Assessment of needs-based usefulness of interventions to address system barriers to HPV vaccination

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Background
Adolescents of underserved communities face multiple health system barriers to access HPV vaccination. The Horizon 2020 project RIVER-EU will implement interventions to address these barriers in the migrant community in Greece, the Turkish and Moroccan communities in the Netherlands, the Ukrainian community in Poland and the Roma community in Slovakia.

Objective
To identify and pre-select promising evidence-based interventions that potentially meet the contextual needs of the target communities as a basis for transferability assessment

Methods
A systematic literature search identified 32 interventions. Based on the PIET-T models of transferability [1], we developed a methodology to assess the needs-based usefulness of an intervention for a target context:

- **Criteria of intervention usefulness**: health issue, population, intervention content, outcomes, up-to-datedness, applicability, general quality and usefulness of the evidence-base
- **Methodological workshops** with country members for independent assessment in each country
- **Rating of each intervention** by country members and local advisory boards for decision-making

Results
Five interventions were pre-selected, with overlap: 2 interventions were selected by all countries [2-3], and 1 by 2 countries [4]. Further, 2 interventions were each selected by 1 country [5-6]. Trained community members to support HPV vaccination were considered promising in all countries [2-3]. In Greece and the Netherlands, an educational programme in schools was included [4]. Further, the Netherlands chose an intervention addressing providers’ vaccine communication [5], and Slovakia a multilevel intervention [6].

| Rating of intervention usefulness of pre-selected interventions |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Health promoters [2]**                                      |
| Greece: The Netherlands, Poland                              |
| Health promoters [3]                                         |
| Greece: The Netherlands, Poland                              |
| School-based vaccination [4]                                 |
| Greece: The Netherlands, Poland                              |
| Education of professionals [5]                              |
| Greece: The Netherlands, Poland                              |
| Multilevel intervention [6]                                  |
| Greece: The Netherlands, Poland                              |
| 0 Definitely not useful, 1 Probably not, 2 Possibly, 3 Probably, 4 Definitely useful |

Discussion
In their feedback on the assessment, country members valued the structured approach to address the complexity of understanding intervention usefulness from a target country perspective. Critical discussions on the interventions enabled to specify needs for further clarification, for adaptations, and alternatives to consider for transferability analyses.

References:
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