

Adult Immunization Board
Country meeting: Adult immunization in Italy
Florence 6-7 December 2023



Session 5 - Adult Vaccination in Italy in specific population groups

Migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees

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Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Right to access to care and prevention

Art.32. Constitution. *The Republic shall protect health as a fundamental right of the individual and interest of the community, and shall guarantee free care to the indigent.*

NHS established by Law No. 833 of 1978 is based on universality, equality and equity

Articles 34 and 35 of the Consolidated Text of Provisions Concerning the Discipline of Immigration and Regulations on the Status of Foreigners (TD.Lgs. No. 286/1998) and consequent Articles 42 and 43 of the Implementing Regulations (Presidential Decree 394/1999) *Access to diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases, as well as prevention according to the national program, is among the basic rights of all foreigners*

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Access to NHS and vaccination

EU citizens present > 3 months

- Workers and their relatives: registration with the NHS
- Persons not resident, not worker: access to NHS with ENI code (European Not Inscript)

Third countries citizens

- Residence permit, asylum, humanitarian protection Registration with the NHS
- Persons without residence permit: access to NHS with STP code (foreigner Temporarily Present)

RIGHT TO ACCESS TO VACCINATIONS IS GUARANTEED FOR ALL MIGRANTS... BUT IT IS NOT ALWAYS REALIZED

Foreigners in Italy - 2020

5.013.215 residents = 8,4% (ISTAT)

366.000 not residents + 517.000 not documented = 9,8% (estimation ISMU)

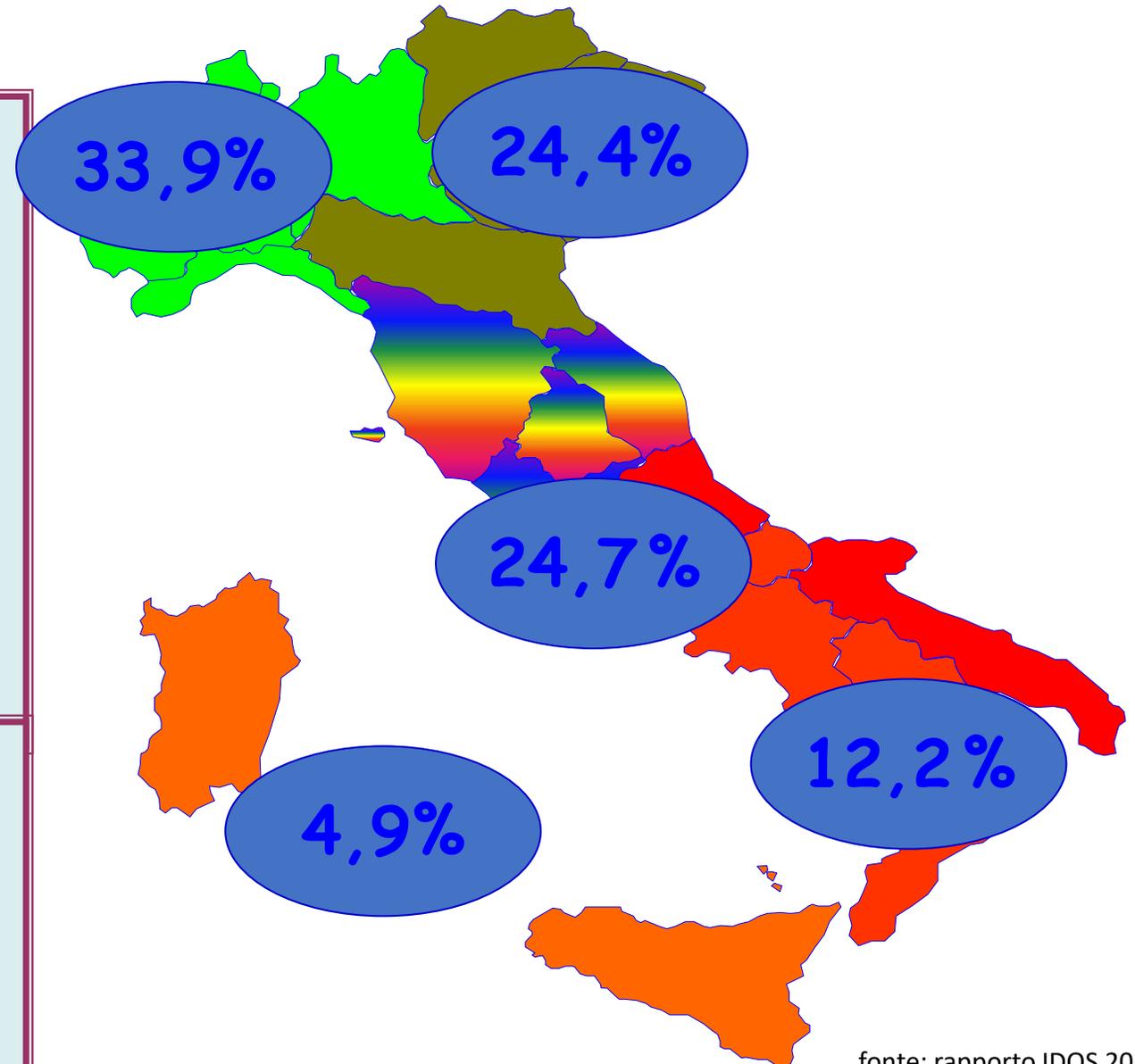
34.154 arrived by sea in 2020

51,9% women
20,2% < 18 years

59.389 born in Italy in 2020
132.736 acquired Italian citizenship

First five communities (%)

- Romania 22%**
- Albania 8%**
- Morocco 8%**
- China 6%**
- Ukraine 5%**



Maintaining **polio**-free status

..... A number of factors still make our country particularly susceptible to the threat of wild poliovirus reintroduction, particularly the **flow of migration even from countries with endemic polio or ongoing epidemics.** It is known, in fact, that asymptomatic infected individuals (one hundred times more frequent than manifest cases of polio) can shed live virus, with feces, up to six weeks after infection.

