



Access to Vaccination for Newly Arrived Migrants (NAM) - AcToVax4NAM

Improving vaccine literacy & access to vaccination for NAM



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ACTOVAX4NAM NEWSLETTER

Improving vaccine literacy & access to vaccination for
Newly Arrived Migrants (NAM).

The **AcToVax4NAM project** responds to the overarching strategy of the European Commission that aims to improve the vaccination uptake in the EU while reducing access inequities. The project responded to a specific call under the 3rd EU Health Programme for "Call HP-PJ-2020 'Increased access to vaccination for newly arrived migrants in first line, transit and destination countries'.

The general objective of the AcToVax4NAM project is the improvement of Vaccination Literacy (VL) and access, thereby improving vaccination uptake for Newly Arrived Migrants (NAM) making access conditions more equitable and guaranteed. The project targets Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs), which are part of National Immunization Plans and adopts a life-course approach, including also COVID-19 vaccination.

2ND PARTNERS' MEETING IN ROME 2-4/05/22

The consortium partners met in Rome between the 2nd and the 4th of May 2022. The meeting was jointly organised by the Istituto Superiore di Sanita and Sapienza University and the main aim was to present the project progress to date and agree upon the upcoming tasks and deadlines.

This was the first time the consortium met in a face to face meeting making it an important event that contributed to the better coordination of the tasks and responsibilities of the coming year. In addition partners were able to liaise with the project's Advisory Board (face to face and remotely).

IN THIS ISSUE

THE ACTOVAX4NAM PROJECT INCLUDES SYNERGIES FOR COLLABORATION WITH EU PROJECTS AND OUR FUTURE ACTIONS.

THE ACTOVAX4NAM 2ND PARTNERS' MEETING OF A DIVERSE CONSORTIUM FROM CYPRUS, GERMANY, GREECE, ITALY, MALTA, POLAND, ROMANIA & SPAIN. IN ROME BETWEEN 2-4 OF MAY 2022.

THE COMPLETION OF WORK PACKAGE 4 "IMMUNIZATION GUIDANCE, RECEPTION & VACCINE OFFER SYSTEMS FOR NAM AND RELATED BARRIERS: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK" AND RELEASE OF THE DELIVERABLES (4.1 AND 4.2).

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WP4: IMMUNIZATION GUIDANCE, RECEPTION & VACCINE OFFER SYSTEMS FOR NAMS AND RELATED BARRIERS: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Within the purpose of the AcToVax4NAM project, the WP4 led by ISS, in collaboration with Sapienza and Prolepsis, has produced two deliverables.

- The 1st deliverable “National Reception System and Vaccination Policies for NAM” contains a collection of the main recommendations and the description of the vaccination offer for NAM (from a non-systematic review of the literature and collection of information from consortium countries) to have a state of the art and to facilitate the identification of the national context in relation to NAMs vaccination.
- Regarding the 2nd deliverable, a “General Conceptual Framework” was developed (i) to characterize and critically analyse the system barriers and possible solutions (from a conceptual model, non-systematic literature review and qualitative research in the consortium countries) considering the logical steps required for NAM immunization, (ii) to understand how to overcome barriers and (iii) to improve immunization coverage.

Offering all vaccines included in the National Immunization Programme (NIP) to migrants according to the vaccine calendar by age, as for the general population, is a main recommendation found in the literature in order to ensure that all people receive recommended immunizations throughout the life-course. Among the consortium countries, unlike the general population, migrants are not always offered all the vaccinations included in the NIP, due to several barriers (i.e., legal, economic, organizational, linguistic/cultural) addressed by the consortium countries through several solutions such as free vaccination to adults, organizing training activities and flexible vaccination services. In the case of the Covid-19 crisis, all countries included migrants in their vaccination campaigns.

The General Conceptual Framework (GCF) represents the entire vaccination process, based on 5 interconnecting hubs identified as: (i) ENTITLEMENT to vaccination, (ii) REACHABILITY of people to be vaccinated, (iii) ADHERENCE to vaccination, (iv) ACHIEVEMENT of vaccination, (v) EVALUATION of the intervention. The proposed GCF will facilitate the identification of barriers and possible solutions to effectively achieve immunization and its completion and will be the basis to create country-specific flow charts through which strategies to overcome country-specific barriers will be presented (WP6).



A JOINT EFFORT WITH THE RISE-VAC PROJECT

AcToVax4NAM has jointed efforts with other projects that were funded under the same or similar calls which all have the objective of increasing vaccination update for vulnerable and marginalized populations. Specifically, the consortium welcomed Dr Lara Tavoschi from the University of Pisa and coordinator of the RISE-Vac project - Reaching the hard-to-reach: Increasing access and vaccine uptake among the prison population in Europe. Both projects agreed to work closely to disseminate the results of both projects promoting vaccination uptake in two important vulnerable populations.

OUR FUTURE ACTIONS

In the upcoming months partners under the leadership of Sapienza University will be focusing on building a network of stakeholders on migrant immunization, developing vaccination literacy tools (a vaccination glossary of essential terms) and preparing training tools and implementing training for professionals on issues pertaining to the vaccination of NAMs in the consortium countries (WP5). In addition partners under the leadership of Vall d'Hebron will be working on identifying solutions and tools for system barriers creating country specific action plans.



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