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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
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ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Head office:

UN City, Marmorvej 51,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel.: +45 45 33 70 00; Fax: +45 45 33 70 01
Email: contact@euro.who.int
Website: <http://www.euro.who.int>

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Date: 26 February 2018

Dr Sofiko Belkania
Head, Executive Department
National Counterpart
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Dr Belkania,

Annual status update (ASU) on measles and rubella elimination – 2017

The Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization programme (VPI) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe is pleased to inform you that the seventh meeting of the European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination (RVC) will be held in June 2018, to review status and achievements towards measles and rubella elimination in countries and in the Region. The RVC will base its decision on the status of measles and rubella elimination in each Member State and the Region on three consecutive reports submitted by the respective national verification committees (NVCs).

All Member States are requested to submit their ASU on measles and rubella elimination activities for the year 2017 with all relevant information **by no later than 15 April 2018**. Adhering to this deadline is essential to ensure sufficient time for the analysis of data before the RVC meets. An ASU template for 2017 and all additional documents, prepared and approved by the respective NVC, should be submitted via SharePoint or by e-mail (eurvc@who.int) to the WHO Regional Office for Europe (RVC Secretariat). We kindly ask you to use the credentials and instructions for using SharePoint as previously provided.

Attached you will find a template for the 2017 ASU, modified version of the form used for 2016. To ensure consistency, please follow the proposed format as explained in the instructions. To facilitate your work on preparation of the ASU 2017, we developed a tool – an Excel file with pre-prepared tables with formulas that will help you in calculating data. A few extra worksheets are developed to facilitate analysis of data at subnational level and to allow presenting detailed molecular epidemiology information if available, for your convenience. We recommend to submit this file together with ASU 2017.

In addition, we encourage you to submit any additional information that will assist the RVC in determining the status of measles and rubella elimination in your country. Additional information that does not fit in the template may be uploaded as a separate document. VPI stands ready to support you in ensuring timely completion of the ASU.

We would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of ensuring that data submitted in this annual update are accurate and consistent with other national reports submitted to the Regional Office.

We would also like to stress that all reports and additional information received from the NVCs during the verification process will be carefully reviewed and analysed. RVC conclusions based on this information will be publicly presented in various forms, as part of planned communication activities to recognize Member States' efforts and progress towards the Region's immunization goals.

Should you have any questions regarding the provided template and uploading of documents, please contact Dr Dragan Jankovic (jankovicd@who.int) and Ms Malika Abdusalyamova (abdusalyamovam@who.int).

We would like to stress that your efforts in documenting the absence of endemic transmission in your country are highly appreciated and critical to achieving measles and rubella elimination in the Region.

The RVC and Secretariat are committed to providing you with any support that you may require.

Yours very truly,



Robb Butler
Programme Manager
Vaccine-preventable Diseases
and Immunization

Copy for information to:

H.E. Mr Victor Dolidze, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, CH-1202 Genève, Switzerland
H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor, 1203 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Mr Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Dr Marijan Ivanusa, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street, Apt.4, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia