

# Reaching the hard-to-reach:

Increasing access and vaccine uptake among prison populations in Europe

RISE-Vac seeks to improve prison health in Europe by promoting:



**vaccine literacy**

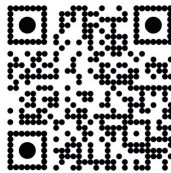


**vaccine offer**



**vaccine uptake**

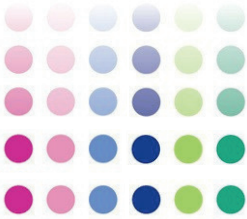
Scan to find out more about our objectives & partners



Follow us on social media:



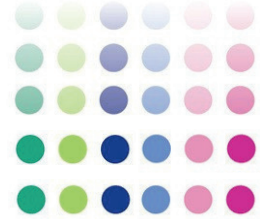
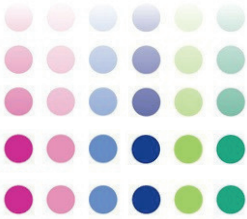
Co-funded by the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020)



# Contents

About Rise-Vac.....	1
Partners .....	2
Aims and objectives .....	3
Methods .....	4
Understanding vaccine hesitancy and models of care .....	5
Materials .....	6
Guidance overview .....	7
Key successes .....	8





# About Rise-Vac

RISE-Vac seeks to improve prison health in Europe by promoting:



**vaccine literacy**



**vaccine offer**

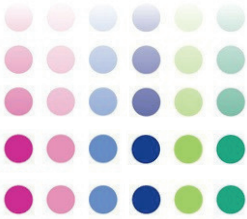


**vaccine uptake**

- People living in prisons (PLP) largely belong to socially deprived communities with a high disease burden.
- RISE-Vac aims to improve the health of PLP in Europe by promoting vaccine literacy, enhancing vaccine offers and increasing vaccine uptake.
- RISE-Vac has used a co-creation approach to develop information and training materials tailored to people in prison and staff to increase their VL. Models of vaccination delivery have been devised and piloted to respond to the needs of PLP, prison settings characteristics and national priorities.
- Benefits resulting from RISE-Vac activities are expected to extend to the general population. By upholding the principle that prison health is public health, the RISE-Vac project provides tools and data-driven, evidence-based options to guide European countries in improving health status of PLP



Co-funded by the European Union's  
Health Programme (2014-2020)



# Rise-Vac Partners

National Addictions  
Authority  
Cyprus

Ministry of Justice and Public  
Order -  
Cyprus Prison Department

University of Pisa

San Paolo Hospital  
(San Vittore Prison)

National Administration of  
Penitentiaries Moldova

UK Health Security  
Agency

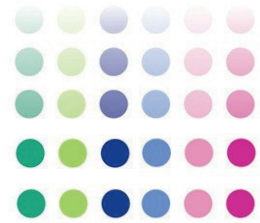
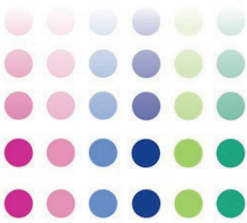
Centre Hospitalier  
Universitaire Montpellier

Health Without  
Barriers

Frankfurt University of  
Applied Sciences



Co-funded by the European Union's  
Health Programme (2014-2020)



# Aims and Objectives

## Aims:

- Improve the health of the prison population and the quality of prison health care in Europe by promoting vaccine literacy, enhancing vaccine offer and increasing vaccine uptake.
- The RISE-Vac project will aim to increase awareness about the opportunities offered and the added value of quality preventive care in prison settings for the overarching EU/EEA public health agenda.

## Objectives:

- To provide a comprehensive assessment of vaccine strategies and vaccine uptake in European prison settings
- To enhance the evidence base for understanding vaccine hesitancy and uptake as well as the efficacy of tailored interventions
- To increase vaccine literacy among prison population and prison staff
- To increase access to vaccine services and vaccine uptake in prison settings
- To foster quality preventive care in prison settings





## METHODS



vaccine data

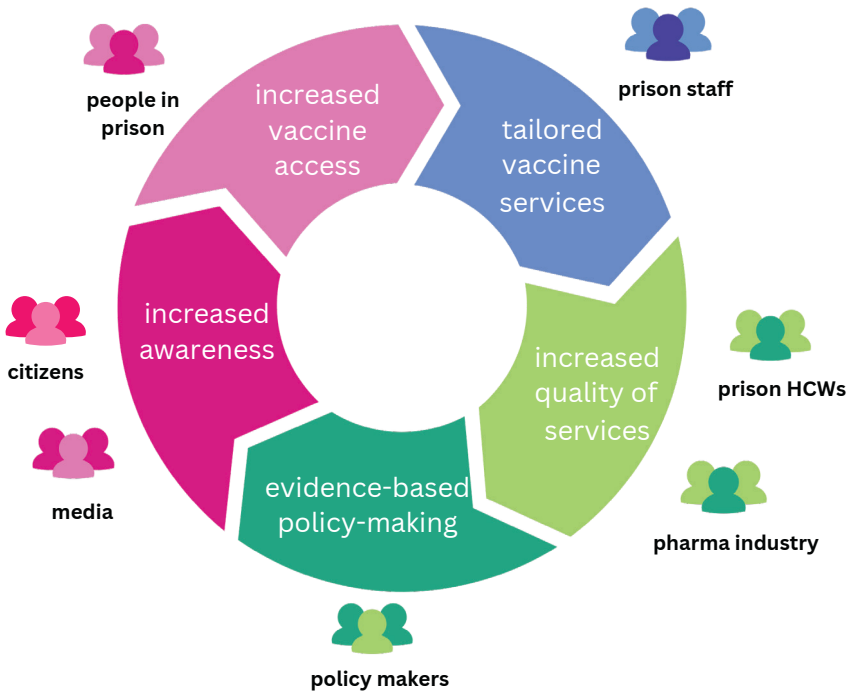


surveys

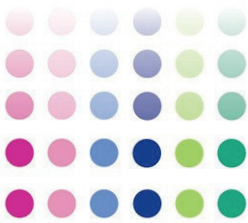


workshops

## STAKEHOLDERS REACHED



Co-funded by the European Union's  
Health Programme (2014-2020)



## Assessing attitudes, vaccine uptake and models of care.



vaccine data



surveys

- Development of a questionnaire on attitudes towards vaccine hesitancy and vaccine literacy.
- Assessment of vaccine hesitancy, literacy and uptake pre and post novel interventions.
- Development of a data collection tool to understand vaccination status.
- Assessment of vaccine status pre and post novel intervention.



workshops

View our surveys

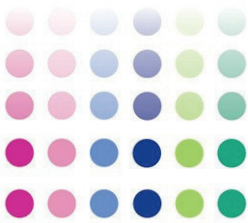


Evaluating and improving vaccination policies across Europe is a key priority for the Rise-Vac project. There are four main components to this research:

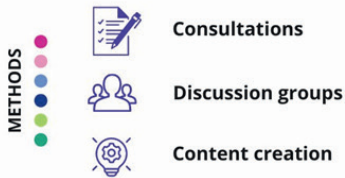
- Developing a data collection guide
- Identifying and sampling the population
- Data acquisition
- Data analysis



Co-funded by the European Union's  
Health Programme (2014-2020)



# Learning materials



Through the project, we have designed and piloted:

- E-Learning courses for vaccine and non-vaccine trained prison staff
- Vaccine-focused brochures for people living in prison
- Vaccine-focused animations for people living in prison

**Working alongside the Prison Reform Trust, all materials have been co-produced with those with lived experience**

View our learning materials in 9 different languages!



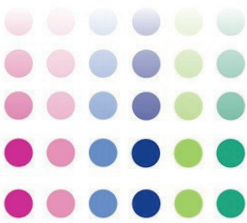
<https://wephren.tghn.org/rise-vac/rise-vac-outputs/>

Follow us on social media:



Co-funded by the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020)





# Guidance Document

## Aim:

To provide national and sub-national authorities involved in prison health and health services with practical principles and actions for scaling up immunisation services in prisons in accordance with the best evidence.

