



Access to Vaccination  
for Newly Arrived Migrants

## ACTOVAX4NAM NEWSLETTER 5

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

Improving vaccine literacy & access to vaccination for NAM

# UPCOMING: ACTOVAX4NAM EU CONFERENCE ATHENS, GREECE | OCTOBER 17, 2024

## ABOUT ACTOVAX4NAM

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

The general objective of AcToVax4NAM 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 Immunisation Plans, and adopts a life-course approach, also including COVID-19 vaccination.

## ACTOVAX4NAM EU CONFERENCE IN GREECE

On October 17, 2024, in Athens, Greece, Prolepsis Institute will host a landmark event dedicated to the AcToVax4NAM project - a pioneering initiative aimed at promoting equal access to vaccination for NAM across Europe. As the world continues to grapple with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become increasingly evident that ensuring widespread vaccination coverage is not only a matter of public health but also a matter of equity and social justice. The AcToVax4NAM project seeks to address this pressing issue by fostering collaboration between policymakers, healthcare professionals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and migrant communities to **develop innovative strategies** for overcoming barriers to vaccination uptake among this underserved population. Join us on October 17 as we come together to explore solutions, share insights, and reaffirm our commitment to building a more inclusive and resilient Europe for all.

Follow our [website](#) for more updates on the event.

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- PUBLICATION OF ONLINE REPOSITORY OF TOOLS TO SUPPORT OVERCOMING IMMUNISATION BARRIERS
- COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PILOTED SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOME SYSTEM BARRIERS AND INCREASE VACCINATION UPTAKE IN GREECE, CYPRUS, POLAND, GERMANY, ITALY AND SPAIN
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## WP5 - HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS VACCINATION LITERACY AND MIGRANT-SENSITIVITY TO PROMOTE THE ACTIVE IMMUNISATION OF NAM

Under this Work Package (WP), the partnership developed two tools that seek to facilitate communication between professionals for health (PfH) and NAM. The tools are available in the [tools section](#) of the project website.

1. The **Glossary of Essential Terms on Vaccination** aims to improve access to immunisation for NAM. For each consortium country, the Glossary is available in several language combinations, each of them including the country language and one common language among NAM. Click below to view the complete list of all available language versions:

<https://www.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/glossary/>.

2. The **Guide to Training Activities**, which addresses PfH, outlines key elements for training activities, including the objectives, tools, and resources, while also allowing for adaptation to different contexts:

<https://www.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/training-material/>

The project website also hosts a comprehensive overview of the development process of these two tools. Click here to read it: <https://www.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/results/>.

## WP6 - COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTION-ORIENTED FLOW CHARTS & REPOSITORY OF TOOLS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO VACCINATION OF NAM

The consortium has successfully published the final action-oriented flowcharts, each specifically tailored to the AcToVax4NAM consortium countries and their corresponding flowchart. The flowcharts are available in both national languages and English. They serve as country-specific tools designed to **highlight barriers that may hinder the NAM vaccination process**. To access the flowcharts per country, visit: <https://www.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/flow-charts/>

The process used for **developing and validating the flowcharts** has been documented in a report format, which you can access here: <https://www.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/results/>

The consortium also published the **online database/repository** of tools that contains a **collection of existing tools for overcoming system barriers** among the consortium countries, which aim to improve access to vaccination for NAM. The repository of tools (<https://tools.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/>) aims to support professionals in their daily practice and provide them with tools that can help to successfully address the barriers they face.

## WP7 - PILOTED SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOME SYSTEM BARRIERS & FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE VACCINATION UPTAKE IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

This section describes the **country-specific solutions** that were piloted across the consortium with the aim of producing a robust set of recommendations for increasing vaccination uptake for NAM in all partner countries.

### GREECE

In Greece, Prolepsis conducted training to PfH at two health centers, where a large number of NAM visit daily. The training curriculum was based on the training delivered for the purposes of WP5, including VL, health promotion, and cultural sensitivity for NAM.

