2026 European Vaccines Hub Regulatory Think Tank

Date: September 17th and 18th, 2026

Location: Marburg, Germany

Topic: **How can platform technology accelerate vaccine development?**

Application Deadline: July 31st, 2026

Platform technologies for vaccine development are widely recognised as facilitators during public health emergencies. However, to date, they confer limited procedural advantage in the marketing authorisation process because regulatory agencies traditionally approve individual products rather than the technology-dependent manufacturing process.

Under the Chatham House Rule, key opinion leaders from academia, industry, regulatory agencies, and policymaking bodies will be invited to conceptually advance perspectives on how existing platform technologies could practically be leveraged to accelerate vaccine licensure before and during a public health emergency in the EU and beyond. The following specific questions will be addressed. We ask participants to provide specific examples based on their experiences.

1. **Definition**: What constitutes a platform technology?

Which specific features characterise different vaccine platform technologies and how do these features shape pandemic vaccine development? What elements of the vaccine are considered "platform-defining" versus "product-specific"? Which data generated for one vaccine can be re-utilized for subsequent vaccine developments using the same platform? What level of evidence is required to establish a platform as sufficiently characterized for regulatory reliance? How should prior knowledge be accumulated and maintained across multiple products using the same platform?

2. **Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls**: Is a Master File for manufacturing feasible?

Which data could be referenced and what modifications would be expected when introducing a new vaccine product? Which process parameters are critical and must be revalidated after antigen switching? Can process validation be performed at the platform level rather than for each product?

3. **Antigen switching**: Which types of prototype vaccines allow switching to new antigens?

What are the consequences of an antigen exchange? Which parameters remain stable in a simple antigen switch versus the design of a fundamentally new vaccine product? How much analytical comparability is required when replacing the antigen? To which extent can preclinical experiments, including NHP studies, inform on comparability of vaccine responses?

4. **Safety**: Can safety databases inform on safety aspects associated with a platform technology?

When can safety data from other vaccines reliably reflect platform-specific risks? When is safety affected by an antigen/pathogen? How can this be addressed in a pre-emptive manner?

5. **Clinical Efficacy and Immunological Bridging:** Can an immunogenicity endpoint replace efficacy studies following antigen updates?

Are correlates pathogen-specific or platform-specific? When is immunobridging sufficient instead of efficacy trials?

In a general session, we will discuss different vaccine platform technologies and seek to define general criteria that should be fulfilled by a platform, which would enable re-utilization of data for licensure of new vaccines based on the same platform technology.

Kindly submit your response under the following link https://cloud.dzif.de/apps/forms/s/n9BaGTb4oaDzA76ZbXoPaSYb or contact evh@uni-marburg.de until **July, 31st** to express your interest for participation.