programmes. These experts will be drawn from international organisations, from universities (both in the South and in the North), from national immunisation programmes, NGOs, industry, and other partners as appropriate.
- To collaborate with local, regional, and global training initiatives.
- To advocate for better education and training.

Education and training

- To perform needs assessments for education and training together with the academic and other partners.
- To monitor and evaluate the currently implemented education and training programmes.
- To validate the technical content of educational materials.
- To provide up-to-date, high-quality training materials for different audiences involved in immunisation programmes.
- To create a web site where training materials can be accessed, with links to other relevant web sites.
- To organise training events in collaboration with other organisations.

Technical support

- To provide support to universities to improve the curriculum of health care workers involved in immunisation, and advise on regular refresher courses in collaboration with Ministries of Health (MOHs).
- To assist countries in developing a comprehensive training plan, incorporated into their multiple year plans (MYPs).
- To provide support for country staff to implement training activities.
- To improve the regional capacity to support education and training.

A unique partnership

The active involvement of universities in the network is a unique feature of NESI. Universities, responsible for education and training of current and future health care workers, are vital to achieve sustainable capacity and competence building in the field of vaccinology.

NESI is the continuation, but much broader in scope and geographical focus, of a collaboration network on introduction of new vaccines, established in 1999 in Africa (local universities, MOHs and the University of Antwerp.) Like this network, NESI will closely co-ordinate its activities with WHO, UNICEF, CVP/Path, GAVI, The Vaccine Fund, the industry and other interested parties.

A structure enhancing interaction and co-ordination with other partners, and allowing focused actions

NESI is a public/private partnership. An Executive Secretariat will define the strategic objectives, and co-ordinate and implement the activities. It is based at the Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine of the University of Antwerp, Belgium. The creation of a co-secretariat in the region of activities is foreseen to assist the Executive Secretariat in its tasks. The Executive Secretariat will report to an Oversight Committee, who will advise on the strategy and the budget allocation and review outcomes. The oversight committee will be composed by representatives from the public/private partnership as well from international health organisations and alliances (WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, The Vaccine Fund, NGOs and others).

NESI has strict operational and scientific independence

Funding of NESI

NESI is currently supported by an unrestricted educational grant from industry (GlaxoSmithKline) and by the University of Antwerp. Additional funding, participation or support from other national or international agencies or partners will be considered.

NESI Work plan 2003

Education and training

Title	Responsible partner	Start Date	End Date	Location
Lead activities*				
Subregional meeting (anglophone countries)		May (second half)		AFRO Pretoria (South Africa)
Subregional meeting (francophone countries)		October-November		AFRO Dakar (Senegal)
Intercountry meeting (pre-/post-introduction)		September-October (or earlier)		AFRO Tanzania
Intercountry meeting		tbd		EMRO Jordania
Elaboration of pre-service curricula/documents		1 st qtr	2 nd qtr	AFRO (anglophone countries)
Elaboration of pre-service curricula/documents		3 rd qtr	4 th qtr	AFRO (francophone countries)
* All lead activities include the development and strengthening of training and education through a network of partners				
Collaborative activities				
Intercountry Mid Level Management Course for anglophone countries (to participate as co-facilitator and to support participation of 10 academics from medical/nursing schools) (WHO/AFRO)	WHO/AFRO	3-June	13-June	Pretoria (South Africa)
Intercountry Mid Level Management Course for francophone countries (to participate as co-facilitator and to support participation of 10 academics from medical/nursing schools) (WHO/AFRO)	WHO/AFRO	25-August	5-September	Ouiddah (Benin)
Training needs assessments at country level (francophone, anglophone and lusophone countries)	WHO/AFRO	tbd		AFRO
A set of 11 global mid-level management training materials	WHO/University of South Australia	October	November	
A set of 10 AFRO mid-level management training materials	WHO	ongoing	February	
Update Immunisation Essentials	USAID	ongoing	April	
Additional MLM modules (maintenance, surveillance, communication, transport, coverage survey)	WHO-RWG	tbd		AFRO
Four MLM Inter-country courses (for surveillance, social mobilisation officers, district supervisors and teachers)	WHO-RWG	tbd		AFRO

Networking

Title	Start Date	End Date	Location
5 th Meeting of the Regional Working Group GAVI	6-January	7-January	EMRO Office
Short Course in Vaccinology	12-January	18-January	Rixensart (Belgium)
Meeting with GAVI Secretariat	5-February	5-February	Geneva
EPI Managers meeting (WHO, UNICEF)	31-March	2-April	Arusha (Tanzania)
ITAG (Immunisation Training Action Group)	7-April	7-April	Geneva
ITF (International Task Force)	8-April	9-April	Geneva
20 th Inter-Country Meeting of National EPI Managers WHO/EMRO	29-June	2-July	Syria
6 th GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting	3-July	3-July	Syria
7 th GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting	8-December	9-December	Cairo, Egypt
Activities organized by WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, CVP/PATH, etc.; meetings actually in planning stages by the respective secretariats	tbd		