Implementation of the e-Bug project in France

TOUBOUL P*, DELLAMONICA P, DUNAIS B, PRADIER C*, MINULTY C.
*Département de Santé Publique/Service d’Infectiologie, Hôpital de l’Arche 1, CHU de Nice, BP 3079, 06202 Nice

CONTEXT

Determinants of antibiotic prescriptions include socio-cultural factors. (Stephen Harbarth EID Vol.8, No.12, Dec 2002)

Various local and national interventions to promote appropriate antibiotic use have been launched since 2000 (Antibiotiques illicites: l’usage des antibiotiques est il conforme?). Analysis of the National Health Insurance data basis concerning outpatient care antibiotic prescriptions shows a decrease of 26.5 % in community-based antibiotic prescribing between 2002 and 2007. (Significant reduction of antibiotic use in the community after a nationwide campaign in France 2002-2007 Sabatou, Guillemot. http://plsmedicine.org)

The advantage of school interventions is to reach a large proportion of children in their normal learning surroundings, facilitating cultural changes and prolonging the effects of public health campaigns.

FRENCH PECULIARITIES
In the context of the flu pandemic the importance of Hand and Respiratory Hygiene activities is highlighted in the information to concerned schools and educational key persons. In accordance with the French national partners the « Sneze in the sleeve » message is highlighted in the Respiratory and Hand Hygiene activities for juniors and seniors and an alternative activity is added for senior students encouraging the understanding of the advantages of this message.

Microbe culture is forbidden in schools so an alternative activity to senior Hand Hygiene activity based on photos was developed.

According to the qualitative evaluation in France the yoghurt making activity in the Useful Microbe section for seniors was considered too complicated and time-consuming. An alternative activity based on yeast was developed.

AN INSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
All French partners agreed to launch the e-Bug project through a national institutional implementation.
An information letter, sent in September 2009 by the MoÉ and the National Institute for Health Education to:
School principals of all concerned schools
Key persons within all local school authorities:
- Headmasters and general inspectors
- Junior school inspectors
- Senior school science inspectors
- School practitioners and nurses
- School library staff

This information letter describes the project and the content of the pack, highlighting the advantages of using this resource when teaching the following public health subjects in school:
- Preserving effectiveness of antibiotics
- Prevention of infection transmission in the context of pandemic flu

Information letter will also be present on key web sites such as National Institute for Health Education and local school authorities.

A separate promotion of e-Bug will be done through a web based information to schools concerning useful resources regarding pandemic flu.

Orders can be made on-line and packs will be distributed according to the orders by the National Institute for Health Education.

Interventions are planned to promote the e-Bug project during the Antibiotic Awareness Day on 18.11.09.

Information of practitioners throughout France is planned.

Promotion in science teachers’ magazines

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
There are 7 010 senior schools and 56 158 junior schools, i.e. 63 168 schools concerned. 88% of these schools are public and 12% are private. Among the private schools 97.3 % have a contract with the MoÉ meaning they follow exactly the same national curriculum as public schools.

NUMBER OF JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHERS
There are 367 4620 teachers, 91866 (approximately) of whom are teaching the junior age groups concerned by the e-Bug project.

NUMBER OF SENIOR SCHOOL TEACHERS
There are 14 400 science teachers in senior schools.

In all 106 266 teachers in France are concerned by the e-Bug project.

PACK PRINTING
Junior Packs 116 000
Senior Packs 18 000
In all 134 000 copies will be printed, i.e. approximately 1 pack per concerned teacher and key person.

The funding of the printing costs have been shared between the MoH and the National Health Insurance

FRIENDLY PARTNERS
The e-Bug project in France is coordinated by:
Nice University Hospital (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Nice) - Public Health and Infectious Diseases Departments
Project lead: Pr Pierre DELLAMONICA
National coordinator : Dr Pia TOUBOUL
Translator : Dr Brigitte DUNAIS

In partnership with:
Ministry of Education:
- General Direction for School Teaching: Dr UROJIN / Mme NEUHART;
- General Inspection: Mme MANECIET / M. MICHAUD / M. CLAUD / M. LOARER;
- Nice local school authority: Mme DAIKINFIL / Dr AZUCELLO / LAMARRE / M. DEVERRE / Mme ADAM / M. VIALL / M. SALVADOR;
- Bordeaux local school authority: M. BLANC / Mme PEREZ.

Ministry of Health:
Dr AZANOWSKY / Dr MAGNAN

National Institute of Health Education:
Dr VINCINT / Dr JESTIN / M. HOUBIDA

National Health Insurance:
Mme DE WARREN / Dr PECALUT

Association of science teachers in senior schools:
M. LUYSE / M. LACASSIE / Mme FERRY / Mme FAURE.

CURRICULUM
The background research showed that the items approached by the e-Bug project were best linked to the following national science curricula:
- Junior schools : CM1 and CM2 (9 – 10 year-olds) :
  • Life and diversity of the living world
  • Health education and the human body
  • Environmental education
- Senior schools :
  • 6ème (11-year-olds) :
    • Diversity, relationship and unity of the living world
    • Practices related to human food
  • 3ème (14-year-olds) :
    • Human responsibility: health and environment
    • Infection risk and protection of the human body

ENDORSEMENT
The Ministry of Health sent a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting them to approve the implementation of this project in France. The Ministry of Education agreed on September 11, 2006. The project was officially integrated in the National Plan to Preserve the Effectiveness of Antibiotics in 2007.

The institutional implementation plan confirms this commitment.