

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.