Implementation of cost-optimized childhood vision and hearing screening programmes in middle-income countries in Europe

Fact Sheet

Project Information

**EUSCREEN**

Grant agreement ID: 733352

Project website

Status

Ongoing project

Funded under

H2020-EU.3.1.6.

Overall budget

€ 4 255 671,25

EU contribution

€ 4 183 563

Coordinated by

ERASMUS UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM ROTTERDAM Netherlands

Start date

1 January 2017

End date

31 December 2020

Objective

Screening for vision and hearing disorders in children has shown to be highly effective. EU-directive 16620/11 invites EU-member states to give priority to such screening programmes. Early detection and treatment of a lazy eye (prevalence 3%) prevents lifelong visual impairment. Early detection and treatment of hearing impairment (prevalence 0.15%) prevents delayed speech and language development.

Across Europe inequity exists in the provision of childhood vision and hearing screening programmes (VAHSPs). High-Income Countries (HICs) have VAHSPs,
but they vary with regard to age and frequency of testing, tests used, uptake, screening professionals, referral pathway and funding. This makes it difficult for healthcare providers and policy makers to decide what VAHSP to implement in Low-to Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) and how.

In this study, cost-optimised, evidence-based VAHSPs will be implemented in two LMICs, based on collated evidence from existing VAHSPs in Europe. Data on VAHSPs, demography, administration, general screening, screening professions, uptake and treatment availability will be gathered in an established network of professionals in 41 European countries and used in a disease/health system modelling framework to predict benefits and cost in the most optimal health system, taking regional diversity and organisational and resource requirements into account. Model-developed VAHSPs will be tested in the county of Cluj in Romania for vision, and in three counties in Albania for hearing screening. A generic strategy for implementation will be developed by detailed tracking, and from identified requirements, facilitators and barriers. The decision-analytic modelling framework and the strategy for implementation will be packed into a transferable TOOLKIT that will assist healthcare providers and policy makers worldwide in their decisions to introduce or modify VAHSPs, and increase effectiveness, efficiency and equity of child healthcare.

Field of science

/social sciences/sociology/demography
/humanities/languages and literature/linguistics/phonetics
/humanities/languages and literature/languages - general

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

H2020-SC1-2016-RTD

Funding Scheme

RIA - Research and Innovation action

Coordinator
ERASMUS UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM ROTTERDAM

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Activity type
Higher or Secondary
Education Establishments

EU contribution
€ 1 489 960

Website
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Participants (8)

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EU contribution
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Activity type
Public bodies (excluding Research Organisations and Secondary or Higher Education Establishments)

Website
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STICHTING COUNTRY-COMMITTEES JOINT-PARTNERSHIP OF EUSCREEN STUDY CONSORTIUM

Netherlands
EU contribution
€ 246 000

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Activity type
Other

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