Questionnaires were given prior to and after the training to assess the knowledge gained by the PfH. Moreover, for the piloting of the intervention, Prolepsis developed and delivered various **multilingual educational materials** at the two piloting sites, including four versions of the Glossary derived from WP5.

These tools will facilitate communication between the PfH and NAM. Currently, Prolepsis is **collecting data** on the impact of the pilot.





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## CYPRUS

In Cyprus, the Center for Social Innovation (CSI) has developed tools aimed at raising awareness about existing vaccination schemes in the country while also equipping PfH with the necessary resources for daily communication with NAM. These tools include a Vaccination Guide, a Map of the Vaccination Centers in Cyprus, and Communication Cards.

The **Vaccination Guide** provides valuable information about the importance of vaccination. The **Map of the Vaccination Centers** is a comprehensive map featuring all vaccination centers in Cyprus. The **Communication Cards** consist of a booklet containing keywords and terms categorised into Basic Communication, Administrative Communication, and Side Effects of Vaccination.

All tools have been approved by the **Ministry of Health (MoH)** and are available in both hardcopy and digital format, in English, French, Arabic, Greek and Somali. The material is currently being distributed nationally to vaccination and reception centers, as well as hospitals and NGOs that work directly with migrants and refugees. The national campaign, in collaboration with the MoH, aims to **increase vaccine literacy** among targeted groups and ultimately result in uptake in vaccination for NAM.

All tools are available here: <https://www.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/piloted-solutions-cyprus/>.

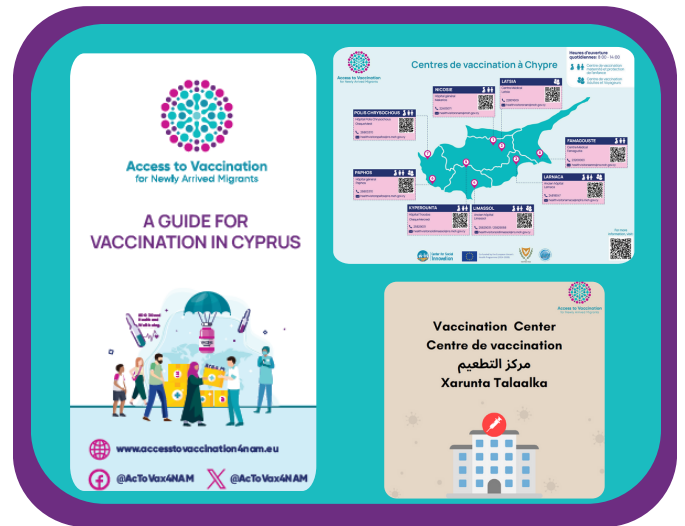


## POLAND

The pilot in Poland is currently carried out by NIPZH NIH-NRI, with the support of the **Head of the Office for Foreigners**, in the Center for Foreigners. The Polish team organised a meeting with PfH (nurses, doctors, health professionals) which took place in February 2024.

During the session, attention was drawn to the **current obstacles to access vaccinations at the administrative, organisational and individual levels**. These three levels have a different impact on migrants staying in migrant centers and on the vast majority of migrants from Ukraine residing outside centers throughout the country.

In addition, materials were provided in the form of **leaflets** and a **glossary** to be used by PfH dealing with migrants.



## GERMANY

In Germany, the pilot consisted of a **multilingual information campaign** on Herpes Papiloma Virus (HPV) vaccination directed both at PfH without medical background - especially cultural mediators and social workers - and at NAM. In November 2023, the Ethno-Medical Centre offered a **training on HPV vaccination** to PfH, who then organised informative events targeting NAM and migrants.

In total, **17 informative events in 5 different languages** were held in refugee accommodations and further migrant settings through which around **200 NAM** could be reached. Both the training and the informative events were evaluated through questionnaires, aiming at measuring an improvement in VL, vaccination intention and uptake. On the right, two pictures of trained PfH delivering an informative event.

Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum e.v.







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## ITALY

In Italy, the pilot aims to test a procedure that can make the vaccinations effective for NAM residing in reception centers by **activating a network of professionals**.