... Another problem is the **so-called "vulnerable" or "hard-to-reach" groups, including immigrants, especially if they are undocumented, and refugees, but also the different ethnic groups of nomadic populations (Roma, Sinti) and "homeless individuals."**

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Vaccine recommendations: National Immunization Plan 2017-2019

Ensure the active and free supply of vaccinations, access to services, and availability of vaccines

For immigrant children aged 3 to 6 months, for whom there is no documentation of vaccinations performed, a **full vaccination cycle** is carried out.

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Vaccine recommendations: National Immunization Plan 2017-2019

Vaccinations for individuals at risk for certain behaviors or conditions

Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended in the following risk groups:

....

Children up to six years of age, children of immigrants, traveling to endemic countries or residing in areas at increased endemic risk

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Vaccine recommendations: Italian guidelines



Ministero della Salute

Assistenza sanitaria Paesi extra UE

[Home](#) / [Documentazione - Pubblicazioni](#) / [I controlli alla frontiera](#) - Controlli sanitari all'arrivo centri di accoglienza

I controlli alla frontiera - Controlli sanitari all'arrivo e percorsi di tutela per i migranti ospiti nei centri di accoglienza

Titolo: I controlli alla frontiera - Controlli sanitari all'arrivo e percorsi di tutela per i migranti ospiti nei centri di accoglienza

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A cura di: INMP - ISS - S.I.M.M.

Download

- [Linee guida salute migranti \(PDF 3.73 Mb\)](#)

https://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pubblicazioni_2624_allegato.pdf



Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Vaccine recommendations: Italian guidelines



Health assessment for migrants and asylum seekers upon arrival and while hosted in reception centres: Italian guidelines

Maria Elena Tosti^{a,*}, Maurizio Marceca^{b,c}, Erica Eugeni^d, Franca D'Angelo^a, Salvatore Geraci^b, Silvia Declich^a, Maurella Della Seta^e, Luigina Ferrigno^a, Rosalia Marrone^d, Chiara Pajno^d, Scilla Pizzarelli^e, Annalisa Rosso^{c,f}, Giulia De Ponte^a, Concetta Mirisola^d, Giovanni Baglio^d

R15.1 – During second line reception, unvaccinated **children (0–14 years)** or those with uncertain vaccination records should be offered vaccinations according to the **national schedule, as per their age**

R15.2 – **Adults** having no or uncertain vaccination history should be offered the following vaccinations:

- **polio,**
- **measles, mumps, rubella,**
- **chickenpox (except for pregnant women),**
- **diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis,**
- **HBV** (for all screened adults testing negative on blood markers)

CHILDREN

The active offer of mandatory and recommended vaccinations, during the reception process, and in particular as part of the health care intake, to migrant children (0-16 years) who have never been vaccinated, or with uncertain documentation, according to the **current national calendar, in relation to age**, is indicated.

Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended in the following risk groups:

- Children up to 14 years of age, **children of immigrants, traveling to endemic countries** or residing in areas at increased endemic risk

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Vaccine recommendations: National Immunization Plan 2023-2025

ADULTS

... In recently arrived **adult migrants with uncertain or absent vaccination history, active offer of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis** vaccine is recommended (booster included)

Vaccination is also recommended **for recently arrived migrants who have uncertain or no vaccination history (MPR+V)** to the exclusion of pregnant women.

... In **recently arrived adult migrants who have uncertain or absent vaccination history, active provision of polio vaccine** is recommended.

... In **recently arrived adult migrants who have uncertain or absent vaccination history, active offer of HBV vaccine** is recommended to all those screened and found negative for serological markers (HBsAg, HBcAb, and HBsAb).

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

What is the current vaccination rate among the target group? Are vaccination rates increasing or decreasing?

National Institute of Statistics survey
2012–2013

Elderly residents and adult with
specific chronic diseases.

VC for influenza: immigrants 16.9% vs
40.2% among Italian citizens

Differences in Influenza Vaccination Coverage
between Adult Immigrants and Italian Citizens
at Risk for Influenza-Related Complications: A
Cross-Sectional Study

Massimo Fabiani^{1*}, Flavia Riccardo^{1,2}, Anteo Di Napoli³, Lidia Gargiulo⁴, Silvia Declich¹,
Alessio Petrelli³

PLOS ONE | DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0166517 November 10, 2016

Differences in demographic characteristics, socio-economic conditions and health-services utilization

- **explained** the reduced VC in most long-term immigrants compared to Italian citizens.
- **did not explain** the reduced VC in long-term immigrants from Africa and recent immigrants (probably affected by **other informal barriers (e.g., cultural and linguistic)**)



Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

What is the current vaccination rate among the target group? Are vaccination rates increasing or decreasing?

Behavioral surveillance system PASSI 2011–15

Resident women of childbearing age (18–49 years)

VC for Rubella: 36% immigrant vs 60.2% Italian women

Worse VC in recent immigrants and immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

Difference in demographic, socioeconomic and health-risk behaviors characteristics did not explained the differences

Other informal barriers (e.g., cultural and barriers to information access)?

Comparison of rubella immunization rates in immigrant and Italian women of childbearing age: Results from the Italian behavioral surveillance system *PASSI* (2011-2015)

Massimo Fabiani^{1*}, Gianluigi Ferrante¹, Valentina Minardi¹, Cristina Giambi¹, Flavia Riccardo^{1,2}, Silvia Declich¹, Maria Masocco¹

PLOS ONE | <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0178122> October 2, 2017



