



European
Commission

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan



Prevention

Start date – end date

01/11/2022 – 31/11/2024

Countries

Greece, Italy, Spain

Overall budget

EUR 1 000 000

EU contribution under EU4Health programme

EUR 600 000



VH-COMSAVAC – Viral hepatitis community screening, vaccination and care



Our project is testing thousands of people in the community, people who often don't reach the health system. We're testing them for viral hepatitis B and C, vaccinating them against hepatitis B if they need it, curing them of hepatitis C and thereby preventing liver cancer.

The World Health Organisation aims to eliminate viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030. Among the objectives of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan for reducing cancer-related morbidity and mortality is prevention of cancers caused by hepatitis B and C.

Hepatitis B and C prevalence among migrant populations is higher than in native-born populations in host European countries. Late diagnosis and treatment can result in severe clinical outcomes in an estimated 15-40% of people with hepatitis B and up to 60% of people with hepatitis C.

VH-COMSAVAC aims to **scale up viral hepatitis testing, vaccination and treatment** among migrant and refugee populations in Greece, Italy and Spain. It will use:



- community-based testing services;
- simplified diagnostic tools;
- expedited person-centred referral processes;
- community health workers and intercultural mediators (in Spain).

An economic evaluation of community-based viral hepatitis screening will also be carried out.

The main outcomes will be:



- an increase in people's awareness of their hepatitis B and C status;
- an increase in linkage to care (treatment initiation for hepatitis C, first visits for monitoring and/or treatment initiation for hepatitis B);
- an increase in the number of people vaccinated against hepatitis B;
- ability to report on hepatitis B and C care within the target population;
- shorter waiting times for specialist care;
- reduced liver cancer-associated mortality in Greece, Italy and Spain;
- better understanding of the potential savings resulting from early detection of viral hepatitis in community settings;
- sharing of findings across Europe to contribute to similar actions;
- improved community-based models of diagnosis and care.

For more info

Contact details

Jeffrey Lazarus,
Camila Picchio and
Delfina Boudou
Barcelona Institute for
Global Health (ISGlobal)
Spain
Jeffrey.Lazarus@isglobal.org
camila.picchio@isglobal.org
delfina.boudou@isglobal.org

Project website

<https://www.isglobal.org/-/vh-comsavac>



VIRAL HEPATITIS
COMSAVAC
Multi-Country Community Screening,
Vaccination, and Care

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan makes use of the whole range of Commission funding instruments with a total of €4 billion being earmarked for actions addressing cancer. €1.25 billion from the EU4Health programme is being used to support actions and initiatives outlined in the Cancer Plan.

© European Union, 2023

Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders. All images © Gettyimages