



Influenza prevention and control in Europe and the EU

Prof A.D.M.E. Osterhaus

Head Dept Virology, Erasmus MC Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Chair European Scientific Working group on Influenza (ESWI)



Primary public health actors involved in influenza prevention and control in the EU

27 individual EU Member States (27 Ministries of Health)

Responsible for Public Health, including:

- Influenza prevention and control campaigns
- Influenza vaccine and antiviral procurement
- Pandemic preparedness planning



Primary public health actors involved in influenza prevention and control in the EU

Directorate General for Health & Consumers (DG Sanco)

European Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Directorate General for Research

European Food safety Agency (EFSA)



Public health actors involved in influenza prevention and control in the EU

Directorate General for Health & Consumers (DG Sanco)

Responsibilities:

- Advice and guidance on influenza prevention and preparedness
- Equitable distribution of influenza vaccines
- Evaluation of pandemic response



Public health actors involved in influenza prevention and control in the EU

European Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Responsibilities:

- surveillance
- exchange of scientific data
- awareness raising



Public health actors involved in influenza prevention and control in the EU

European Scientific Working Group on Influenza (ESWI)

A multidisciplinary scientifically independent partnership between:

- Members: European influenza experts
- Partner organizations
- Associate members: individual experts with an advisory role



Partnership of influenza stakeholders

Partnership organizations like ESWI are established to meet specific objectives and to undertake projects to address problems that neither partner could tackle adequately on its own. A successful long-term partnership is built on common grounds. In the case of ESWI, this common ground is a social concern to improve public health in Europe.



Our motivation

- Fact 1:* European health care systems are among the best in the world
- Fact 2:* In Europe, the influenza disease still claims more lives than traffic accidents
- Fact 3:* Patients with underlying diseases and the elderly are at special risk when ill with influenza
- Fact 4:* Influenza is a preventable disease
- Fact 5:* Recommendations by National Health Authorities in place but in many countries poorly implemented
- Fact6:* Lack of coordinated European health promotion campaigns for the control of influenza

Our goal: To reduce the burden of influenza in Europe



Members

- Dr. R. Amaral-Marques, Portugal
- Dr. G.A. van Essen, The Netherlands
- Dr. T. Heikkinen, Finland
- Dr. P. Openshaw, UK
- Dr. A.D.M.E. Osterhaus, The Netherlands
- Dr. R. Prymula, Czech Republic
- Dr. T.D. Szucs, Switzerland
- Dr. S. van der Werf, France
- Dr. A. Monto, USA
- Dr. G. Gabriel, Germany
- Dr. B. Lina, France
- Dr. M. Ciblak, Turkey



Partner organizations

- European Respiratory Society, *Dr. G. Rohde*
- European manufacturers of vaccines and antivirals, *Dr. A. Palache*
- Pharmaceutical Group to the EU, *Mrs. S. Peura*
- World Organization of Family Doctors, *Dr. M. Godycki-Cwirko*
- World Health Organization
- European Public Health Alliance, *Mr Sascha Marschang*
- International Diabetes Federation – Europe, *Mrs. S. Peresson*



Structural collaboration with...

- Organizations of the elderly
- Organizations of healthcare providers
 - nurses
 - cardiologists
 - Pulmonologists
 - GP's
 - Pharmacists
- Patient organizations
 - diabetes patients
 - lung patients
 - heart patients
- Organizations of science writers and the press



Scientific independence

1. Industry is a non-voting partner organization
2. All major companies are sponsors
3. Equal financial contribution by all sponsors
4. Legally formalized independence:
articles of incorporation and *rules of practice* approved and respected by all parties





ESWI activities...



Country Influenza Stakeholder Networks (CISN)

- 2003: Poland, Germany, Sweden
- 2008: Portugal, Finland, Czech Republic
- 2010: Turkey, Norway, Austria
- ESWI facilitates communication between stakeholders with the aim to maximize the effectiveness of national influenza prevention and control
- CISN detect barriers for an increased influenza vaccine uptake
- CISN develop an action plan as a joint network document and implement it



Influenza workshops for Public Health Officials

- Closed workshops for leading European Public Health Officials
- Scientific experts provide unbiased state-of-the-art information
- Two editions per year, between 30 and 45 participants
- Report of lectures and discussions widely spread and well-appreciated



European Influenza Conferences

Fourth ESWI INFLUENZA CONFERENCE

Malta

11-14 September 2011

- 1,200 attendees
- Focus on science
- Separate, tailor-made programme for public health officials
- www.eswiconference.org





First European Flu Summit

- Diamant Building, Brussels: 26 May 2011
- Platform for influenza stakeholder organizations to exchange good practices and to initiate concrete actions
- Co-operation with US National Influenza Vaccine Summit

