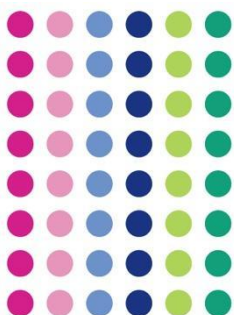




RISE-Vac Reaching the hard-to-reach: Increasing access and vaccine uptake among prison population in Europe

Title: The efforts of the National Penitentiary Administration System in Moldova provided credible results around knowledge and attitudes towards vaccinations in a European survey

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The medical staff of the National Administration of Penitentiaries carried out a study among prisoners with reference to the level of knowledge, but also to the attitude towards vaccination of the prison population.

The present study was carried out within the RISE-Vac project, funded by the European Union, and the results obtained describe the comparative situation within 6 prison systems from 6 European states (France, Germany, Italy, Cyprus and the United Kingdom) in terms of vaccination in prisons, including against COVID-19.

The purpose of the survey was to examine best practices and challenges in implementing universal vaccination services, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, to support the future expansion of routine lifetime vaccination services for people living in prison.

Thus, two transversal surveys were designed and piloted:

- survey of immunization practices among staff and inmates;
- vaccination implementation and coverage survey with open-ended questions for thematic analysis – among employees and inmates

It should be noted that vaccination against COVID-19 started in March 2021 in most of the prisons in the 6 mentioned countries, with the exception of 2 prisons in Germany and Britain, where it started later: in December 2021.

The Moldovan penitentiary system implemented vaccination for the first time in 2021, aligning with all the requirements of European states. At the same time, vaccines against viral hepatitis B and influenza (seasonal) are currently available within SAP.

In the context of what has been described, we conclude that the situation with reference to vaccination in Moldovan penitentiaries is a positive one.

For more details, please visit the [link](#).