



Agence de Médecine Préventive



Supporting Independent  
Immunization and Vaccine  
Advisory Committees



INTERNATIONAL  
VACCINE INSTITUTE

# **SIVAC Initiative: Supporting Independent Immunization & Vaccine Advisory Committees**

## **NITAG RESOURCE CENTER**

March 2011



# About the SIVAC Initiative

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- The SIVAC Initiative assists in the establishment or strengthening of functional, sustainable National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) in GAVI-eligible and middle-income countries.
- The aim is to enhance the use of evidence-based decision making in the development of immunization programs and policies.
- SIVAC provides support in the form of technical assistance, briefings, tools development, and information sharing.
- SIVAC is a program of the Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP), a non-profit organization that links and mobilizes resources to address the needs of developing countries in the area of infectious diseases.



# About the SIVAC Initiative

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- SIVAC Initiative's major activities are:
  - To establish partnerships within the immunization community
  - To assist in the creation of new NITAGs
  - To strengthen existing NITAGs
  - To support the establishment of Inter-country ITAGs in West Africa
  - Knowledge sharing (including the NITAG Resource Center)



# NITAG Resource Center - In Brief

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- Knowledge sharing is one of the SIVAC Initiative's major activities. For that purpose, the SIVAC Initiative launched the NITAG Resource Center (NRC) website in July 2010: [www.nitag-resource.org](http://www.nitag-resource.org)
- The NRC is an electronic platform targeting NITAG members and NITAG executive secretariats, as well as the global immunization community.
- The NRC contains a collection of material and services that supports NITAGs in the establishment of evidence-based recommendations for immunization policies and programs at national level.
- The NRC is currently available in 4 languages: English, French, Russian and Spanish.



# NITAG Resource Center – Partnerships

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- The NRC is a collaborative tool
- Its partners include countries (Kenya, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Romania, etc.), as well as the following organizations:
  - Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP) and RIE-Advim
  - International Vaccine Institute (IVI)
  - US-CDC
  - Dalhousie University
  - Canadian Public Health Association
  - LSHTM
  - PAHO and PROVAC
  - PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative
  - Sabin Vaccine Institute
  - SIVAC Initiative
  - UNICEF
  - West African Health Organization (WAHO)
  - WHO



# NITAG Resource Center - Services

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The NRC provides four dedicated services:

- An Observatory: to provide information on NITAG activities and recommendations
- A Digital Library: to share all existing documentary resources and tools relevant to NITAGs
- A Center of Expertise: to provide briefing opportunities relevant to NITAGs
- An e-Community: to develop a network of NITAGs collaborating together



# NITAG Resource Center - Observatory

Home Presentation **Observatory** Digital Library Center of Expertise NITAG e-Community

## NITAG Dashboard

The Observatory provides updates on NITAG activities and recommendations as well as general information on immunization in various countries.

Use the map below to view the detailed description of a NITAG within a country. You will have access to various documents describing the NITAG (link to the website, legal documents, recommendations etc.) as well as news regarding the NITAG.

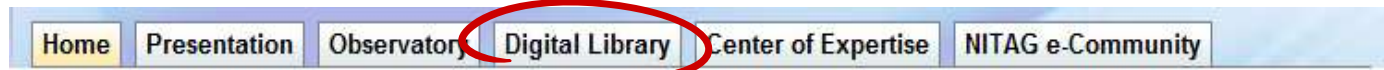


The map displays red location pins across various continents: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The map includes navigation controls (directional arrows, zoom in/out, and a search icon) and map style options (Plan, Satellite, Mixte). The text 'POWERED BY Google' is visible in the bottom left corner, and 'Conditions d'utilisation' is in the bottom right corner.

**You can also select a country from the list below:**

- [Australia](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [China](#)
- [France](#)
- [Honduras](#)
- [India](#)
- [Iran, Islamic Republic Of](#)
- [Korea, Republic Of](#)
- [Oman](#)
- [South Africa](#)
- [Sri Lanka](#)
- [Switzerland](#)

# NITAG Resource Center - Digital Library



## Document search

The Digital Library provides access to documentation and tools designed to facilitate evidence-based decision making for immunization policies and programs.

