

Building Vaccine Confidence in CEE through Multi-Stakeholder Interventions

Palace of Parliament | Senate, Constantin Stere Hall, Calea 13 Septembrie 1–3, Sector 5, Bucharest

Time	Agenda	Speakers
Moderator: Dr. Teodor Blidaru		
09:30 – 10:00	Registration. Welcome Coffee	
10:00 – 10:15	Opening	Host Prof. Dr. Adrian Streinu-Cercel – President of Committee on Health, Senate of Romania Prof. Dr. Alexandru Rafila – President of the Committee on Health and Family, Chamber of Deputies of Romania Luminița Vâlcea, Executive Director, Coalition of Patient Organizations with Chronic Diseases in Romania Mariano Votta – Director, Active Citizenship Network Responsible for EU Affairs, Cittadinanzattiva, Italy - Welcome Objectives - Link to the 2025 White Paper
10:15 – 10:30	Vaccine Confidence as a System Investment	David Sinclair – Executive Director, International Longevity Centre, UK Prevention and life-course framing; system resilience and long-term value
10:30 – 10:45	EU Perspective	Mariano Votta – Director, Active Citizenship Network Responsible for EU Affairs, Cittadinanzattiva, Italy Citizens, Patients and the Future of Vaccination in an EU Respiratory Health Plan
10:45 – 11:00	Special Focus: Fake News & Disinformation	Yasmin Maor – Head, Infectious Disease Unit, Wolfson Medical Center Clinical Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel

		How misinformation spreads, why it outperforms facts, and what public health actors can do
11:00 – 12:15	CEE Country Dialogues: One Challenge, Many Lenses	Moderated panel - Top vaccine-confidence barrier today - Where the system breaks (from your role) - One feasible intervention in the next 12–24 months Countries: Prof. Dr. Ernest Kuchar – President of Polish Society of Vaccinology (online) Assoc Prof. Dr. Lyubomir Kirov – Chairman of the National Association of General Practitioners in Bulgaria, Lecturer in Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (online) Larisa Mezinu-Bălan – Vice President, National Health Insurance House, Romania Dr. Simona Pîrvu – General Director, National Institute of Public Health, Romania Prof. Dr. Valeriu Gheorghiță – General Director, “Prof. Dr. Agrippa Ionescu” Clinical Emergency Hospital, Bucharest, Romania Robert Hejzák – Chair of the Czech National Association of Patient Organisations (NAPO) (online) Dr. Petr Smejkal – Chief Epidemiologist at the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine (IKEM), Czech Republic Marta Puścion – The Office of the Commissioner for Patient's Rights, Poland
12:15 – 12:25	Why Communities Say No: Sociological Insights to Inform Vaccine Policy	Barbu Mateescu – Sociologist Why communities say no: sociological insights to inform vaccine policy

12:25 – 12:40	Coffee Break	
12:40 – 13:45	CEE country challenge	12:40 – 12:50 Catherine Weil-Olivier – Honorary Professor of Paediatrics, Paris VII University, France • RSV trigger case - best-practice sharing Prof. Dr. Jan Smetana, Vice-Dean for Doctoral Studies and Specialised Education, Department of Epidemiology, Head of Experimental Biology Group Military Faculty of Medicine, University of Defence Czech Republic Avian Pop – Chief Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Romania Magdalena Kolodziej – President of the Board of the WE Patients Foundation, Poland Prof. Dr. Oana Falup-Pecurariu – President of the Romanian National Society of Pediatric Infectious Diseases Dr. Daciana Toma – Vice President of National Society of Family Physicians, Romania Prof. Dr. Dominic Iliescu – University Emergency County Hospital of Craiova Head of the 2nd Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Romania Prof. Dr. Dragoș Bumbăcea – Medical Director, Elias University Emergency Hospital, Bucharest, Romania Denitsa Dragomirova – Manager and Founder and Founder of "DMD Health", part of Bulgarian Association for Patients Defense
13:45 – 14:00	Synthesis & Publication Roadmap	• Cross-country takeaways • Priority intervention areas and next steps for the publication • Conclusions
14:00	Lunch. Networking	