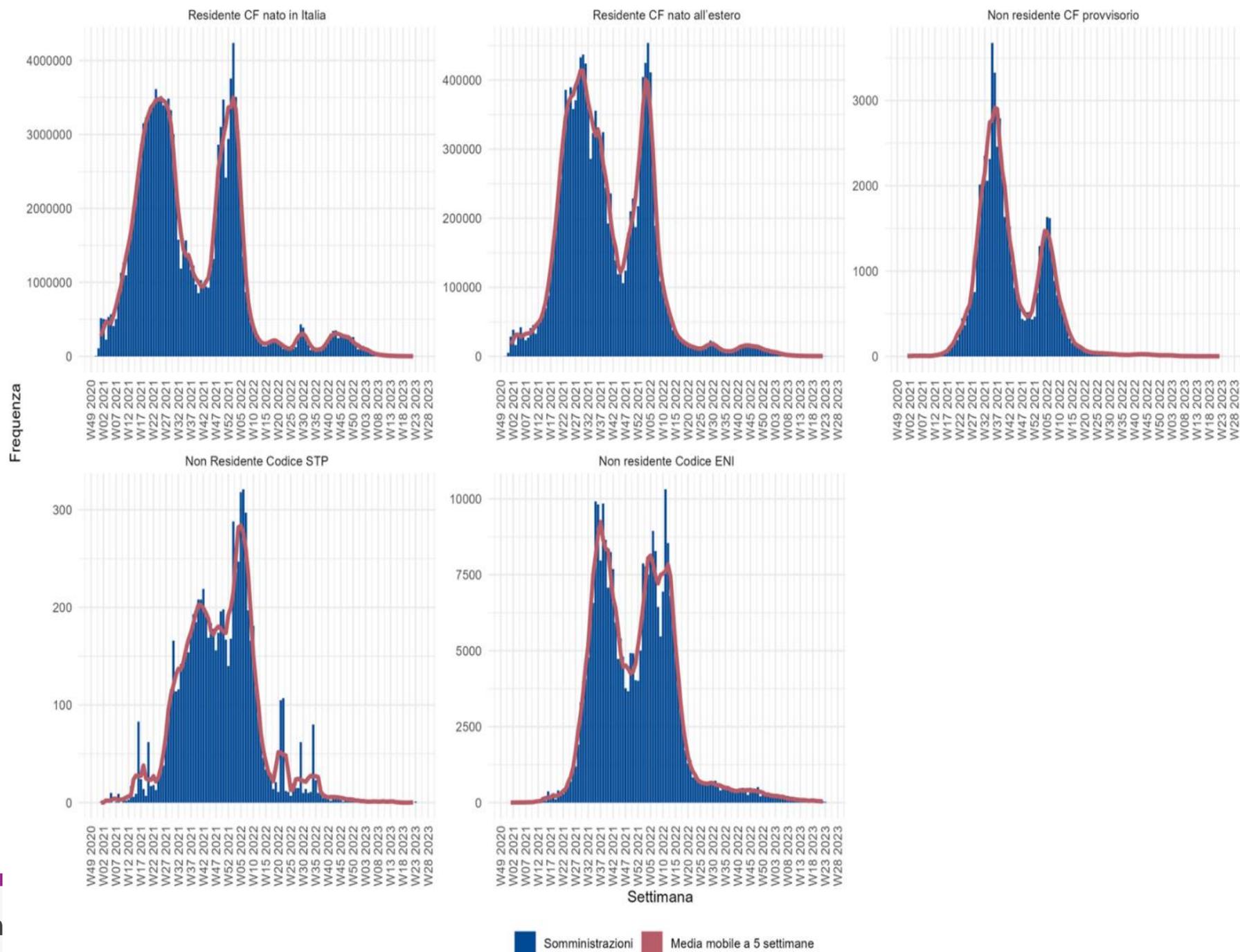
COVID-19 Vaccinations from National Vaccine Registry (AVN) 2021-2023.

Foreign population not resident in Italy who received the COVID-19 vaccination were only 194.323, very low compared to estimated 517.000 undocumented stayers as of January 1, 2020 in Italy

The study highlighted the impossibility of calculating the vaccination coverage of non-resident foreigners and the need of improving collection of already existing variables

Access to COVID-19 immunization and vaccine coverage in non-resident migrants: opportunities, challenges and critical issues

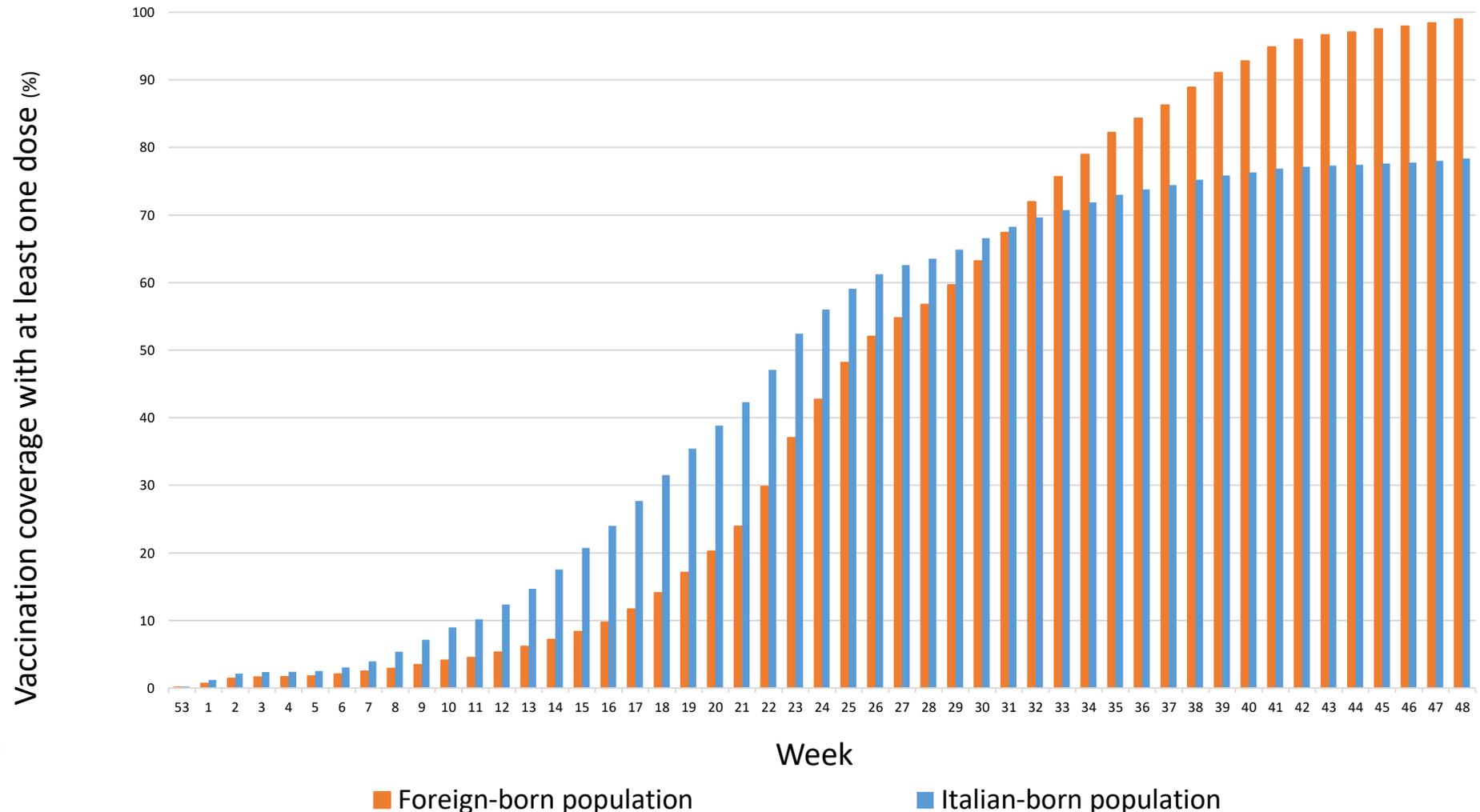
Giulia Marchetti¹, Salvatore Scarso^{1,2}, Daniele Petrone³, Salvatore Geraci⁴, Valeria Proietti⁵, Serena Battilomo⁵, Massimo Fabiani³, Silvia Declich¹ · BEN 2023 (in press)



Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

What is the current vaccination rate among the target group? Are vaccination rates increasing or decreasing?

An example of misalignment between numerator and denominator: vaccination coverage for Sars-Cov-2



Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

What is the current vaccination rate among the target group? Are vaccination rates increasing or decreasing?

Unlikely results: nearly 100% VC among foreigners after 48 weeks from start of Sars-Cov-2 vaccination campaign

Numerator: number of foreign-born people vaccinated for Sars-Cov-2 present in Italy (Source: National Vaccine Registry)

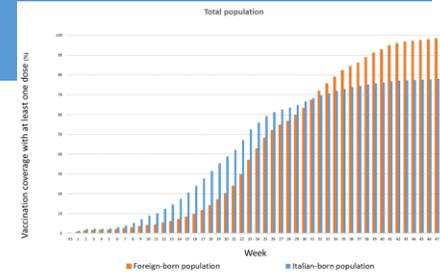
→ includes foreign-born Italians

Denominator: number of not-Italian citizens residing in Italy (Source: National Institute of Statistics)

→ does not include foreign-born who have obtained Italian citizenship

→ includes second-generation immigrants without citizenship

Vaccination coverage cannot be estimated, due to lack of a suitable denominator for the available numerator



Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

What strategies and services are in place to ensure that this population receives the necessary vaccinations?

National Immunization Plan 2017-2019

5. Develop an Institutional Communication Plan on Immunization.

This type of approach to informed immunization adherence ... generate and keep alive the demand for vaccination services and to address doubts and uncertainties in the population through the use of both traditional and innovative social communication platforms, enhancing the frontline role of health workers, identifying and taking advantage of every opportunity to communicate the benefits of vaccination and the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases, and **planning support and communication activities tailored to populations most susceptible to infection (including, for example, Roma, Sinti, and Caminanti groups and migrants).**

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

What strategies and services are in place to ensure that this population receives the necessary vaccinations?

National Immunization Plan 2023-2025 Objective and strategies

REDUCE INEQUALITIES AND PROVIDE ACTIONS FOR POPULATION GROUPS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO REACH AND/OR HAVE LOW VACCINE COVERAGE

The purpose of vaccine prevention programs should not only be limited to achieving an optimal level of coverage in the general population, but also to reducing existing inequalities among different population groups by **implementing special interventions aimed at those characterized by greater social or economic vulnerability (such as migrants, homeless individuals, prisoners, community residents, drug addicts, etc.) that result in greater difficulty in being reached by health services.**

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

What are the key challenges in vaccinating this population in Italy?

National Immunization Plan 2023-2025 Objective and strategies

Low vaccination coverage in these groups depends on several factors:

- difficulty of identification by health registries,
- difficulty of contact through normal channels (invitation letter),
- barriers due to communication, low educational level, illiteracy,
- social isolation, cultural attitudes,
- difficulties in accessing health services, including the difficulty of booking vaccinations on portals in the absence of the required documents,
- distrust of public facilities, fear of discrimination.

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

How is Italy coordinating efforts with local health departments and community organizations to improve vaccination efforts for this group? What support is provided to address the unique needs of this population? What can be improved?

National Immunization Plan 2023-2025 Objective and strategies

Prepare intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach with dedicated strategies and approaches:

- activate territorial services close to the distressed condition,
- involve actors from civil society and third sector entities
- promote collaboration between the Public Health and Hygiene Services of the ASLs and the social services of the municipalities of reference
- increasing contact between the health system and users, including through linguistic-cultural mediators
- set up low-threshold interventions
- strengthen the vaccine national registry, also in function of high mobility

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

AcToVax4NAM: Access to Vaccination for newly arrived migrants (NAM)

The general objective of the AcToVax4NAM project is the improvement of Vaccination Literacy (VL) and access, thereby improving vaccination uptake for Newly Arrived Migrants (NAM) making access conditions more equitable and guaranteed.

The project targets Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs), part of the National Immunization Plans and adopts a life-course approach, including COVID-19 vaccination.



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Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

Newly Arrived Migrants (NAM)

*“A person (with a different citizenship from the hosting country, with either **EU/EEA*** or **third country citizenship**), who entered the country in the **last 12 months***

EITHER within the procedures prescribed by the governmental migration policies, excluding tourists and short visa/permit < 3 months,

OR outside the procedures recognized by the legislation (or overstay after visa expired)”.



