



No „One-Size-Fits-All“ Remedy: Understanding Reasons for Vaccine Hesitancy

Vaccine Hesitancy in Europe:
Facts, Opinions and the Way Forward
15 February 2017, Bruxelles

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Agenda

- Everything you always wanted to know about EUPHA (but had no opportunity to ask)
- A tale of ridges and fine lines:
Who is vaccine hesitant - patients or providers?
- Anthroposophic schools:
Culprits or litmus tests for acid views on vaccines?

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EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together public health experts for professional exchange and collaboration throughout Europe and responsible for organising the largest annual public health event in Europe.

We encourage a multidisciplinary approach to public health.

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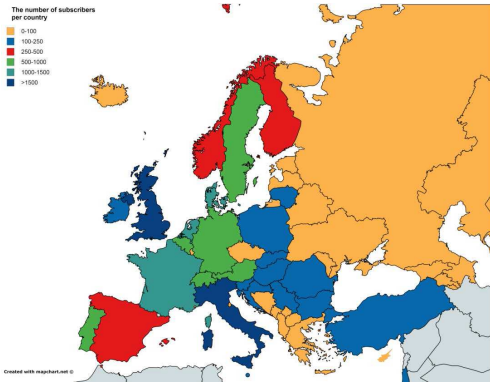


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The EUPHA network

- **72 members** from **41 countries** (October 2016)
- **4 794 full members** of our national associations
- **17 369 entries** in the EUPHA database


EUPHA newsletter



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<https://eupha.org/newsletters>
 EUPHA twitter account: @EUPHActs

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Strategic Objectives

- Be a leading voice in public health
- Build capacity and knowledge
- Invest in the future generations

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EUPHA as a leading voice in public health - 2016

- The Vienna Declaration on Health Promotion
- Call for an EU target to cut on serious road injuries
- UK referendum
- Antibiotic resistance
- Support for the UK sugar tax
- Healthy and sustainable diets
- Data protection
- Mexico Declaration for Circulatory health
- Tobacco and vaping
- Reproductive health
- European Social Pillar of Rights

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European Journal of Public Health

A multidisciplinary journal in the field of public health published bimonthly specific focused on the European region

Impact factor: 2.751

5-year impact factor: 2.789



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EUPHAnxt

- Network for students and early career public health professionals
- Currently 1 333 subscribers (from 1 087 in 2015)



Emma Honkala - Giacomo Scaioli - Tjede Funk



Organized by  

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EUPHA sections

21 active sections.

EUPHA sections organize different activities throughout the year that range from:

- Satellite meetings
- Project proposals
- Newsletters
- Mailing members
- Representing EUPHA in advisory bodies of international organisations
- Representing EUPHA at meetings and conferences, and
- Pre conferences and workshops linked to the EPH Conference.

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A tale of ridges and fine lines


WHO IS VACCINE HESITANT - PATIENTS OR PROVIDERS?

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Measles and Rubella Elimination

- Member States of WHO European Region submit Annual Status Update reports on measles and rubella elimination
- 51 national reports reviewed
- Standardized format
- Supplementary information: May contain data on obstacles for high vaccine coverage and actions taken
- Recurrent issue: Vaccine hesitancy



24-26 October 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark

**Fifth Meeting of the
European Regional Verification
Commission for Measles and Rubella
Elimination (RVC)**

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Supplementary Information on Context of Low Immunization Coverage against Measles

- Health care workers
- Adults before travel abroad
- Adults periodically living and working abroad
- Travellers
- Roma communities
- Uninsured children
- Asylum seekers
- Undocumented immigrant/refugee children, young adults
- Catch-up for military personnel and health care workers

- Declining trend
- Vaccine refusal is increasing
- High vaccine hesitancy and low-performing areas
- Hesitancy of parents towards immunization before children reach 3 years of age
- Community leaders
- Meetings with representatives of religious organizations
- Orthodox protestants
- Students of anthroposophic schools

Source: Fifth Meeting of the European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination (RVC), 24-26 October 2016, Copenhagen

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Culprits or litmus tests for acid views on vaccines?

ANTHROPOSOPHIC SCHOOLS

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Anthroposophy

- A spiritual philosophy, based on the teachings of Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925)
- Anthroposophic concepts have been applied to
 - Gardening and agriculture („biodynamic“)
 - Arts
 - Architecture
 - **Waldorf education**
(Steiner kindergardens and schools)
 - **Anthroposophic medicine**
Considered to be a *complementary* medicine

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Bild 14



Goetheanum in Dornach (near Basle), Switzerland

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Bild 15

On the causes of illnesses of childhood

„In the first life-period (...), there is a perpetual struggle between what comes from us out of the previous incarnation and what comes from hereditary development; the two elements fight with each other.

The illnesses of childhood are the expression of this fight.“

(Continues with considerations on the causes of scarlet fever and measles)

Rudolf Steiner. Course for Young Doctors. Lecture 1. Dornach, 1924

Source: <http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/YoungDoctors/19240421a01.ht> [Accessed 10 Dec 2009]

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„Ever since we began to deal with the measles eradication project (...) – which is about 20 years ago – we have been asking ourselves under which circumstances it may become relatively senseless to question the concept of routine measles immunisation of infants towards the parents and the public. Today, we are asking ourselves whether (...) the epidemiological circumstances which are relevant for this decision may have become reality.“

Peter Klein, Hans-Ueli Albonico. Wie soll man im Jahr 2007 Eltern bezüglich der Masernimpfung ihrer einjährigen Kinder beraten? Arbeitsgruppe für differenzierte Impfungen, PF 502, 3000 Bern
9. Ende Mai 2007 / Oktober 2007

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Change of Paradigm 2015

„If a child was not yet immunized during its second year of life according to the recommendations of the [German Standing Committee on Immunizations], the child's immunization must be reconsidered in each new segment of life.“

Gesellschaft anthroposophischer Ärzte in Deutschland.
Merkblatt Masern. Stand: Januar 2016 <http://www.gaed.de>

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Immunization Status of 4-5 Year Old Children by Setting of Preschool Examination, Baden-Württemberg 2015/16

Tetanus	N	0	Incomplete	Complete
Waldorf-kindergarden	1010	4.6%	33.4%	62.1%
Otherwise	84007	1.0%	6.5%	92.1%

Measles	N	0	MCV 1 Dose	MCV 2+ Doses
Waldorf-kindergarden	1010	34.0%	66.0%	55.1%
Otherwise	84007	4.9%	95.1%	89.2%

Hepatitis B	N	0	Incomplete	Complete
Waldorf-kindergarden	1010	48.6%	8.8%	42.6%
Otherwise	84007	9.8%	10.5%	79.7%

Source: Public Health Service. Landesgesundheitsamt Baden-Württemberg

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Summary

In the EUPHA universe, there is no unified approach to vaccine hesitancy

- Listen
- Reflect
- React

...and spread the news if change occurs.*

*Maybe, Waldorf schools become an example.

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