
***Protecting the value of prevention across Europe:
focus on RSV & Maternal Vaccination***

EU Policy & Advocacy Workshop

Cittadinanzattiva engagement on RSV at the national & at the EU level

19 March 2026 | 11:00 – 14:00

Maastricht University Brussels Hub - Avenue des Arts 47, Brussels



Vaccination policy: our commitment at the EU level

a long-term strategy rather than a spot initiative

to bring the citizens' perspective

to move to a common knowledge linked to a life-course vaccination culture

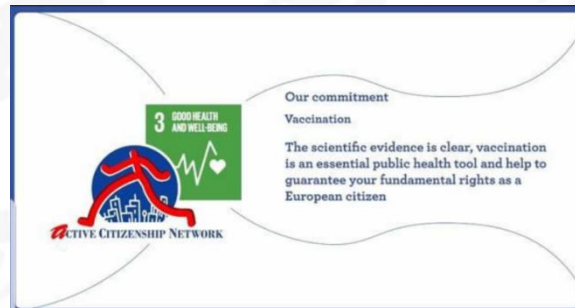
to increase the actors involved in fighting vaccine hesitancy climate

to improve awareness of the importance of vaccination throughout Europe

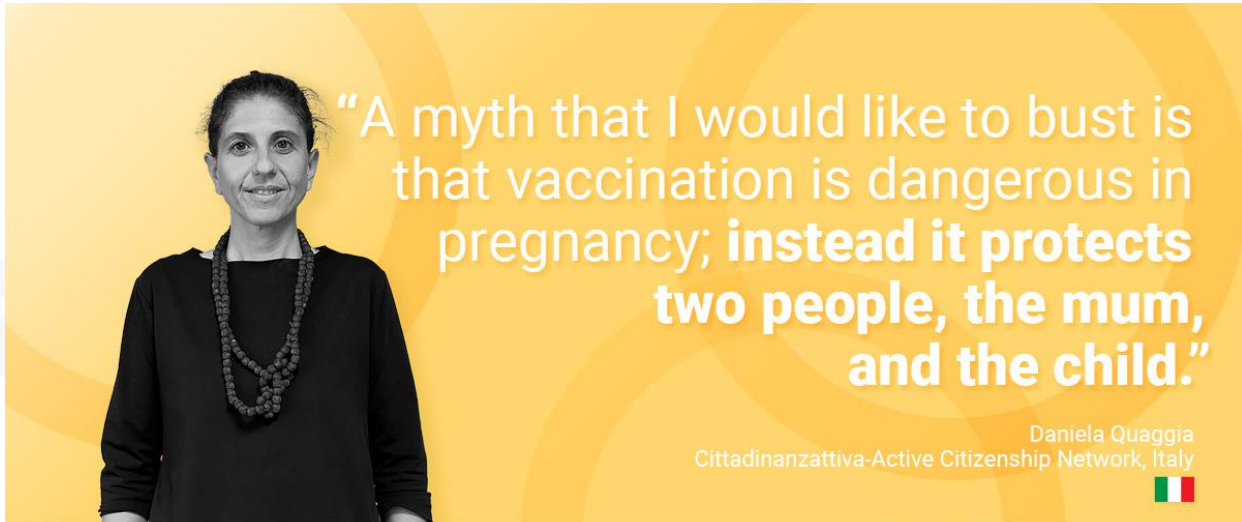


Protecting the value of vaccination across Europe

[To know more, click here](#)



Vaccination during pregnancy: the importance of primary prevention



“[European active citizens for vaccination – 2019](#)”: 6 different videos translated for [Hungary](#) – [Spain](#) – [Poland](#) – [Ireland](#)



Read more [#VaccinAction2024](#)

Document to clarify and inform HCPs about the importance of vaccinations recommended during pregnancy, preconception and lactation for the health of women and children. The document was prepared and approved by the main scientific societies in the perinatal and public health fields, the professional associations of Doctors and Professional Federations of Health Workers, the associations of citizens, who recommend vaccinations administered during pregnancy.