The Italian AcToVax4NAM group developed procedures - together with the Local Health Authorities and the reception center staff - aimed at **increasing health awareness among professionals**, facilitating the reachability of NAM, and increasing their adherence to immunisation.

The activities, in addition to piloting the procedures, also include the implementation of a vaccination promotion campaign and the preparation of a **language-friendly informed consent procedure and material**. An important objective is to also achieve closer contact with health authorities to facilitate a more accurate and specific collection of data needed to assess vaccination coverage among NAM.



## SPAIN

In Spain, the Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR) - AcToVax4NAM team has developed a new tool called **VacGame** aimed at raising awareness, increasing knowledge, and boosting acceptance of vaccination among Pfh in order to enhance vaccine uptake in NAM. The activity provides Pfh with valuable information about vaccination in migrant populations, and through a final discussion, issues and questions were raised to improve the healthcare practice with this type of population. To validate the effectiveness of the **VacGame** - as a **gamification-based tool** - the Spanish team conducted **three training sessions** in primary care centers. Those sessions took place in November 2023, February and May 2024, and involved Pfh, with a total of **60 participants**.

The team is currently surveying NAM to analyse possible **changes in attitudes** towards vaccination after receiving medical care from professionals who participated in the VacGame. Those surveys will assess knowledge, awareness, and **acceptance of vaccination** among NAM after professionals' interventions.

All tools have been approved by the Vall d'Hebron Research Institute Ethics Committee (CEIC) and the Primary Health Ethics Committee (IDIAPJGol).





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## EU VACCINATION PROJECTS COLLABORATION (VAX-EU) - WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

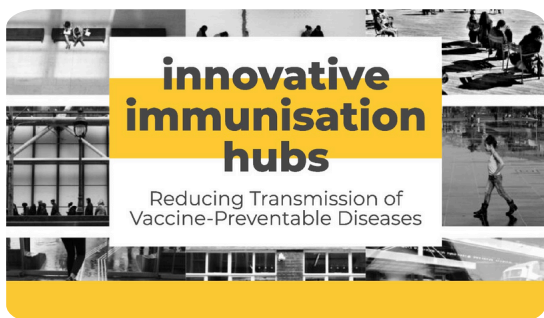
### PROTECT-EUROPE PROJECT

On March 4, marking the HPV Awareness Day, the PROTECT-EUROPE project, unveiled the PROTECT-EUROPE Hub, an **open-access online repository** containing valuable resources dedicated to fighting HPV and related cancers. The Hub includes lessons learned, best practices, training modules, public awareness tools, and links to external resources.

Link to the hub can be found here: [PROTECT-EUROPE Hub](#)



### IMMUHUBS PROJECT



The ImmuHubs Conference will be held on April 24-26, 2024, at the Berlin Liaison Office to the EU in Brussels, Belgium, to celebrate the **Immunisation Week**. Coordinated by the Vaccine Safety Initiative (VIVI), the 3-year project involves 9 partners in 6 European countries. ImmuHubs are community-based physical spaces serving underserved populations to **reduce transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases**. Detailed information about the project's methodology, interventions, and outcomes can be found on the [ImmuHubs website](#) and social media channels.

### RISE-VAC & RIVER-EU WORKSHOP COLLABORATION

The teams of RISE-VAC and River-EU are excited to announce a collaborative workshop scheduled to take place on **November 12, 2024**. The workshop will be held on the pre-conference day of the **17th EUPHA Conference**, and it will showcase AcToVax4NAM alongside two twin European projects: RISE-VAC and RIVER-EU. Through interactive sessions and presentations, participants will gain insights into innovative strategies aimed at improving vaccination access and uptake among vulnerable populations. This event promises to be a dynamic platform for **sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration**, and advancing efforts to **address vaccination-related health disparities across Europe**.

For more information, visit: <https://ephconference.eu/>

### WORLD IMMUNISATION WEEK

April 24-30 marks the **World Immunisation Week** during which **actions across the world** will take place to raise awareness on vaccination matters. The AcToVax4NAM partnership will run a series of activities, including podcasts and national awareness campaigns to promote vaccine literacy.

Click below to follow us on social media to find out more:

