



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
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Date: 20 September 2017

Dr Nino Berdzuli
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
Tbilisi 0119
Georgia

Our reference:	2017 GEO	Your reference:
Notre référence:	HPV	Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:	mission	Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:		На Ваш номер:

Dear Dr Berdzuli,

**Mission of WHO Regional Office for Europe to Georgia Prior to the Introduction of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine
3-7 October 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia**

The WHO Regional Office for Europe (Regional Office) highly appreciates the continuing efforts of the Ministry of Health of Georgia to strengthen its national immunization programme. The introduction of the vaccine against human papillomavirus (HPV) into the routine schedule, planned for 2017, will provide a valuable opportunity to protect adolescent girls against cervical cancer through their life course and will have a dramatic impact on cervical cancer morbidity and mortality in the future.

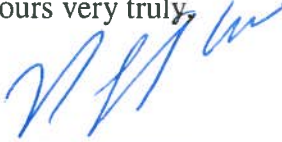
The Regional Office has already provided technical support for HPV vaccine communication. In this regard, Siff Malue Nielsen, WHO consultant, visited Georgia from 24 March to 27 March 2017 and supported formative research to better understand community knowledge including barriers and enablers to vaccination, attitude, practice and belief towards vaccines in general and HPV. The research comprised qualitative research, including in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The aim of this field work was to support the national experts in developing a targeted and effective communications plan for the HPV vaccine introduction, specific to the needs of the population. A research report including findings and recommendation for communications has been developed and shared with the Ministry of Health and the National Immunization Programme.

WHO Regional Office for Europe continues to offer technical support by presenting the result of the formative research and provide the National Immunization Programme with recommendations for communication prior to the introduction of HPV vaccine. This will be provided by the participation of Siff Malue Nielsen and Barbara Franklin, WHO consultants, at a Stakeholder Meeting, planned and organized by the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health. In addition, the consultants will co-facilitate participatory workshops throughout the three day mission to support the National Immunization Programme in finalizing the communication action plan incl. crisis communication plan prior to the HPV vaccine introduction.

We would be grateful to receive your positive reply to our proposal and look forward to your further collaboration.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Dr Liudmila Mosina, Technical Officer, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization, by email mosinal@who.int or fax +45 45337001.

Yours very truly,



Dr Nedret Emiroglu

Director

Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases

Copy for information to:

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