

Co-creation of an educational intervention on vaccination for prison staff

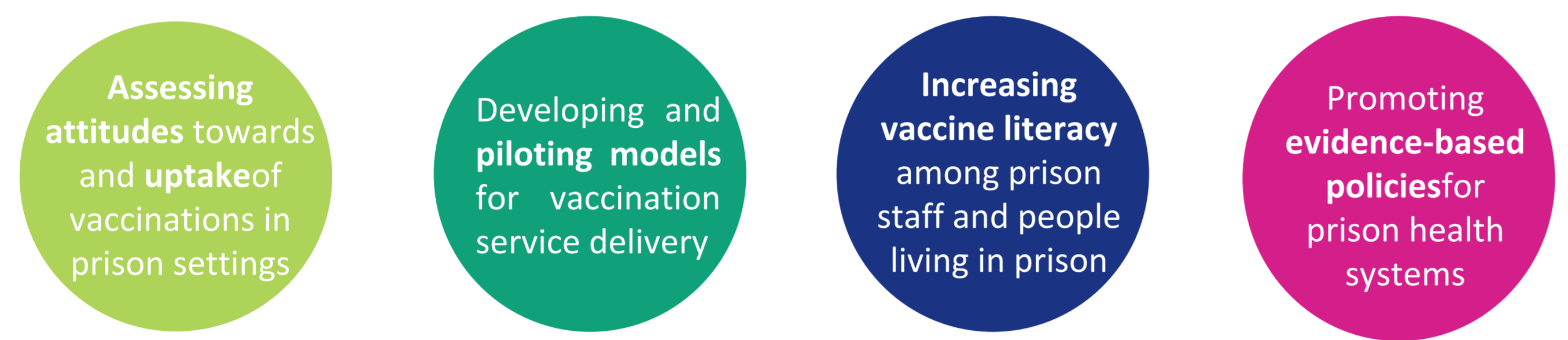
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INTRODUCTION

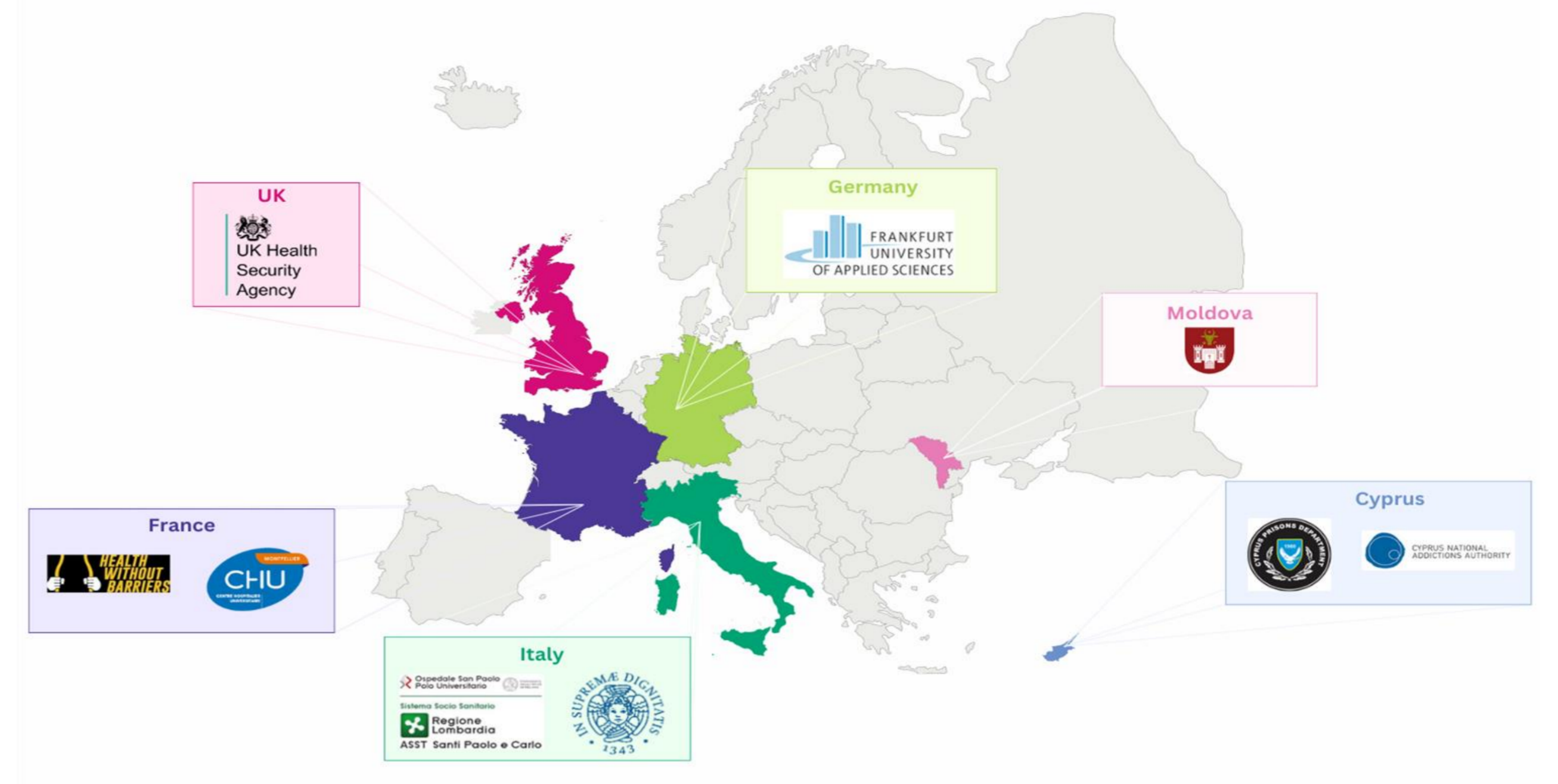
People living in prison (PLP) have a higher prevalence of infection compared with the general population, including infections from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs).¹

