



PROMOVAX

Promote Vaccinations among Migrant Populations in Europe



newsletter

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Introducing the PROMOVAX Project

PROMOVAX is a 3-year project, launched in May 2010 and co-funded by the DG SANCO Public Health Program 2008 – 2013.

The **general objective** of the PROMOVAX project is to promote immunizations among migrant populations in Europe, contributing to the elimination of vaccine preventable diseases in the region and reducing social inequalities in health.

More specifically, the project aims to:

- identify migrants' immunization needs
- evaluate migrants' access to vaccinations
- record migrant immunization practices, policies and legislations in participating countries and identify gaps
- identify, exchange and disseminate best practices in the field of migrant immunization promotion
- propose recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders aiming to complement EU policies on hard to reach populations
- enhance health care professionals' and other migrant care givers' knowledge on migrants' immunizations needs
- improve migrant populations' knowledge on immunizations and advance their trust in the health system.



Why such a project?

- The majority of the existing health care services has been developed for the native European populations and is often ill-equipped when it comes to dealing with the needs of other groups, such as migrants.
- Increasing migration to and within Europe has confronted health care systems with new problems of developing accessible, appropriate and good quality services for migrants.
- Lack of immunization in marginalized groups in the WHO European Region poses a threat for outbreaks of contagious diseases, making it a national as well as international public health issue.
- Most of the non-immunized groups belong to hard-to-reach groups that lack access to vaccines and balanced information about the importance of immunization.
- Vaccinations could serve as a vehicle to provide primary care, other preventative and screening services, as well as health education to the migrants.

✓ **Immunization of migrants is a high priority issue for the EU health program within the context of reaching hard to reach populations.**



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PROMOVAX Target Groups

- 1. Documented working migrant population** (including asylum seekers and refugees), who are **legally included/present in the EU** workforce market.
- 2. Health care workers and other care givers providing for migrants** in the European countries.
- 3. Policy makers and stakeholders** in an effort to promote immunizations among migrant populations in Europe.

PROMOVAX Outline

The project is organized in 6 workpackages (WPs) with a total duration of 3 years.

The main partner (PROLEPSIS, Greece) coordinates the operational framework and dissemination of results. Three vertical WPs: "Mapping of EU migrant origin and access to immunizations" (CII - CUT, Cyprus), "Identification, evaluation and exchange of the existing best practices in migrant immunizations" (UP, Hungary) and "Development of health provider toolkits and educational material for migrants" (Prolepsis, Greece) compose the technical base. The project is evaluated during a dedicated WP (SINTEF, Norway).

PROMOVAX Implementation steps

1) Research and Review:

- ♦ Review of the following:
 - **Origin** and **demographic** information of migrant populations in each participating country
 - **Vaccination coverage**, and **immunization culture** and **attitudes** in majority migrant groups in Europe
 - **Vaccination coverage** and **incidence** of **vaccine preventable diseases** in selected migrants' countries of origin
- ♦ Review of **best practices** and **missed opportunities** in the field of migrant immunizations

2) Development of:

- ♦ **Health Provider Toolkit**, including step by step guidance and tools to be used when assessing and addressing migrant immunization needs as well as a compilation of resources for healthcare personnel.
- ♦ **Educational Material for Migrants**, providing general lay immunization information and addressing misconceptions in order to dispel common vaccination myths. The educational material will be created in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner.

PROMOVAX Partnership

The PROMOVAX partnership comprises of **11 Associated Partners from 8 countries** and **12 Collaborating Partners from 11 countries**.

Main Partner:

- Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health, Prolepsis – *Greece*

Associated Partners:

- Technische Universität Dresden – *Germany*
- Università degli Studi di Sassari – *Italy*
- The SINTEF Foundation – *Norway*
- Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine – *Poland*
- University of Zagreb, Medical School – *Croatia*
- RUBSI – Research Unit in Behaviour and Social Issues – *Cyprus*
- University of Pécs – *Hungary*
- Università degli Studi di Milano – *Italy*
- Istituto Superiore di Sanità – *Italy*
- Cyprus University of Technology – *Cyprus*

Collaborating Partners:

- Public Health Institute – *Albania*
- Baskent University – *Turkey*
- Hospital de Sabadell. Consorci Hospitalari Parc Taulí. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona – *Spain*
- Institute of Occupational Health – *Serbia*
- WHO/Europe Occupational Health – *Germany*
- WHO/Europe Communicable Disease Units – *Denmark*
- Alpert Medical School of Brown University – *USA*
- IOM – Migration and Health Division (MHD), Brussels – *Belgium*
- Institute of Epidemiology, Preventive Medicine and Public Health – *Greece*
- National School of Health. Instituto de Salud Carlos III. Ministry of Science and Innovation – *Spain*
- European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) – *Sweden*
- National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (NCIPD) – *Bulgaria*



PROMOVAX Meetings

Past meetings

- Kick off meeting**
Luxemburg, June 10-11, 2010
- 2nd partners meeting**
Limassol, Cyprus, November 22, 2010

Forthcoming meetings

- 3rd partners meeting**
Pécs, Hungary, April 28-29, 2011

PROMOVAX News

PROMOVAX was presented during:

- Turning Declarations into Actions: Post-conference Workshop of the 3rd Conference on Migrant & Ethnic Minority Health in Europe**,
08.11.2010, Pécs, Hungary
- Annual Meeting of the Baltic Sea Network on Occupational Health and Safety**,
30.09.2010 - 01.10.2010, Tartu, Estonia
- 3rd International Congress on Rural Health In Mediterranean And Balkan Countries**,
22 - 25.09.2010, Tirana, Albania
- ECDC workshop**,
21 - 22.09.2010, Sofia, Bulgaria

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