



e-Bug: A DG-SANCO funded Pan European School Health Education Resource. School Education in Europe in relation to antibiotic use and hygiene



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Background information

- Antimicrobial resistance remains one of the key problems within community and hospital settings in Europe
- Many EU countries have public educational campaigns to encourage prudent antibiotic use
- Respiratory and gastrointestinal infections have been identified as a major cause of childhood illness in schools
- Research has shown that the implementation of proper hand hygiene practices has reduced absenteeism rates within the school environment

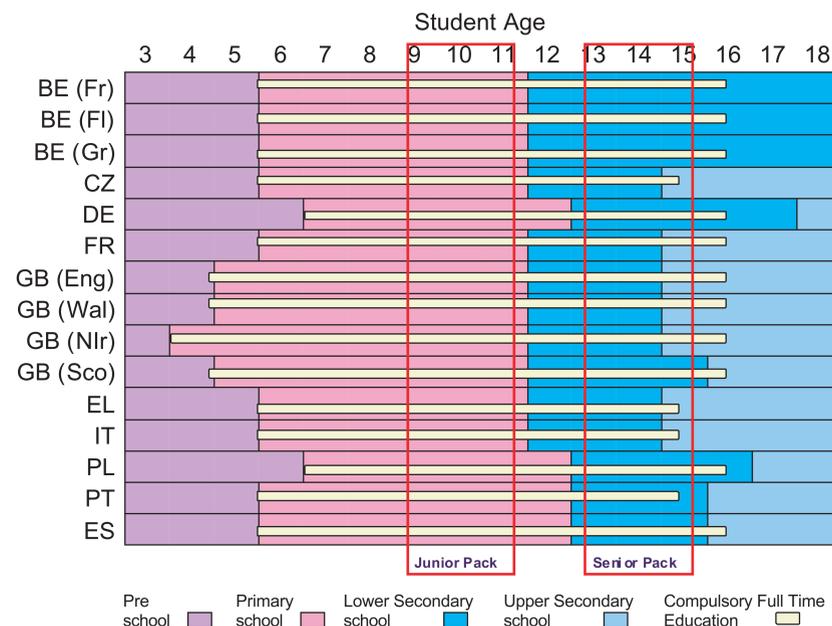
What is e-Bug?

- e-Bug is a European wide, DG-SANCO funded, antibiotic and hygiene teaching resource for junior and senior school children
- This resource will comprise of a teacher and student educational pack reinforcing an awareness of essential hygiene and antibiotic issues
- As the Internet has become a powerful vehicle for education, the pack will be accompanied by a website hosting complementary games and interactive quizzes
- 18 countries in total are involved in e-Bug, covering 62% of the European population

Project aims

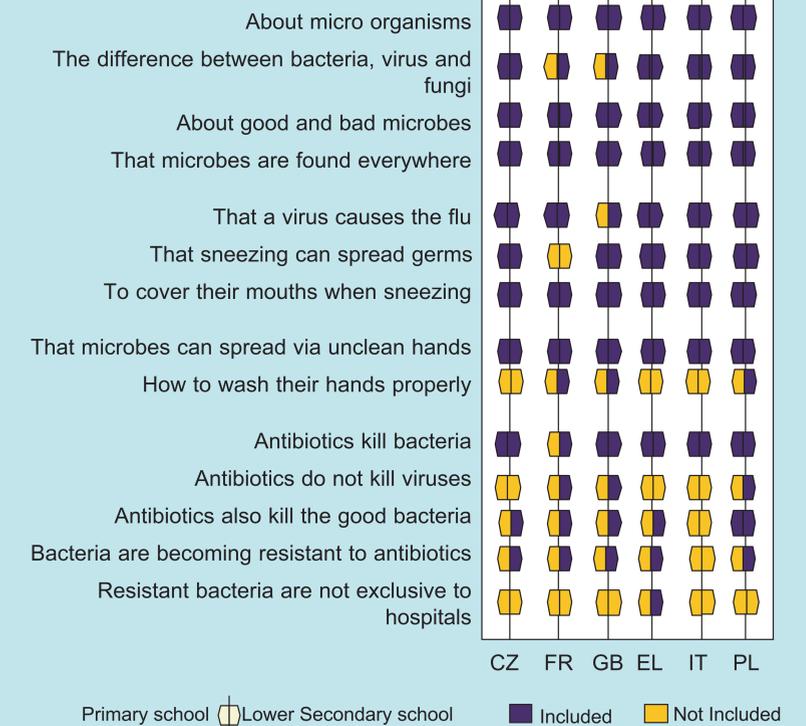
- To compliment national antibiotic and hygiene educational campaigns
- Exchange information and experience of good practice within the educational curriculum with associate partner countries
- Develop an antibiotic and hygiene teaching pack for both junior and senior schools
- Develop an interactive educational website, based on the educational pack, to improve e-Health across Europe
- Translate and implement the pack across associate countries in close collaboration with local Ministries of Health and Education
- Disseminate and market the e-Bug resource to collaborating partner countries

Education across Europe



The structure of associate partner countries education systems from pre primary through upper secondary schools indicate that aiming the pack at 9-11 and 13-15 year olds is the most appropriate age groups.

Are children taught...



The curriculum content of associate partner countries adequately covers the topics of general microbiology, hand and respiratory hygiene in both the junior and senior school sectors. Although antibiotic usage is covered in a general sense across all countries, information on antibiotic resistance is provided to a varying degree.

Summary

- All countries include hand hygiene in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools.
- All countries adequately cover human health and hygiene.
- There is little school based education on the importance of appropriate antibiotic use and antibiotic resistant bacteria.
- Only two countries highlight in the curriculum that antibiotic resistance is a problem in hospitals.
- Educational resources reinforcing teaching and implementing national advice through public campaigns are either limited or do not exist
- As the curricula in all partner countries cover basic human health and hygiene, a resource such as e-Bug is suitable for pan European implementation

Conclusion

- There is a current need for more educational resources that emphasise these issues
- The data from this research will be used to develop e-Bug and complement current European school curriculum and public campaigns