<b>Country</b>	<input type="text" value="Choose"/>	<b>Source(s) *</b>	<input type="text" value="N/A"/> American Red Cross AMP - Agence de Médecine F Annals of Internal Medicine BEH - Bulletin épidémiologique
<b>Topic *</b>	<input type="text" value="Epidemiology"/> Health economics Health policy Logistics & Programmatic Other	<b>Type of document *</b>	<input type="text" value="Data &amp; Statistics"/> Fact sheet Guideline NITAG Functioning NITAG Legal document
<b>Document language *</b>	<input type="text" value="English"/> French Arabic Chinese German	<b>Reference</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Year of publication</b>	<input type="text" value="Choose"/>		
<b>Author</b>	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Full Text search</b>	<input type="text"/>		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Any of my keywords <input type="radio"/> All of my keywords <input type="radio"/> This exact phrase		
<b>Keywords</b>	<input type="text" value="cholera"/> cost decision making diphtheria disease burden		
<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		* = Hold down the Ctrl key for a multiple selection	







# NITAG Resource Center - Center of Expertise

## Briefing catalog

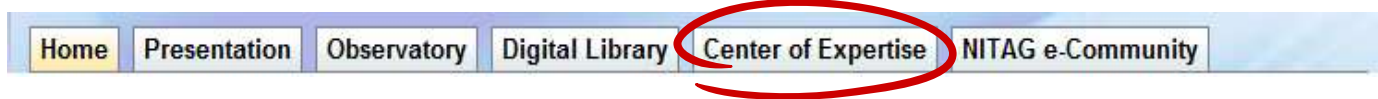
The Center of Expertise provides briefing opportunities relevant to NITAG members and NITAG executive secretariats, and lists existing documents on immunization.

19 results

Sort by  ▼

Title	Briefing provider	Duration	Briefing language	Country	Details
<a href="#">ADVAC - Advanced Course of Vaccinology</a>	Fondation Mérieux and Université de Genève	1 month maximum	French	Switzerland	
<a href="#">Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)</a>	WHO - World Health Organization	1 week maximum	English / French		
<a href="#">AIM (Advanced Immunization Management) e-Learning Website: Hepatitis B</a>	PATH - Program for Appropriate Technology in Health	N/A	English / French / Russian	United States	
<a href="#">AIM (Advanced Immunization Management) e-Learning Website: Immunization financing</a>	PATH - Program for Appropriate Technology in Health	N/A	English / French / Indonesian / Russian	United States	
<a href="#">AIM (Advanced Immunization Management) e-Learning Website: Japanese Encephalitis</a>	PATH - Program for Appropriate Technology in Health	N/A	English	United States	
<a href="#">AIM (Advanced Immunization Management) e-Learning Website: Meningococcal meningitis in Africa</a>	PATH - Program for Appropriate Technology in Health	N/A	English / French	United States	

# NITAG Resource Center - Center of Expertise



## | Rapid briefings

Rapid briefings are e-learning courses developed by AMP for SIVAC as a response to a need from NITAG members to understand what a NITAG is and how it works, as well as to learn the basics of health economic evaluation applied to immunization

The [Center of Expertise](#) includes two briefings:

- the NITAG Newcomers briefing: available in English and in French
- the Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members briefing: available in English



# NITAG newcomers briefing

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The NITAG newcomers briefing aims to explain to new NITAG members :

- What a NITAG is
- The roles and responsibilities of its members
- The main issues that a NITAG member can face
- How a NITAG functions
- How the recommendations are established and disseminated to National Authorities

The target audience of the briefing is primarily NITAG members and members of the NITAG Executive Secretariat

# NITAG newcomers briefing

The briefing is a fictional story that tells how the country of Lomapa has implemented, organized its NITAG and set up its first meeting. It is presented as a dialogue taking place between several characters.

Place: Ministry of Health (MoH)

Person: NITAG Chairman, NITAG Executive Secretary, and the Director of Immunization and Infectious Diseases (ID) at the MoH.