RISE-Vac (Reaching the hard-to-reach: Increasing access and vaccine uptake among the prison population in Europe) is a 3-year EU co-funded project which aims to improve the health of people living and working in prisons and the quality of prison healthcare in Europe by:

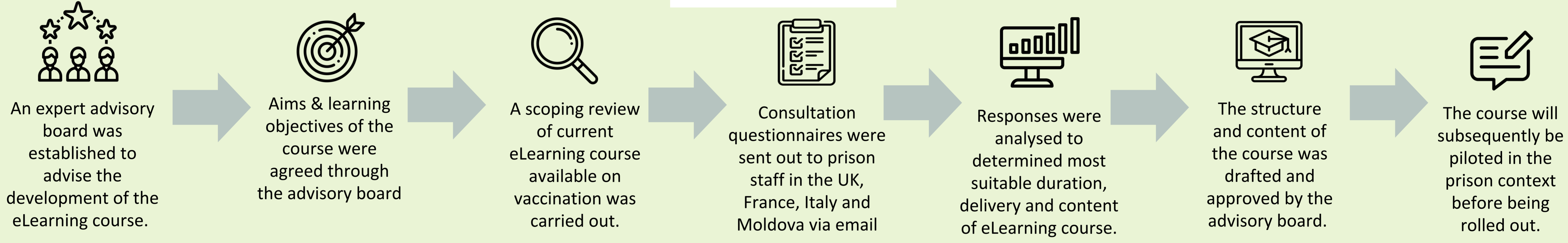


Work Package 6 of RISE-Vac, led by the UKHSA, focuses on developing educational interventions for PLP and prison staff to increase vaccine literacy. Here we describe the development of an eLearning course for prison staff.

The RISE-Vac Consortium consists of nine partners from six European countries and is led by the University of Pisa:



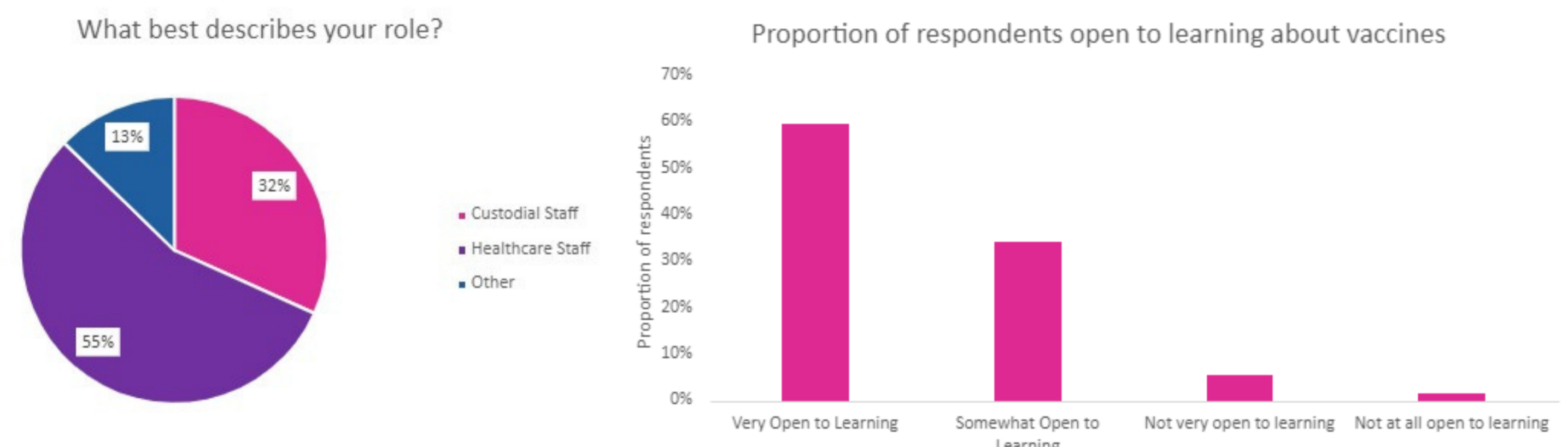
METHODS



RESULTS

Consultation results

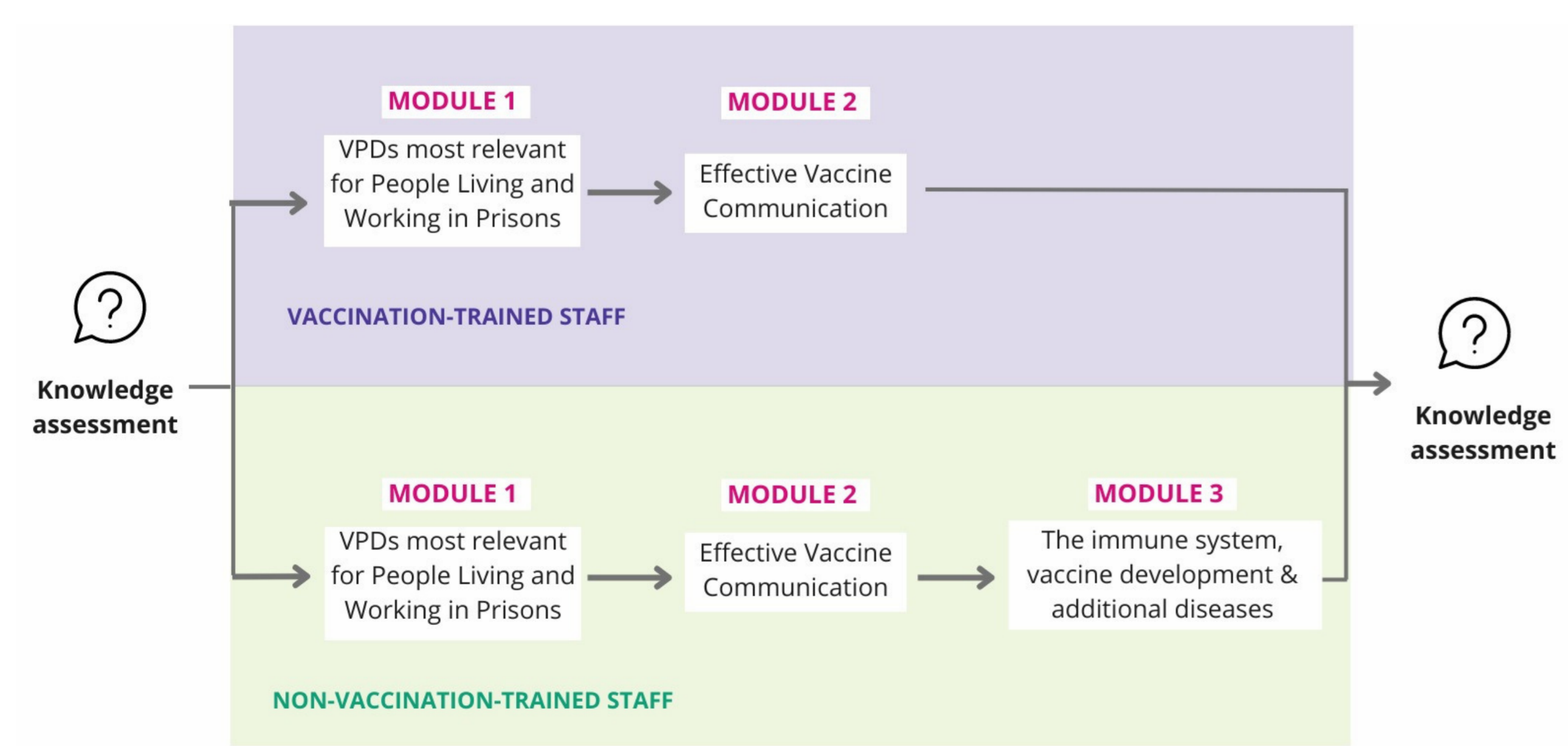
126 responses were received from prison staff in England and France.