The **Operational Definition of NAM** is based on Public Health considerations, **regardless of legal status or country of origin**



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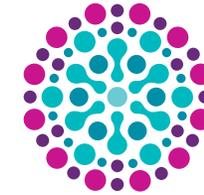


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Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects

Target Population: all “Professionals FOR Health”



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants



Staff (health and non health) of Public Health Organizations at national and local level



Social Workers



Cultural mediators



Personnel working for NGOs in areas related to migrants' health



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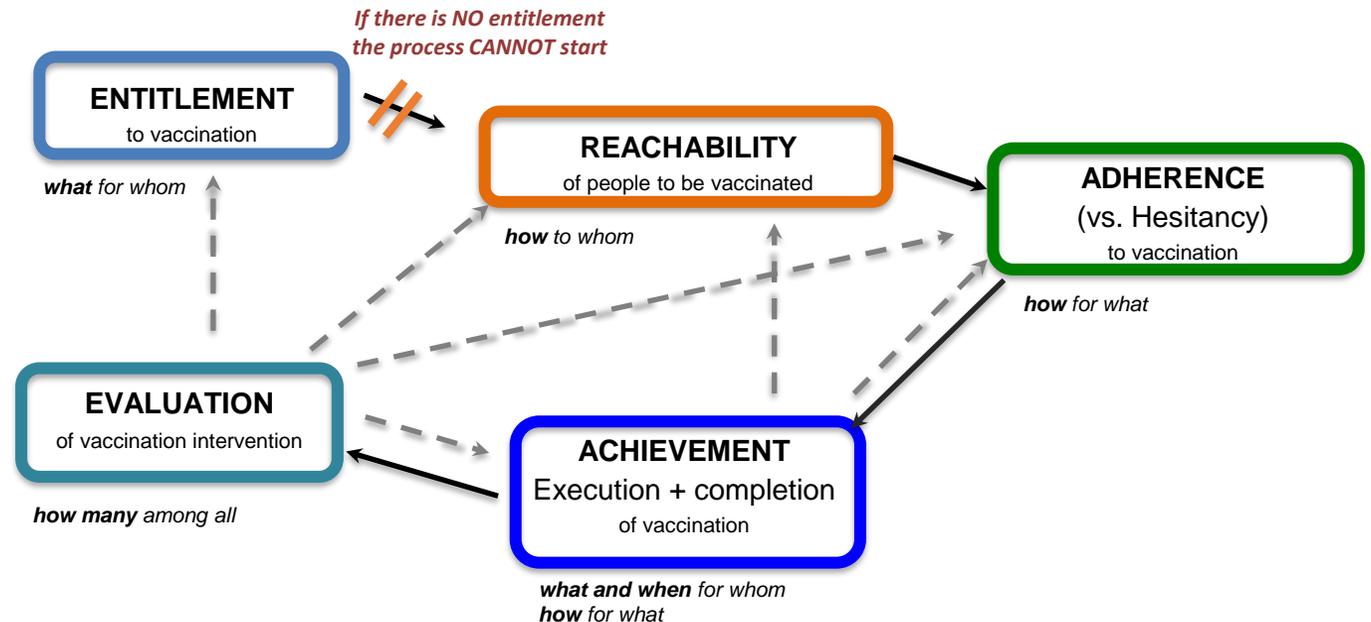
Success stories / projects



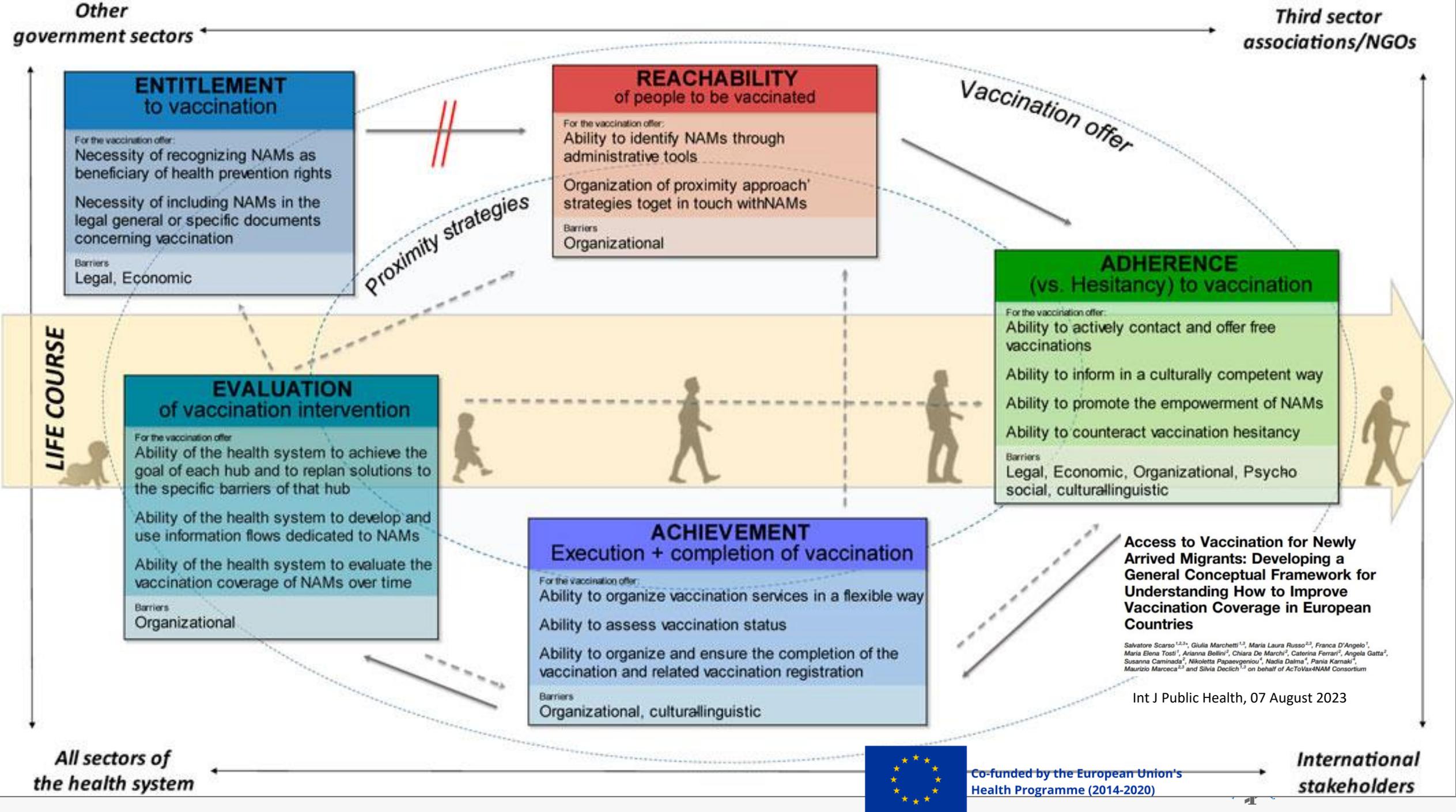
Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

