

## Experts Respond to Declining Vaccination Confidence Amongst Populations

TORONTO, Dec 14, 2022 – The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is proud to publish the results of the Expert Meeting, Improving Vaccination Confidence in the Most Vulnerable Populations, held in Brussels (19 July 2022). The expert meeting brought together representatives from the World Health Organization, patient organizations, and experts in immunization and health policy based throughout Europe, with the aim of identifying actions to improve vaccine confidence, particularly amongst older adults and those with underlying chronic conditions.

Vaccination is one of the most effective public health interventions of recent times. Vaccines have greatly reduced diseases that once routinely killed many around the world. However, in recent years, confidence in vaccination has significantly decreased, placing populations most at risk, including older adults, in danger of serious and life-threatening complications.

“Understanding that vaccination should be in the narrative of healthy ageing is key, particularly for older adults and vulnerable populations. Vaccines aren’t just about preventing disease, they’re also a key contributor to maintaining good function and well-being throughout life, which enables healthy ageing” says Roxana Badiei, Project Officer at the IFA.

Participants of the Expert Meeting identified five distinct action items to regain trust in vaccination and improve immunization uptake and coverage rates.

Badiei explains the thought process behind creating the expert meeting and its action items. “With COVID-19 catalyzing a lot of hesitation around vaccination confidence, the need for strategies to improve uptake and immunization became crucial. A one-size-fits-all approach to regain trust in vaccination is not the answer. Instead, experts around the table concluded that vaccine confidence requires a holistic approach. Investments in health require reorientation away from treatment toward health promotion, including efforts to improve vaccination uptake and confidence.”

To learn more about the Expert Meeting visit [Vaccines4Life](https://www.vaccines4life.org/) and explore the IFA’s social media platforms @IFAgeing.

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The [International Federation on Ageing](https://www.international-federation-on-ageing.org/) (IFA) is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with a unique membership base comprising government, NGOs, academics, industry, and individuals in over 80 countries. Nearly 50 years old, the IFA has become known as a leading and innovative organization that works across disciplines and sectors toward common goals that improve the lives of older people. Through the IFA’s formal relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and general consultative status at the United Nations and its agencies, the IFA is in the position to advocate directly with member states and contribute to and inform intergovernmental dialogue.