

# Multi-country Viral Hepatitis COMMunity Screening, Vaccination, and Care (VH-COMSAVAC): Project outline

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## Background & Objective

- Chronic viral hepatitis infection caused by the hepatitis B and C viruses (HBV and HCV) is a major public health challenge. In high-income countries, HBV and HCV infections are more prevalent among marginalized communities, such as migrants and refugees.
- In line with "Europe's Beating Cancer" plan, the EU4Health program has funded Multi-country Viral Hepatitis COMMunity Screening, Vaccination, and Care (VH-COMSAVAC) that seeks to leverage established partner networks offering community-based HBV and HCV screening and appropriately link people to specialist care and vaccination in order to reduce the liver cancer burden caused by HBV and HCV infections in the European Union (EU).

## Expected results

- Migrant and marginalised populations included in the project will benefit by:
  - knowing their HBV and HCV status,
  - being offered the first-dose of the HBV vaccine *in situ*, if appropriate
  - being provided an expedited referral to specialist care for treatment initiation and management, if needed.
- Process, outcome, and cost indicators (Figure 1) will be collected. An economic assessment of the impact and value of these interventions on liver cancer burden to inform future policies and guidelines.
- The results of the community-based screening program will provide evidence to inform guidelines for tailored, person-centred models of viral hepatitis care.

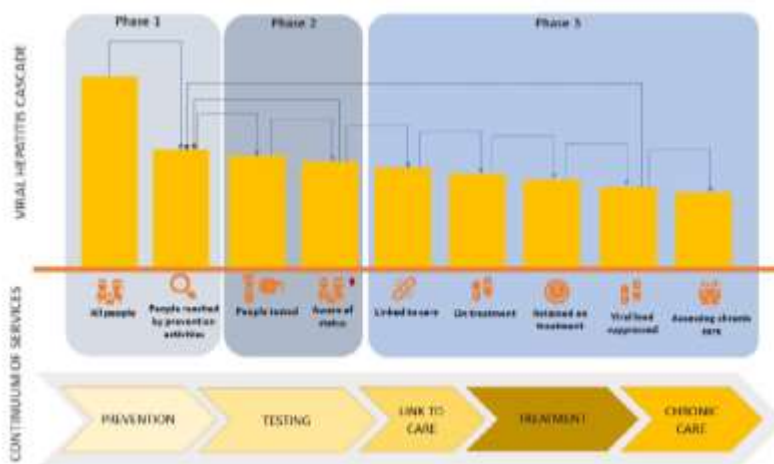


Figure 1. Viral hepatitis cascade of care and continuum of services adapted from WHO guidelines on HBV and HCV testing

## Methods

The project will:

- take place in three EU member countries: Greece, Italy and Spain.
- employ effective and established community-based care models for hard-to-reach, marginalized populations, specifically migrants and refugees
- adapt and scale up early HBV and HCV screening using simple and innovative diagnostic tools, decentralized vaccination against HBV and linkage-to-care with hospitals specializing in the treatment of viral hepatitis.



## Conclusion

- The results obtained from the interventions will provide clinical and cost-effectiveness data to contribute to the development of a roadmap to reducing the liver cancer burden associated with HBV and HCV infections in the EU.