- ❖ **Entitlement** to vaccination
- ❖ **Reachability** of people to be vaccinated
- ❖ **Adherence** (vs. Hesitancy) to vaccination
- ❖ **Achievement** execution + completion of vaccination
- ❖ **Evaluation** of vaccination intervention

General Conceptual Framework for understanding “How to improve the vaccination coverage for NAM”



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Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects

Co-creation of tools and training sessions with and for Professional FOR Health



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

Glossaries
of essential
terms on
vaccination



TEIL 1 | 1. BÖLÜM

Herdenimmunität

Der Zustand, der eintritt, wenn die Mehrheit der Bevölkerung eines Landes oder einer Region gegen einen bestimmten Mikroorganismus immunisiert ist, entweder durch einen Impfstoff oder weil sie sich von der Infektion erholt hat. Dadurch wird die Verbreitung dieses Mikroorganismus stark reduziert und die Schutzwirkung auf die Personen ausgedehnt, die aus bestimmten medizinischen Gründen („Kontraindikationen“) nicht geimpft werden konnten.

Sürü bağışıklığı

Bir ülke veya bölge nüfusunun çoğunluğunun aşı yoluyla veya enfeksiyonu atlattıkları için belirli bir mikroorganizmaya karşı bağışıklık kazanmış olmaları durumudur. Bu sayede bu mikroorganizmanın yayılması büyük ölçüde azalır ve koruyucu etki, belirli tıbbi nedenlerle („kontrendikasyonlar“) aşılana-yan kişileri de kapsayacak şekilde genişler.

Impfstoff

Eine spezielle Art von Medikament, das unserem Körper hilft, sein Immunsystem zu stärken und mögliche Schäden durch die Infektion mit bestimmten Mikroorganismen zu verhindern. Er verhindert das Auftreten einer Krankheit bzw. kann eventuelle Symptome

Aşı maddesi

Vücudumuzun bağışıklık sistemini güçlendirmesine ve belirli mikroorganizmaların yol açtığı enfeksiyondan kaynaklanan olası hasarı önlemesine yardımcı olan özel bir ilaç türüdür. Bir hastalığın başlamasını önler veya semptomları azaltır. Günümüzde uy-



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Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects

Glossary of Essential Terms on Vaccination per Country

	CIPRO		GERMANY		GREECE		ITALY		MALTA		SPAIN		ROMANIA		POLAND only 1°part	
1	Eng	French	German	Farsi	Greek	Somali	Italian	Chinese	English	French	Catalan	Urdu	Romanian	Albanian	Polish	English
2	Eng	Arabic	German	Turkish	Greek	Bengali	Italian	Ukrainian	English	Arabic	Catalan	Spanish	Romanian	English	Polish	Ukrainian
3	Eng	Greek	German	Russian	Greek	English	Italian	English	English	Italian	Catalan	English	Romanian	Ukrainian	Polish	Urdu
4			German	English	Greek	Arabic	Italian	Arabic	English	Spanish	Catalan	Arabic	Romanian	Turkish	Polish	Bulgarian
5			German	Arabic	Greek	Chinese	Italian	Romanian	English	German	Catalan	French	Romanian	Arabic	Polish	Russian
6			German	Ukrainian	Greek	Urdu	Italian	French	English	Ukrainian	Catalan	Chinese	Romanian	Urdu	Polish	Albanian
7					Greek	French	Italian	Urdu			Catalan	Ukrainian	Romanian	Farsi		
8					Greek	Turkish	Italian	Spanish								
9					Greek	Ukrainian	Italian	Somali								
10					Greek	Albanese										
	3		6		10		9		6		7		6		6	
	total number of glossaries														53	



Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

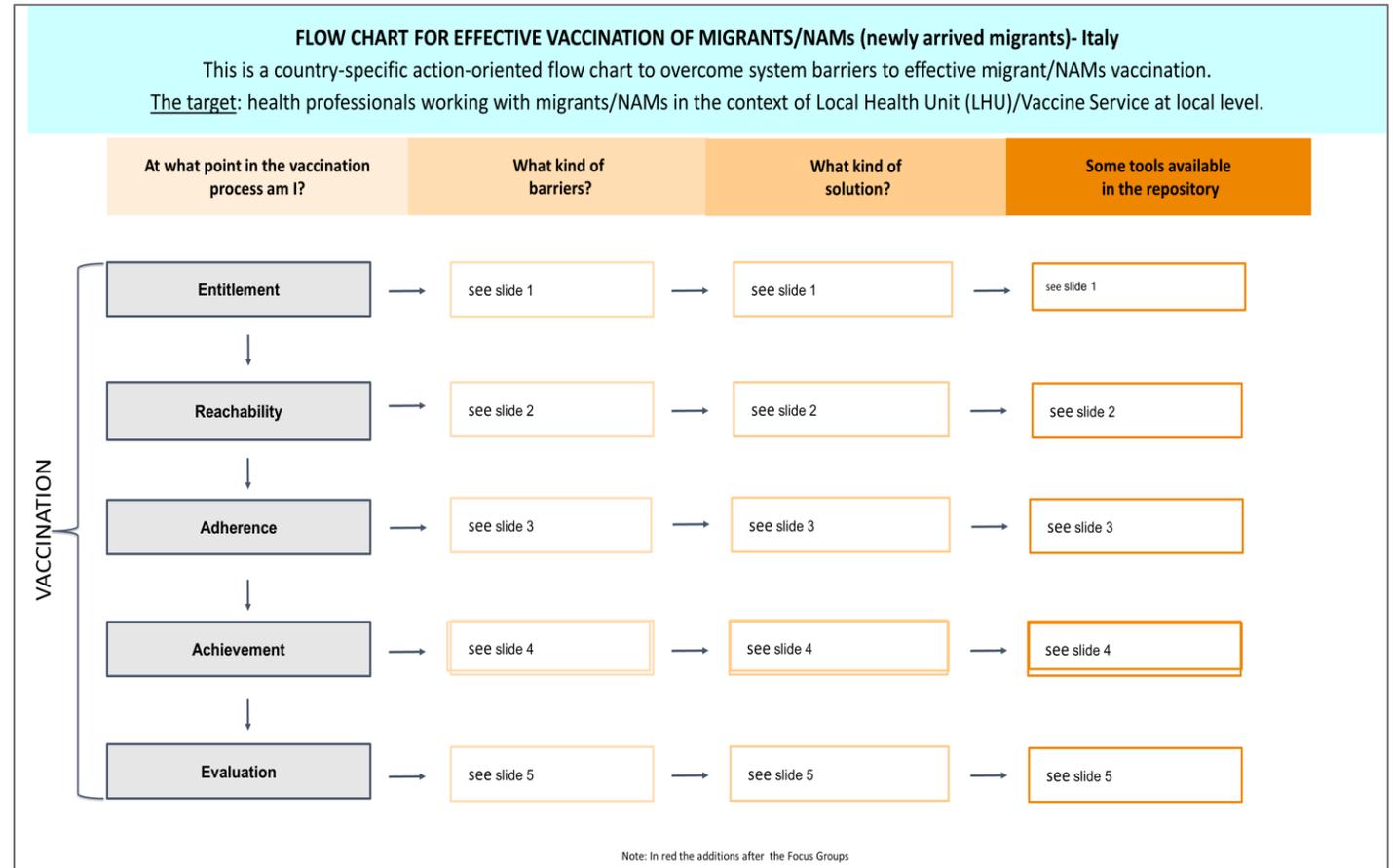
Success stories / projects

Co-creation of tools and training sessions with and for Professional FOR Health



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

Country specific
action-oriented
flow charts



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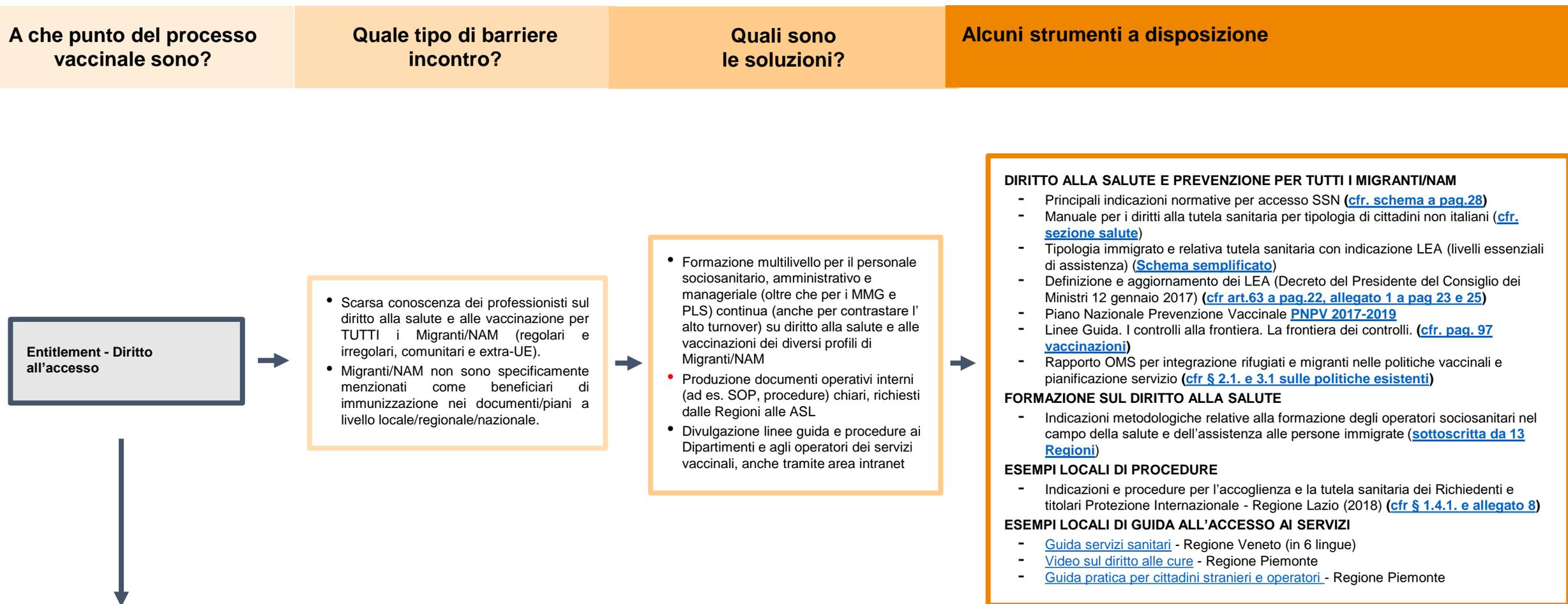


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FLOW CHART PER UNA VACCINAZIONE EFFICACE DEI migranti/NAMs (migranti di recente arrivo) – Italia

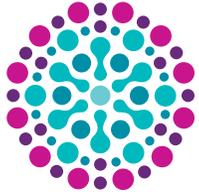
Questo è un diagramma di flusso orientato all'azione specifico per paese per superare le **barriere di sistema ad una vaccinazione efficace dei migranti/NAMs**.

Il target: professionisti PER la salute che lavorano con i migranti/NAMs nel contesto ASL/Servizio Vaccinale.



Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

Online
repository/
database of
tools to address
system level
barriers

<https://tools.accesstovaccination4nam.eu/>

Barrier Hub

Barrier to address

Solution

Language

Country



In which hub do you observe barriers?

click each hub to see the definition

ENTITLEMENT

REACHABILITY

ADHERENCE

ACHIEVEMENT

EVALUATION



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Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

Vaccination literacy
and cultural
competency training
sessions

Co-creation of tools and training sessions with and for Professional FOR Health



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Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects

Pilot solutions to overcome system barriers to increase vaccination uptake in a specific setting



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

Setting: **NHS Local Health Authority in Lazio Region**

Target: **Professionals 4 Health identified as strategic:** health professional from vaccination service, health professional from migrant health service, health professional from Reception Centre, health general practitioners, family pediatricians, NGO operators, mediators, health professionals from other service

Final beneficiaries: **migrants in reception centres**, asylum seekers



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Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Success stories / projects



Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

Pilot solutions to overcome system barriers to increase vaccination uptake in a specific setting