VACCINAZIONI IN GRAVIDANZA
proteggila per proteggerli

Documento congiunto redatto dal gruppo di lavoro SIGO, SIMP, AOGOI, AGUI, SITI, SIN, FNOPO, Rete Interaziendale Milano Materna Infantile (RIMMI), Vivere Onlus, Cittadinanzattiva

SIGO SIMP AOGOI AGUI

Fili SIN

vivere

DATA: 14 MARZO 2019

Donna in gravidanza

Difterite Tetano Pertosse] Raccomandato dalla 27^a alla 37^a settimana (preferibilmente alla 28^a)

Morbillo Parotite Rosolia Varicella] Raccomandato in età fertile, se non immuni. Se non possibile, è da fare immediatamente dopo il parto, prima di lasciare l'ospedale o in occasione della prima vaccinazione del bambino

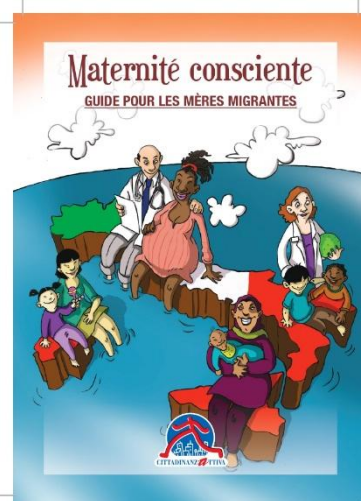
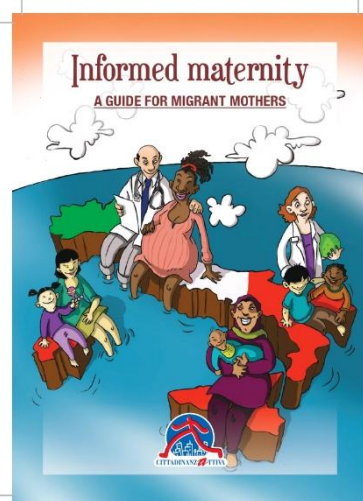
Antinfluenzale] Gratuito nel secondo o terzo trimestre di gravidanza all'inizio della stagione influenzale

#ROMPIATRASMISSIONE

Informed maternity: a guide for migrant mothers (I)

In Italy, Cittadinanzattiva, with the support of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, has developed a project on improving access to pregnancy and maternity services by immigrant women. The project was inspired by the need to ensure that all women and their children have the same access to services during pregnancy and childbirth, regardless of ethnicity and social status and with equal dignity and safety. Furthermore, the project contributed to build a set of pathways towards improvement in the field of maternity protection through a civic and participatory approach.

The first step was a civic survey in health care facilities and hospitals, interaction with the stakeholders, joint definition of a Charter of Birth and Maternity Services and improvement programs of access to maternal and child services. Read more ([IT](#) – [EN](#))



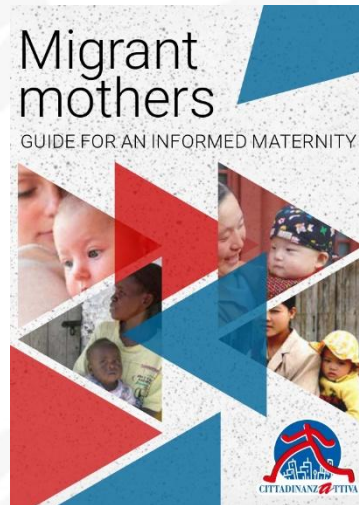
Download the free guide written in: Italian – English - French – Chinese - Arabic

Informed maternity: a guide for migrant mothers (II)

In Italy, Cittadinanzattiva, with the support of the Eight per Thousand income tax fund to the Waldensian Evangelical Church, has implemented the project “*Nascere in Italia: processi partecipati di inclusione sociale destinati alle donne immigrate*” - “*Born in Italy: participatory processes of social inclusion for immigrant women*” for improving access to pregnancy and maternity services by immigrant women.

