


The logo for SIVAC, featuring the letters 'SIVAC' in a blue, sans-serif font with a stylized orange and blue swoosh underneath.

Supporting Independent
Immunization and Vaccine
Advisory Committees

A light beige arrow pointing to the right, containing the text 'November, 2015'.

First Meeting of the International Network of NITAGs

2016 Meeting theme : NITAG
evaluation

V6

November 20, 2015

Agence de Médecine Préventive

21 Boulevard Pasteur | 75015 Paris | France

1. Background

Three meetings held respectively in Berlin in 2010 and 2011 and Paris in 2014 brought together National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) at various levels of maturity to discuss scientific collaboration. They reached the following conclusions:

- a) International cooperation would be beneficial in order to develop common frameworks for certain aspects of national immunization recommendation developments in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to build on existing strengths.
- b) Sharing resources, results and skills will alleviate the workload of NITAGs. The best illustration of this collaboration is the joint production of systematic reviews, which are a prerequisite for preparation of any evidence-based decisions.
- c) A core functional structure to promote the NITAG community and facilitate exchange is required.
- d) Activities such as trainings, twinning (at regional level) and sharing of tools, such as research protocols or modeling tools, are important.
- e) Different levels of collaboration are possible, including the sharing of works in progress. Yet the sharing of non-published final products raises concerns such as copyright issues.
- f) Establishing an official forum, steered by an international committee, for sharing information (international network of NITAGs) in the view of setting up any type of collaboration between NITAGs would certainly help with the issues mentioned earlier..

The desire for a formalized collaboration of NITAGs both at regional and international levels clearly emerged from the meetings.

Following those conclusions, the AMP WHO Collaborating Center has taken 2 critical steps:

- a) The NITAG Resource Center, which serves as the technical tool for the international network of NITAGs, has been completely revamped and is now available online (<http://www.nitag-resource.org/>). It was presented on several occasions to the European and African NITAGs meetings, as well as a Canadian meeting. It received useful feedback from NITAG members and has been constantly and proactively managed by a dedicated knowledge and network manager.
- b) The feasibility and conditions for success of a Global Network of NITAGs were assessed. Based on preliminary discussions and work undertaken with partners, the International Network of NITAGs will be launched under specific terms of reference.

2. Terms of Reference

- ✦ No mandatory membership. All NITAGs are invited to join the International Network
- ✦ Expected benefits: access to peers, NITAG documentation sharing, collaboration on specific topics
- ✦ Frequency and location: once a year with a defined topic and with an alternative venue each year

- + Coordination: The HPID Unit as a WHO Collaborating Center will act as the secretariat

3. Objectives and expected outcomes

This first meeting of the International Network of NITAGs serves as a valuable opportunity to discuss collaboration in an area that is relevant to all NITAGs whatever their level of maturity: the evaluation of NITAG performance. Therefore, there will be a focus on NITAGs executive secretariats.

NITAGs will decide on the participation of chairs/secretaries. Specific meeting objectives are to:

- + Hear various NITAGs' experiences in evaluation and lessons learned;
- + Present the evaluation tool developed by the HPID Unit;
- + Discuss common challenges identified and required resources to counteract them;
- + Agree on a plan of action for NITAGs requesting an evaluation in the next twelve months: training of regional resources and a list of local resources available; and
- + Develop regional space to report on results and proactively share lessons learned on the NRC.

A side meeting with regional sub-groups will be planned to offer the opportunity to share work plans and discuss areas of collaboration at the regional level.

4. Meeting organization

4.1. Suggested participants

This meeting will be organized by AMP HPID in close collaboration with WHO HQ & regional offices and other partners. All NITAGs are invited. Please note that travel costs will be at participants' expense.

OTHERS PARTNERS

- + CDC
- + ECDC
- + GAVI

4.2. Date and place

Duration: 2 days

Place: Fondation Mérieux, Veyrier du Lac, Les Pensières, France

Time: 11 - 12 May