

Addressing vaccine hesitancy in Europe (VAX-TRUST)

VAX-TRUST focused on exploring vaccine hesitancy as a widespread issue, aiming to enhance healthcare professionals' understanding and approach towards vaccine-hesitant individuals by offering them comprehensive sociological research insights.



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1. Describe your project through three key words / key phrases that identify it.

VAX-TRUST examined vaccine hesitancy as a broad societal phenomenon. We aimed at increasing knowledge about the situation of vaccine hesitancy in specific regions and understanding deeply the position of different actors in terms of vaccine hesitancy. We aimed to support healthcare professionals in their engagements with vaccine hesitancy. We provided healthcare professionals with access to up-to-date and in-depth sociological research, which could foster professional self-reflexivity concerning the ways in which professionals approach vaccine-hesitant parents.

2. In terms of impact, what are the most concrete results your project has or will achieve?

VAX-TRUST strengthens healthcare professionals' expertise on vaccine hesitancy. Through VAX-TRUST approach, healthcare professionals and future healthcare professionals may become more sensitive to different perspectives on vaccines, especially of vaccine hesitant parents. Also, healthcare professionals may be able to better meet with vaccine hesitancy and related challenges at work and be encouraged to develop novel and creative healthcare practices.

3. Please describe your project overall impact at the European level

Healthcare professionals— those at work already as well as nursing and medical students—may be better equipped to meet with societal challenges related to expert knowledge, expertise, and evidence-based recommendations.

4. As an applicant, what advice would you have wanted in the Horizon project design process? What support did you receive from National Contact point (NCP) and your organisation, and what improvement of support would you benefit from?

The NCP provided essential general information, while substantial support came from my University's Research Services, which was pivotal during the Horizon project design process. Their assistance included access to previous applications, organizing impactful workshops, budgeting aid, and enhancing the application with visuals. Their pre-award team facilitated crucial early interactions within the consortium, and the post-award team supported project management, communication, and conflict resolution, especially valuable in navigating the cultural and methodological diversity of our European consortium.