

Poster 15**Title: Effective measles elimination strategy in Portugal****Authors:** Teresa Fernandes¹; Ana Leça¹; Paula Valente¹; Etelevina Calé¹; Andreia Silva¹; Maria da Graça Freitas¹**Institutions:** ¹Directorate-General of Health, Lisbon, Portugal**[Description]**

Portugal is one of the 16 European countries with no endemic transmission of measles, as concluded by the European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination in October of 2013.

This was achieved through a long-term strategy implemented in Portugal that started with a vaccination campaign for 1 to 4 year-olds in 1973-77 and the inclusion of the vaccine in the National Vaccination Programme (NVP) in 1974. In 1990 the second dose was introduced in the national Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccination scheme (given then at 15 months and 11-13 years old). This strategy was reinforced with a catch-up campaign in children up to 18 years old in 1998-2000 to prevent a possible outbreak in susceptible people accumulated along the years. In 2000 the second dose was advanced to the age of 5-6 years. To respond to the worsening of the international measles situation new national catch-ups were done in 2008 and 2011. In 2012 MMR vaccination scheme was updated again by advancing the first dose to 12 months of age and maintaining the second dose at 5-6 years of age. In 2013 the National Measles Elimination Programme was updated in order to update, remind and reinforce the vaccination, surveillance and control strategies of the Programme.

Since 2004, Portugal registers 0 to 3 imported cases/year that resulted in 4 self-limited outbreaks of 2 to 6 cases. This is the result of the Portuguese measles long-term elimination strategy allied to a very successful National Vaccination Programme, confirmed by the high MMR coverage for 2 doses at national level, observed in all the cohorts with 7 to 18 years old (range of 95,7% to 97,9%, by december 2013). Today, the main objectives of the Measles Elimination Programme in Portugal are to maintain the high MMR coverage levels, giving special attention to the vaccination of migrants, travelers and health professionals.

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