

Viral Hepatitis COMMUNITY Screening, Vaccination, and Care (VH-COMSAVAC)

November 2022 - May 2025
 Overall budget: 1€ million
 EU contribution: 600,000€



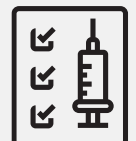
Aims

To scale up and adapt a community-based model of care for hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) testing and linkage to care and HBV vaccination among migrant and refugees from intermediate and high prevalence countries, **contributing to prevention of liver cancer**



Our approach

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



Potential outcomes

Increased awareness of status; increase in number of vaccinations; increase in linkage to care; shorter waiting times for specialist care; ability to report on HBV and HCV care within target population; **reduced liver cancer-associated mortality in participating countries (Greece, Italy and Spain)**; sharing of findings across Europe; improved community-based models of diagnosis and care; and better understanding of potential savings due to early detection of viral hepatitis in community settings



Partners involved

Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal); Prometheus; the Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granada Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico; Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; and Salud Entre Culturas



Photo: Candelaria Nazar - Project VH-COMSAVAC

Where we stand

VH-COMSAVAC is being implemented in **Greece, Italy and Spain:**

- **Over 1,680 people have been screened for HBV and HCV:** 770 in Greece, 520 in Spain and 398 in Italy
- 3.51% (57 people) were HBsAg+, revealing an active HBV infection
- 3.44% (58 people) were anti-HCV+, revealing an active or past HCV infection

"Each of these 115 people identified is one less potential case of liver cancer, thanks to early screening and linkage to care."

Figure 1: Participants' countries of birth across study sites in Greece, Spain and Italy

Reported knowledge, screening & vaccination

- **Over 50% of screened people had not heard about viral hepatitis prior to the study**
- **Only 16.6% of all participants had previously been tested for HBV and/or HCV**
- **Only 8.5% reported being previously vaccinated against HBV**

If you're curious to learn more about the project and our research, [click here](#)



Multi-Country Community Screening, Vaccination, and Care



Co-funded by the European Union

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