SCOPE AND PURPOSE

A meeting of National Immunization Programme Managers from 53 Member States in the WHO European Region will be held in Antalya, Turkey, from 18–21 March 2014.

The objectives of the meeting are to:

1. Brief participants on the current status of global and regional immunization programmes, including progress achieved and future priorities in countries of the WHO European Region;

2. Present and discuss programmatic areas of work and future priority areas towards strengthening national immunization systems:
   - Regional Vaccines Action Plan (RVAP) discussion and consultation. Feedback and input to the RVAP in preparation for endorsement by the Regional Committee (RC64) in September 2014;
   - Accelerated Disease Control: measles and rubella elimination verification progress and challenges; key work areas in the measles and rubella package of accelerated action; role of national professional and civic societies in disease elimination strategies; integrated surveillance and laboratory support for measles/rubella elimination and polio eradication;
   - Sustaining polio free status of the WHO European Region; risk assessment and risk mitigation; the introduction of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and programme implications;
   - Vaccine Acceptance, Advocacy and Communication: tackling vaccine hesitancy, driving acceptance and demand for vaccines; considering lessons learned from European Immunization Week and the future of the initiative;
   - Immunization System Strengthening including introduction of new and under-utilized vaccines: present and discuss key issues related to the introduction of new and under-utilized antigens (perspectives and support for decision-making);
   - Tailoring Immunization Programmes and new technology initiatives: an introduction to the Tailoring Immunization Programme Guide (TIP); results of TIP application in Bulgaria and Sweden, future plans and update on current TIP projects in the European Region; using technology to improve accountability and decision making (apps).
The expected results of the meeting are:

- Contribution and engagement by participants in the development of RVAP and increased knowledge, understanding and a consensus on the regional programme priorities, strategies, monitoring indicators and objectives;

- Commitment for the implementation of measles and rubella elimination verification and programme priority activities (including improved quality of surveillance);

- An understanding of available support, finances and guidelines for IPV introduction and the phasing-out of OPV;

- Renewed commitment to improve surveillance for polio in the Region, an understanding of benefits and limitations of supplementary surveillance for polio;

- An understanding of the new tools and techniques used to tackle vaccine hesitancy, build and maintain demand for vaccination services and tailor immunization programmes delivery to the needs of susceptible populations;

- Sharing of lessons learned and best practices from introductions of new and underutilized vaccines including examples of successful communication strategies;

- Strengthened working relationship and catalyst for partners and stakeholder Member State engagement; exploration of new joint initiatives and areas of collaboration.