## Method:

Evidence was collected and synthesised into decision-making tables which were discussed and agreed at the general assembly meeting in Chisinau, Moldova.

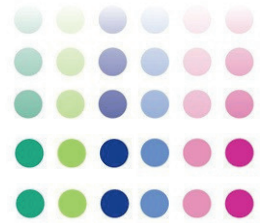
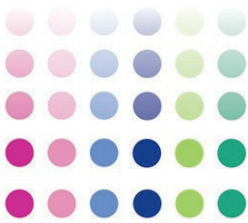
The guidance document covers:

- Cancer preventing vaccines
- Covid-19 and Influenza
- Catch-up/booster of routine immunisations
- Specific conditions (including age, clinical conditions and behaviours)
- Continuity of Care
- Frameworks for vaccination services
- Frameworks for monitoring and evaluating vaccines.

View the guidance document here:



Co-funded by the European Union's  
Health Programme (2014-2020)



# Key Successes

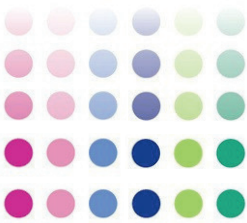
## San Vittore Remand House

“The main success of the RISE-Vac Project in Milan's prisons was the launch of the vaccination clinic in "San Vittore" remand house. Through the clinical activity of screening for infectious diseases and preventive measures (including vaccination), it has been possible to improve the attitude of people in prison and staff towards vaccination. The vaccination clinic works to ensure continuity of care with local medicine, to guarantee the completion of treatment even in the event of unscheduled release from prison, through agreements with local vaccination centers and a well-established referral system.”

## Villeneuve Les Maguelone prison

“Participation in the Rise-Vac project has enabled us to maintain efforts to update the vaccination schedules of people living in prison. All vaccines listed in the French vaccination calendar are available on site, to avoid any gaps between vaccine acceptance and completion. Thanks to this information, we can more easily obtain copies of vaccination records, and have succeeded in increasing vaccine acceptance, particularly for HPV vaccines.”





# Key Successes

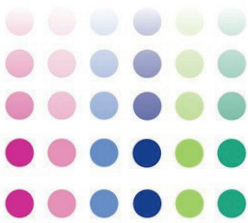
## National Administration of Penetentiaries- Moldova

“The Republic of Moldova initiated a comprehensive vaccination campaign across its penitentiary institutions on March 18, 2021. This campaign, integral to the Rise-Vac project, sought to enhance the health and well-being of incarcerated individuals by expanding access to essential vaccines. The initiative was conducted in concert with the ongoing accreditation of medical departments within the Prison service.

The campaign targeted both staff and detainees. Since its launch, over 14,142 doses of vaccine have been administered:

- 2,491 people were fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- 1,196 people were vaccinated against Hepatitis B
- 2,800 people were vaccinated against influenza
- 300 people were vaccinated against tetanus and diphtheria.”





# Key Successes

## Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

“Since 2006, responsibility for prison matters has been in the hands of the 16 federal states (Länder) in Germany. This means that each state has developed its own prison laws. While these laws align with the national prison law, they offer differing interpretations of prison-related issues, including prison healthcare. To implement the RISE-Vac research, an approval was necessary for each federal state involved through state’s penitentiary centers. This required a very high effort from the RISE-Vac staff, who run different approval procedures. As part of the Rise-Vac project, the Ministry of Justice of Lower Saxony expressed their approval and interest in implementing the project within the state's penitentiary centers. To support this initiative, educational materials highlighting the importance of vaccination in prison settings were prepared and translated for both prison staff (medical and non-medical) and individuals residing in the facilities.”

## UK Health Security Agency

“The Rise-Vac project provided an opportunity to develop tailored, co-produced interventions designed to increase vaccine literacy and uptake in staff and people living in prison. We were able to work with the Prison Reform Trust to understand how people living in prison want to learn about vaccines by conducting surveys across multiple countries. Furthermore, we developed a free of charge E-learning course for prison staff to increase vaccine literacy and provide staff with the skills needed to effectively communicate with people living in prison about vaccines.”



Co-funded by the European Union's  
Health Programme (2014-2020)