



Access to Vaccination for Newly Arrived Migrants

AcToVax4NAM – 2nd Press Release
October 2023



PRESS RELEASE

AcToVax4NAM: The European initiative to improve access to vaccination for newly arrived migrants (NAMs)

October 12, 2023

Ensuring equal access to vaccination and improving vaccination coverage for newly arrived migrants (NAMs) is the subject of our AcToVax4NAM project which involves public health institutions, ministries, universities, as well as non-governmental organisations from across Europe. AcToVax4NAM aims to improve the vaccination coverage for vaccine-preventable diseases that are part of the European Union's member states' National Vaccination Programs - including vaccination against COVID-19 - by adopting a life-course approach.

AcToVax4NAMs is in its second year, and it's addressing the difficult access to healthcare and vaccination services that migrants face upon their arrival in host countries. The program is addressing issues such as socio-political and linguistic barriers that many migrants (and asylum seekers) face, as well as system barriers such as vaccination literacy, language difficulties and vaccination accessibility.

The partnership is now in the final stages of the project, specifically "WP7: Piloted Solutions for Overcoming System Barriers and Concluding Recommendations to Boost Vaccination Uptake." This phase will pilot and implement the AcToVax4NAM tools across all partner countries with the ultimate aim to increase vaccination rates among NAMs and enhance vaccination awareness within NAM communities, vaccination centers, non-governmental organisations, and healthcare institutions. This will be achieved through the collaborative efforts of partners and relevant stakeholders in each country to roll out and test the AcToVax4NAM tools. Health professionals specialising in NAM community healthcare are encouraged to connect with the organisation(s) responsible for executing the project in partner countries. This engagement will provide valuable insights and enable participatory processes in the ongoing pilot phase. The backing of local, regional and national media is instrumental in helping us disseminate critical information and resources to those who can benefit from it the most.

Throughout the second year of the project, AcToVax4NAM partners continued their work on identifying and addressing barriers related to vaccination. Specifically, the partnership – with the input of stakeholders - developed country-specific flowcharts in order to improve pathways to vaccination



for NAMs, while developing the AcToVax4NAM Glossary. The Glossary contains vaccination-related terms to be utilised by NAMs, professionals for health and administrative staff of health services, as well as cultural mediators and other professionals that work on the frontlines with NAMs. The Glossary has been customised to the context of each partner country and will soon be available in 15 languages on our website. The Glossary - alongside country specific flowcharts – are tools that can support professionals for health to address barriers they face in their daily work of vaccination with NAMs. These flowcharts have been transformed into a live database with extensive resources - the [**AcToVax4NAM Database**](#) - that aims to support professionals for health to overcome system barriers to vaccination by utilising a vast array of resources by navigating through search filters.

The project is co-funded by the European Union's Third Health Program (2014-2020), has a three-year duration (2021-2024), and involves ten partners from eight European countries.

The following organizations are participating in the project: Prolepsis Institute (Project Coordinator) – Greece; Istituto Superiore di Sanità – Italy; Sapienza Università degli Studi di Roma – Italy; Vall d'Hebron Institute of Research (VHIR) - Vall d'Hebron Institut de Recerca – Spain; Center for Social Innovation - Cyprus; Directorate of Operational Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies, Ministry of Health – Greece; Ethno-Medical Centre – Germany; Ministry of Health, Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit - Malta; National Institute of Public Health NIH - National Research Institute - Poland; Fundatia Romtens - Romania.

For more information visit our AcToVax4NAM website at <https://www.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/> or follow us on social media:

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The AcToVax4NAM team,
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