

PRESS RELEASE

A new European project on promotion of immunization for health professionals

Athens, February 10, 2012- Experience of outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, which have been recorded in the last years in Europe and the U.S.A., indicate that immunization of health professionals is a vital public health issue.

As an answer to the need for promoting immunization for health professionals, the Athens based Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health, Prolepsis, is coordinating a new 3-year European project titled “Promotion of Immunization for Health Professionals in Europe - HProImmune”. HProImmune, which is now in its 5th month of implementation, is co-funded by the DG SANCO Public Health Program 2008 – 2013. The HProImmune consortium comprises of 10 associated partners from 7 countries and 2 collaborating partners from Europe.

On both a European and an international level, studies show that pathogens transmitted via blood or infectious droplets are known health and occupational risks for health care workers, many of which have died while caring for patients. Moreover, studies in relation to influenza show that significant influenza outbreaks in health care settings can lead to absenteeism resulting in inadequate staffing, which may in turn diminish quality of care and increase costs.

HProImmune’s general objective is to promote vaccination coverage of health care workers in different health care settings by developing a tailored immunization toolkit.

More specifically, the project will review, summarize and widely disseminate existing information and best practices on health care workers’ immunization. Through qualitative analysis HProImmune will also explore behaviors and barriers to health care workers’ immunization. This knowledge will be compiled in a comprehensive communication toolkit addressing the needs and perspectives of medical personnel in primary care as well as hospital setting. The toolkit will enable public health authorities and hospital administrators to plan and organize successful immunization activities, contributing thus to the achievement of national strategic goals for increasing vaccination coverage especially in the case of seasonal influenza.

For more information on the project please visit www.hproimmune.eu or contact Ms Afroditi Veloudaki at a.veloudaki@prolepsis.gr or Ms Pania Karnaki at p.karnaki@prolepsis.gr and at +30 210-6255700.

###

The Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health, Prolepsis, is a non-profit organization, active in the field of medical research, health promotion, environmental and occupational health since 1991.