

# Knowledge and Attitude to HPV Vaccination among Women in Latvia

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### **EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 Baltic Research Programme**

Project EMP416 «Towards elimination of cervical cancer: intelligent and personalised solutions for cancer screening»

2019-2023

Aim of the project: To use existing registry and health data to <u>personalise cervical cancer screening</u> for the benefit of citizens and society to create algorithms that can deliver personalized cervical cancer screening recommendations











#### Methods I

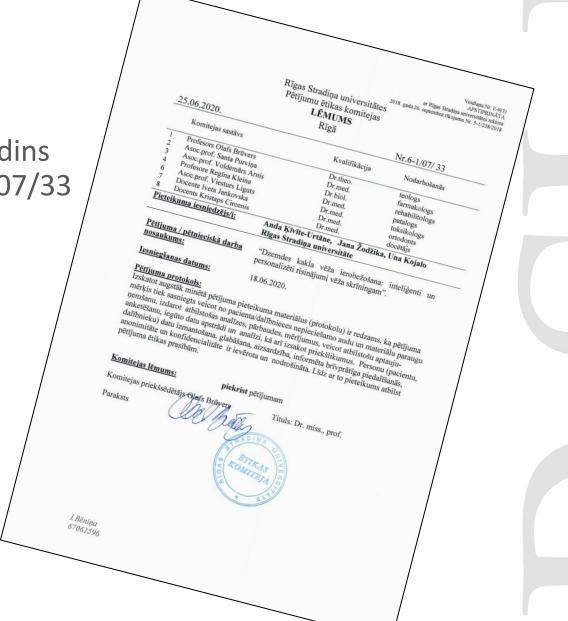
- cross-sectional study
- field work February 2021 to February 2022
- 1313 women aged 25-70 years recruited
- a) via the colposcopy specialists of the Outpatient Department of the Riga East Clinical University Hospital (RAKUS) – n=545
- b) via 10 general practitioners' practices (2 in each of the Regions of Latvia) n=768
- self-filled questionnaire + self-collected vaginal sample for HPV testing (FLOQSwabs, COPAN + Cobas 4800 System, Roche)





### **Methods II**

Ethics Committee of Riga Stradins University – approval No 6-1/07/33





### **Methods III**

- SPSS 26.0 software
- multivariate logistic regression analysis
- results considered as statistically significant if p<0.05

## Sociodemographic, economic factors:

- Age
- Nationality
- Marital status
- Education
- Employment
- Income
- Self-assessment of financial situation

#### Health status:

- HPV status
- Chronic conditions
- BMI
- Number of pregnancies
- STI anamnesis
- Family history
- Study group (colposcopy / general pop.)

#### Health behaviour:

- Smoking
- Alcohol use
- Currently sexually active
- Number of partners
- Most recent visit to gynaecologist
- STI risk



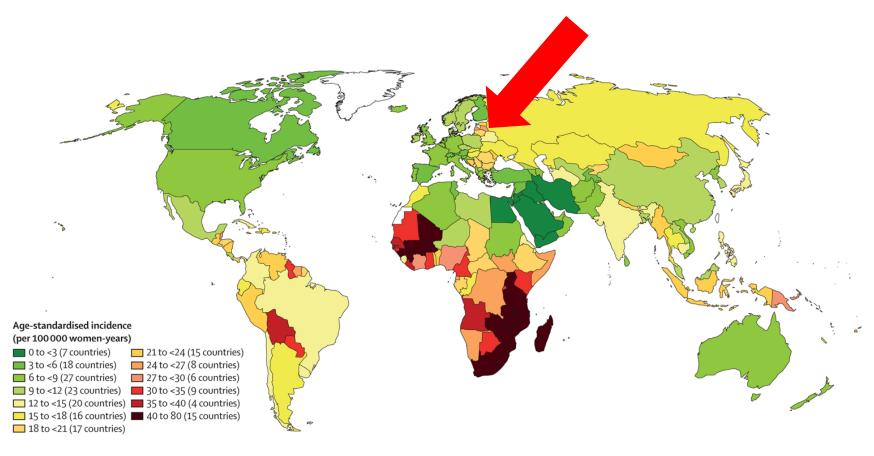


### **Background**

- organized population-based HPV vaccination programme in Latvia (introduced in 2010)
- vaccination of the target population is free of charge and includes 12-18-year-old girls (vaccination since 2022 sex neutral)
- vaccination provided by general practitioners
- vaccination coverage in Latvia (69%, 2019) higher than, e.g., in Estonia
- coverage can be increased considering the relatively high incidence and mortality rates from cervical cancer in Latvia
- awareness and attitudes towards vaccination vital role in promoting coverage



#### Estimates of incidence of cervical cancer in 2018 worldwide

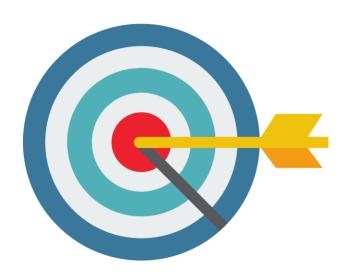






### Aim

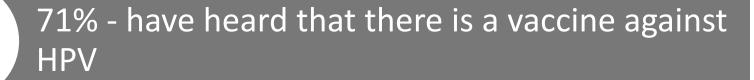
To find out the awareness about and attitude towards the HPV vaccination, as well as the associated factors in Latvia.







