



EUROPE'S ROLE IN STRENGTHENING POLIO RESILIENCE: LINKING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND HEALTH SECURITY

Organised by the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute
and Rotary International

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END
POLIO
NOW

SAVE THE DATE

PUBLIC EVENT

Wednesday, 11 October 2017

15.30 - 18.00

Sofitel, Place Jourdan 1, Brussels

The complexity of contemporary global health issues, such as infectious disease outbreaks, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and universal health coverage (UHC), underscores the need for strong political leadership. As the world's largest global public health initiative, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has developed synergies and interconnections with these and other health agendas. The eradication of polio and responsible transitioning of related assets to other global health programs is a significant challenge and presents an opportunity for political action to leverage investments and lessons learned from polio to strengthen resilience and health systems more broadly.

Several European governments have been long-standing supporters of the Initiative and the European Commission recently pledged an additional 55 million euros to the GPEI as an investment in wider European priorities of strengthening health systems and health security. Beyond financial commitments, sustaining eradication will require widespread political engagement and collective action. The recently adopted *European Consensus on Development* and the new *Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU's external action* link to the ongoing debate on polio transitioning.

The Global Health Centre and Rotary International jointly host this public event to explore avenues for further European political action on polio eradication in relation to health security, resilience and health systems strengthening. Representatives from Member States, the European Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, WHO-EURO and civil society will address the following questions:

- Where and how can lessons from polio efforts be captured and embedded in national and regional European health systems? What is the role of the European actors?
- In what ways collective action among European actors has to be strengthened to ensure that polio-related assets and essential functions for health security are sustained?
- Can polio-related activities and resources be leveraged to support the "*Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU's external action*" and "*The New European Consensus on Development*"?

This event is part of a research project supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

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You are required to register your attendance free of charge.