



Vaccination: the pathway for a concrete citizens’ engagement

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Abstract:

Background

Vaccine hesitancy – the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines – threatens to reverse progresses made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases. For this reason, vaccine hesitancy has been identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) among the 10 many issues that will demand worldwide attention in the coming years. Mainly to address these and other threats, 2019 saw the start of the World Health Organization’s new 5-year strategic plan – the 13th General Programme of Work (1). Besides the commitment of the institutions and of the various stakeholders, the civil society needs to be mobilized. But how much impact does the lack of adequate health literacy have? What could the contribute of the civil society be in reducing vaccine hesitancy? How can we be able to involve citizens’ organizations? Which characteristics should a message on vaccines have in order to be effective? In the proposal, we can look at citizens’ engagement on vaccination: from the analysis of a concrete experience promoted at the EU level by a citizen organization, step by step the pathway to increase the number of citizen organizations dealing with vaccine hesitancy across Europe and to improve the awareness on the importance of vaccination among EU citizens.

Keywords: Vaccine hesitancy; Good practices; Citizens’ engagement; EU; Civic activism.



Biography:

Prashant Khadanga, has an overall 7 years of experience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care. He has accomplished anaesthetic training in India and pursuing higher training in the UK at Northwest London University Healthcare NHS trust, London. He has been involved in multiple researches and quality improvement projects and constantly working towards better outcome of patients.

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[Webinar on Vaccine Research and Development, November 27, 2020.](#)

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