### Results I



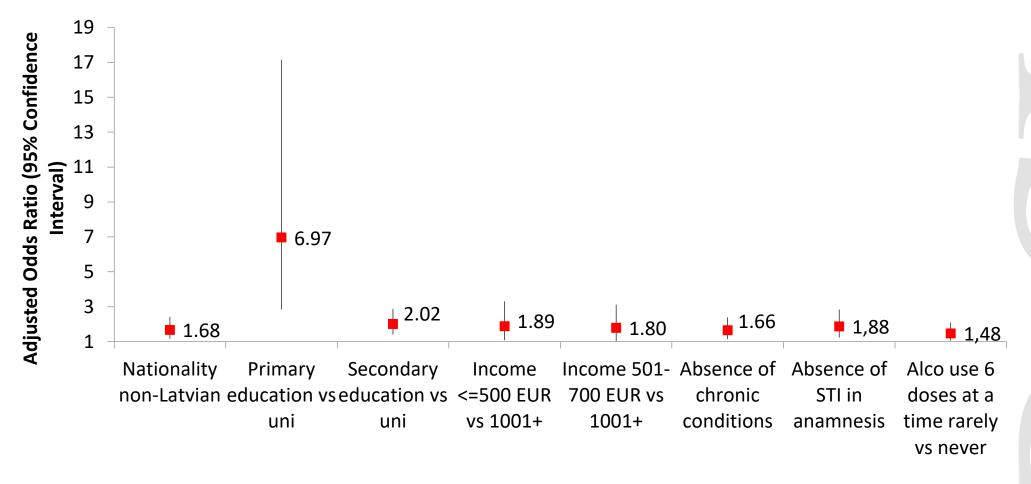
52% - considered that it is necessary to vaccinate 12-year-old girls against HPV

3% - reported that they are vaccinated against HPV



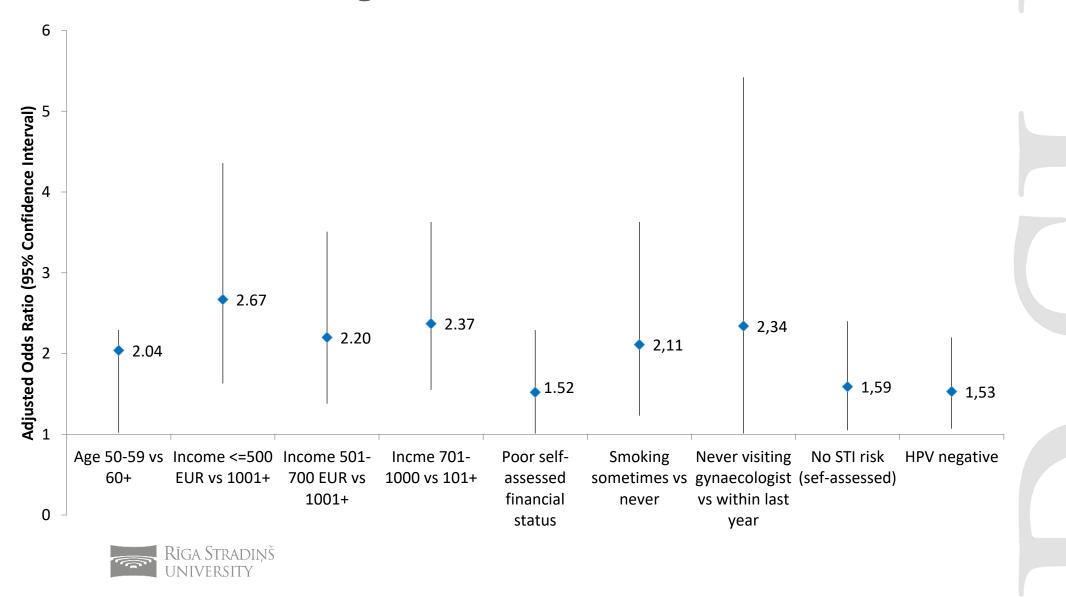


### Results II – lack of awareness



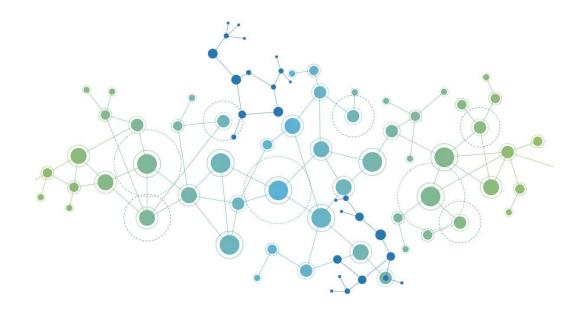


### Results III – negative attitude



### Conclusion

Awareness about and attitude towards the HPV vaccine in Latvia is associated with a range of socio-demographic and economic, health and health behavior factors.







# Thank you!

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