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March



# NITAG newcomers briefing

Dialogues are interrupted by questions that force the participants to think about key concepts.

? What are the key elements of a successful NITAG?  
*Choose the most appropriate answer(s).*



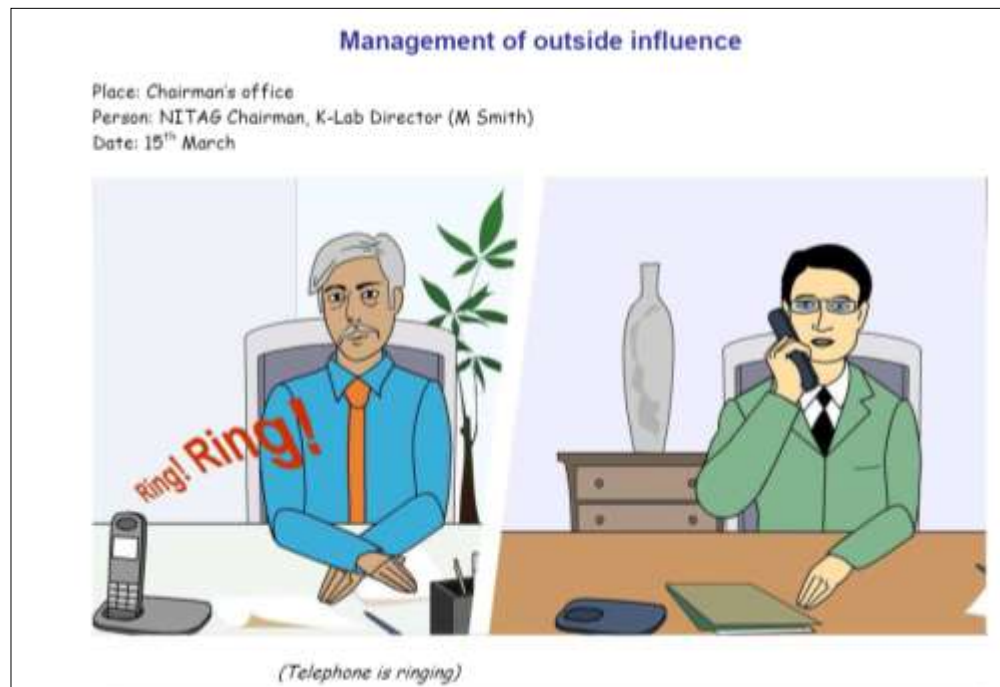
- Legislative or administrative mandate such as ministerial Decree or equivalent**
- Formal Terms of Reference**
- Obligation to meet once a month
- Standard operating procedures**
- Declaration of conflict of interest**
- Accessibility of the meeting to the general population
- Multidisciplinary expertise**



# NITAG newcomers briefing

The briefing consists in four modules:

- Module 1: Introduction to NITAGs
- Module 2: Establishment of a NITAG
- Module 3: Preparation of a NITAG meeting (working groups)
- Module 4: Conducting a NITAG meeting (conflict of interest)



# Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members

The "Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members" briefing provides NITAG members with a basic background on health economic evaluation applied to immunization.

The image displays four screenshots from a presentation titled "Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members".

- Top Left Screenshot:** Shows the title slide for "Module 1: Usefulness of economic evaluations for Public Health". It features the SIVAC logo and logos for the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the Federal Centers for Immunization Programs (FCIP).
- Top Right Screenshot:** Titled "1. Microeconomic issues relating to the economic evaluation framework", it includes a table with three levels of evidence: "Highest level" (Randomized controlled trials), "Intermediate level" (Quasi-experimental studies), and "Low level" (Observational studies).
- Bottom Left Screenshot:** Titled "2. The Vaccine Introduction Program Context", it discusses the challenges of vaccine introduction, such as the need for evidence to support decisions on which vaccines to introduce.
- Bottom Right Screenshot:** Titled "3. Microeconomic issues relating to the economic evaluation framework", it shows a diagram of a patient's decision process between "Vaccine" and "No vaccine" and includes text about the value of information in decision-making.

# Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members

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Amongst other issues such as local disease epidemiology, it is essential for NITAG members to **understand the economic and financial implications of immunization programs** in order to support evidence-based decision making.

The "Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members" briefing has been developed in **concise and simple terms** to facilitate the understanding and assimilation of economic evaluations key concepts by NITAG members. Such simplification has its limitations. NITAG members can refer to the references for more information. In addition, at a later stage SIVAC will develop improvement modules on economic evaluation based on the needs identified by NITAG members.



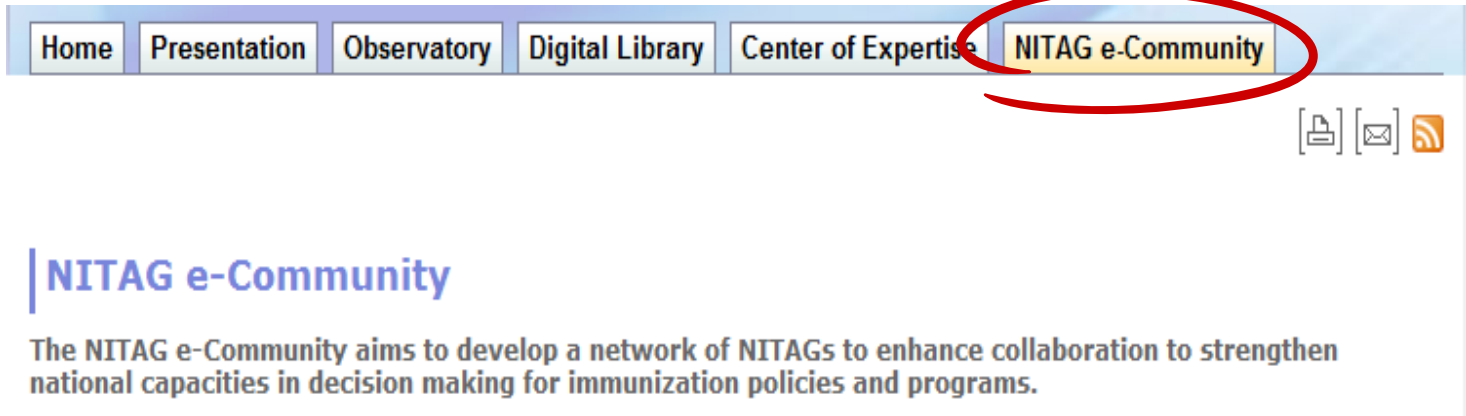
# Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members

The briefing is composed of four modules:

- Module 1: Usefulness of Economic Evaluations for Public Health
- Module 2: The different types of Economic Evaluations
- Module 3: Main methodological issues of an Economic Evaluation
- Module 4: Interpretation of cost-effectiveness ratios



# NITAG Resource Center - e-Community



Home Presentation Observatory Digital Library Center of Expertise **NITAG e-Community**

[Print] [Email] [RSS]

## NITAG e-Community

The NITAG e-Community aims to develop a network of NITAGs to enhance collaboration to strengthen national capacities in decision making for immunization policies and programs.



**To be launched shortly**

# NITAG Resource Center - Member Sign up

Access to NRC services is free of charge. Nevertheless, it is recommended to sign up as a member in order to acquire full access to functionalities such as:

- Contribute news to the NITAG Dashboard
- Participate in e-Community forums, etc.

Home > Member account > Sign up

English | Français | Русский | Español

## NITAG Resource Center

Home Presentation Observatory Digital Library Center of Expertise NITAG e-Community

Member account

Sign up

**Sign up**

Create your account to access all features of the NITAG Resource Center.

Your email \*

Confirm your email \*

Submit

**LOGIN**

Login

.....

[Sign up now!](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

**Your ID**

Your email will serve as an identifier on the site. **Make sure it is correct:** an email confirmation will be sent to the indicated address.

**Your information**



# Websites and Contacts

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NITAG Resource Center

<http://www.nitag-resource.org/>

SIVAC Initiative

<http://www.sivacinitiative.org/>

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