- Defining a procedure that allows the Local Health Authority to be aware of migrants who have recently arrived in its territory
- Building an alliance with all stakeholders in the vaccination process of migrants
- Developing and implementing of a vaccination promotion campaign and building of a language-friendly informed consent
- Establishing and piloting a procedure to offer asylum seekers of all ages the prescribed vaccinations



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Access to Vaccination
for Newly Arrived Migrants

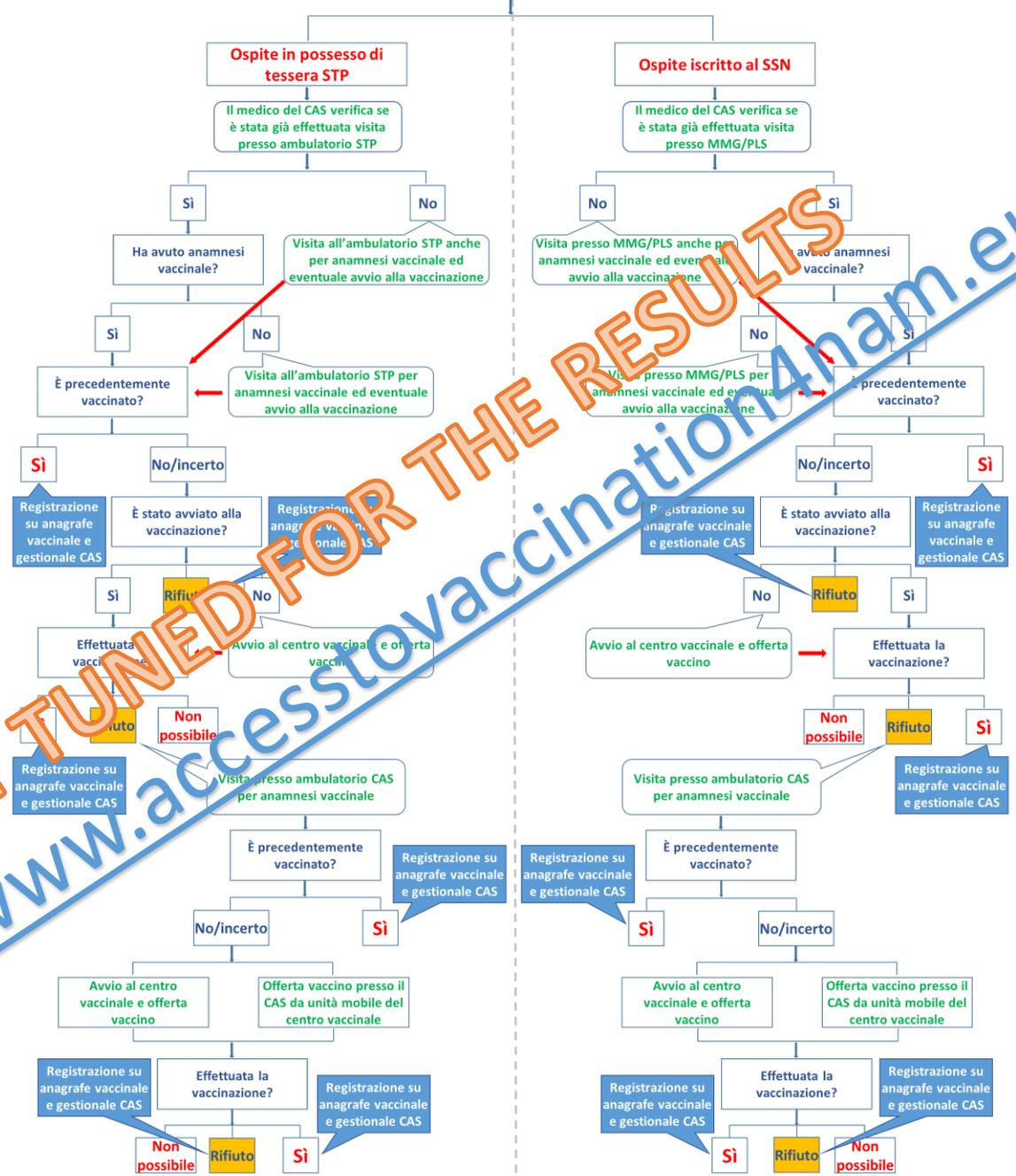
Pilot solutions

Piloting a procedure to offer asylum seekers of all ages the prescribed vaccinations



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Percorso per le vaccinazioni dell'ospite all'interno del CAS



STAY TUNED FOR THE RESULTS
<https://www.accesstovaccination.it>

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Future goals and initiatives to improve vaccination in this group

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Life-course vaccinations for migrants and refugees: Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 vaccination campaigns

Silvia Declich¹, Giulia De Ponte², Giulia Marchetti¹, Maria Grazia Dente¹, Maria Elena Tosti¹, Lara Tivoschi³, Pier Luigi Lopalco⁴, Maria Laura Russo², Maurizio Marceca⁵



Building block

- Inclusion of M&Rs in post COVID-19 national vaccinations plans
- Development of tailored, innovative, and equitable approaches for routine vaccination services targeting M&Rs
- Increased engagement of staff and cultural competence of the system
- Increased M&Rs' vaccine literacy

Monitoring progress of inclusive vaccinations, based on a health equity perspective roadmap



Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Future goals and initiatives to improve vaccination in this group

Addressing vaccination barriers for migrants requires a comprehensive approach. This includes:

- enhancing professionals' knowledge about **migrants' rights to healthcare and prevention**
- improving **reachability through updated data sources and collaboration**
- promoting adherence through **culturally sensitive health campaigns and strategies**
- achieving **vaccination coverage through flexible services and better documentation**
- **evaluating interventions** to measure effectiveness

Migrants: including asylum seekers and refugees

Future goals and initiatives to improve vaccination in this group

Collection and integration of data on refugees and migrant health into the routine data collection system and the promotion of data linkage

The key variables are:

- country of birth
- country of citizenship
- month and year of arrival
- country of birth of both parents

Integration of a second set of recommended variables will allow further disaggregation of health data by subgroups of migrants:

- reasons for migration
- knowledge of the official language(s) of the host country
- never resided abroad
- legal status





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