



Country score tool for readiness assessment and evidence generation of immunization programs in aging adults in Europe

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CONCLUSION: Through a thorough and transparent process, a country score tool was developed helping to identify strengths, weaknesses, and evidential requirements for decision-making and implementation of immunization programs in ageing adults. The tool is relevant for different European contexts and shows good comprehensiveness, acceptability, and feasibility.

INTRODUCTION:

Delaying of policies for immunization of ageing adults, low vaccine uptake, and the lack of supportive evidence at the national level could diminish the value in health and economics of such programs. This study aims

1. to develop a “country score tool” to assess readiness and to facilitate evidence generation for ageing adult immunization programs in Europe, and
2. to examine the comprehensiveness, relevance, acceptability, and feasibility of the tool.

METHOD:

A modified Delphi procedure was used to construct the tool. This method concerned a group consensus strategy that systematically uses literature review, opinions of the research team and the judgment of experts within the research field to reach agreement. Pilot testing was conducted in the Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, and Serbia to finalize the tool and examine its features (Figure 1). Pilot participants were asked to first, complete the readiness assessment in their countries and second, take an online post-pilot assessment evaluating the tool.

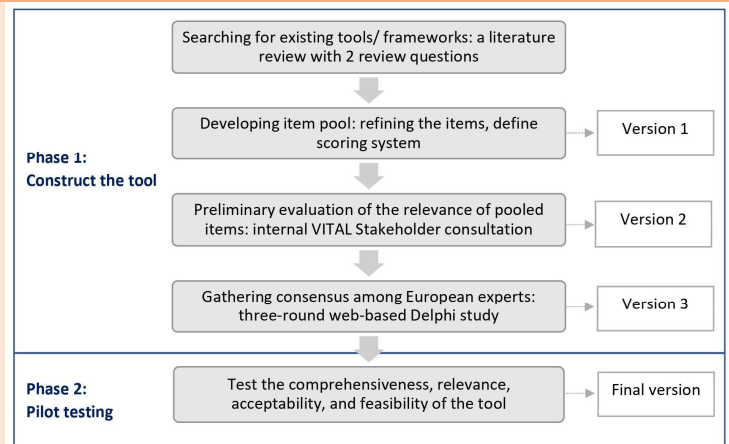


Figure 1. Development process of the Country Score Tool

RESULTS (1): Country score tool

The review identified 16 tools and frameworks that formed the first version of our tool. Eight experts including researchers, supra-national, and national decision-makers were involved in the Delphi panel. The consensus was achieved on the tool with 17 items divided into decision-making and implementation parts. Each item has a guiding question, corresponding to explanations and rationales to inform assessment with readiness scores (Figure 2).

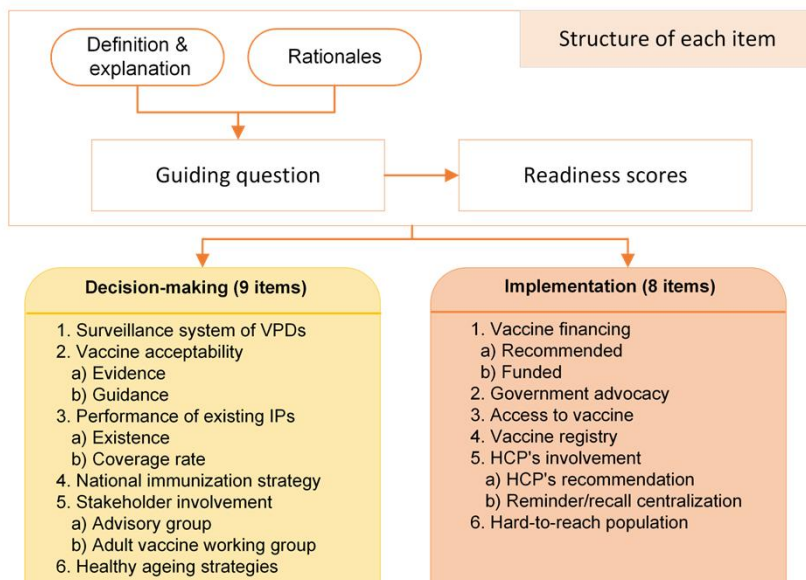


Figure 2. The structure and included items of the Country Score Tool

VPD: vaccine-preventable diseases; IPs: immunization programs; HCP: Healthcare professionals

RESULTS (2): Pilot testing

Eight researchers participated and completed the readiness assessment and the post-pilot survey (Response rate 100%, N=8).

Table 1: Results of the post-pilot assessment. Percentages of participants evaluating different features of the tool are presented.

Feature	Criteria	Confirmed by participants
Comprehensiveness	The tool covers all essential components	75%
	All components of the tool are well explained	88%
Relevance	All components of the tool are relevant	100%
	Time needed to complete the tool is acceptable	75%
Acceptability	Use the tool or its results in the future	75%
	Recommend the tool or its results to colleagues	100%
Feasibility	Ability to complete the readiness assessment	100%
	Ability to come up with a research plan after completing the readiness assessment	88%

Disclosure:

This work was conducted as part of the Vaccines and Infectious diseases in the Ageing population (VITAL) project which has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No. 806776. Ekkehard Beck is an employee of and holds shares in GSK. GSK was provided with an opportunity to review the preliminary version of this poster for factual accuracy, but the authors are solely responsible for the final content and interpretation.