The topics that respondents were most interested in learning about included:



Course structure



The pre- and post-course knowledge assessment quizzes will be used to determine which course arm staff should take in the first instance, as well as be used to determine effectiveness of the course in terms of difference in vaccine knowledge.

Course content

Articles

Article 1. How to communicate on vaccines effectively (5 minutes)

- Use inclusive terms:** using terms such as 'we as members of the community' or 'we as people living and working in this prison' can make people living in prison more receptive to your message.
- Underline scientific consensus:** reminding people that the large majority of scientists advocate for the safety and efficacy of vaccines can further increase confidence in vaccines.
- Keep key messages simple:** do not use acronyms and use plain language to explain your point - this should take less than thirty seconds and be easy to remember.
- Tell the truth:** dishonesty will lead to distrust. It is always important to be open and transparent about things you don't know, or things scientific authorities don't know. For example, it isn't true to say that vaccines are 100% safe because we know they may cause side-effects, but it is true to say that the benefits of vaccination far outweigh any risks.

Videos

Article 1. How to communicate on vaccines effectively (4 minutes)

Below is a video from Paula, who works for the Prison Reform Trust in the UK and has lived experience of imprisonment. She talks us through what she considers to be effective communication strategies around vaccinations for people living in prisons.

Quizzes

Assessment: final quiz (4 minutes)

4. Prison staff are not affected by higher levels of infectious diseases circulating in prison. (True/False)

5. Vaccination can help protect not only individuals, but also their family, visitors, and the rest of community at large. (True/False)

6. How can hepatitis B spread?

- Through unprotected sex
- Through fights in prison involving blood or biting
- Through tattoos done using unclean needles
- Through sharing needles with others who have hepatitis B infection
- All of the above

Reflective exercises

Article 3. Common vaccine perceptions and how to address them (3 minutes)

I reject vaccines because it is my choice and I am free to do so. Vaccination violates my right to decide what goes into my body.

It is important to acknowledge people's right to decide on their medical care. People should not be coerced or forced into medical decisions, including vaccination.

It is your right to make your own decision on your medical care. Choosing to get vaccinated is empowering, as it helps protect you from serious illness. Your choice to get vaccinated also helps you to protect your loved ones and other people close to you from getting sick. By getting vaccinated, you are exercising your human right to health.

Accessing the course

This course will be open-access and made available on the Future Learn platform in July. Scan this code to keep updated with the progress of RISE-Vac and the course development, and to access the course once available.



CONCLUSIONS

There is a willingness amongst prison staff to learn more about vaccination, particularly why it is important in the prison context. Increasing vaccine knowledge and access to vaccine materials is an important pillar in the RISE-Vac project; increased self-efficacy through vaccine education may contribute towards decreasing vaccine hesitancy amongst prison staff, as well as encouraging influential behaviour by encouraging vaccine uptake amongst PLP. The next

stage in this study will be the piloting of the course, to determine the suitability of the course to the target population and context. Effectiveness of the course will be measured through the pre- and post-course knowledge assessment tests. Expected challenges in the eLearning course rollout include access to IT and time-limitations of staff due to staffing pressures.