The project it was the follow up of the previous initiative, with updated and addition useful information, also on vaccination.

[Read more](#) (IT)



Download the free guide written in: Italian – English - French – Chinese - Arabic

RSV: Italian alliance against the virus that threatens children's breathing



The manifesto “*Breathe to grow - Allies for a Childhood free from RSV*” was presented in the Senate on March 2024. [Read more](#) (IT)

Every year in Italy, in children in their first year of life, the epidemic season of respiratory syncytial virus involves over 230,000 health events requiring medical attention, including more than 15,000 hospitalizations and about 16 deaths each year. [Read our interview](#) (IT)

Dedicated website: <https://tuttovaccini.it/>



Mappa

Informazioni Generali

Normativa Nazionale

Vaccinazioni

FAQ

Glossario



Tuttovaccini website contains a list of vaccination centers and [pharmacies](#) that in Italy administer anti-Covid-19 and flu vaccines, as well as any other types of vaccines based on regional regulations (i.e. [RSV in Puglia Region](#))

IL PORTALE COMPLETO SUI VACCINI NEL TUO PAESE E NELLA TUA REGIONE



Scopri, Comprendi, Scegli: TuttoVaccini è la tua bussola informativa.

Scopri di più



Community & civil society engagement in Italy: Open Day & tour

iisole24ore.com (Sanita)

Cittadinanzattiva: al via il tour di "TuttoVaccini" promosso con Federfarma e Fimmg



10/24/2024 11:11

Parte da Napoli, in piazza Plebiscito, il 26 e 27 ottobre, il tour della campagna "Tutto Vaccini" promossa da Cittadinanzattiva, in collaborazione con Federfarma e Fimmg, con l'obiettivo di facilitare ai cittadini l'accesso alle vaccinazioni e favorire una scelta consapevole ed informata. "Tutto Vaccini" farà tappa in 10 Regioni italiane: oltre a Campania, Veneto (il 6 novembre a Padova), Sicilia (il 15 novembre a Palermo) e Molise (il 23 novembre a Campobasso), si proseguirà fra fine 2024 e i primi mesi del 2025 anche con le tappe in Emilia Romagna, Lazio, Lombardia, Marche, Piemonte e Puglia. "In piazza - spiega una nota - i farmacisti aderenti all'iniziativa, i medici di base e i volontari di Cittadinanzattiva, incontreranno i cittadini per sensibilizzarli sull'importanza della vaccinazione come strumento di prevenzione e informarli sui diversi vaccini oggi disponibili e i luoghi dove è possibile vaccinarsi". I materiali informativi della campagna saranno a disposizione anche nelle farmacie aderenti, così come negli studi dei medici di base aderenti. "Con questa iniziativa vogliamo contribuire a sensibilizzare le persone sull'importanza di tutte le vaccinazioni e renderle facilmente accessibili - dichiara Valeria Fava, responsabile coordinamento politiche Salute di Cittadinanzattiva -. Ancora appaiono troppo basse le coperture vaccinali, specie per gli adulti e gli anziani, ma non mancano criticità territoriali anche nella fascia pediatrica e dell'adolescenza". L'indicatore sulla copertura vaccinale nei bambini a 24 mesi "raggiunge l'obiettivo del 95% solo in 14 Regioni nonostante l'obbligatorietà e per la vaccinazione contro l'HPV siamo al di sotto del 40% sia nelle ragazze sia nei ragazzi". La copertura per gli anziani over 65 nella stagione 2023-2024 arriva al 53,3% per l'antinfluenzale, con un trend in calo e solo al 10,3% per gli over 60 nella vaccinazione anti Covid - 19, con profonde disomogeneità regionali. © RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA.



2024-2025: "Tutto Vaccini" tour in 10 regions

Promoted by Cittadinanzattiva - in collaboration with Federfarma and the Italian Federation of General Practitioners-FIMMG - started from [Naples](#) on 26/27 October 2024, with the aim of facilitating citizens' access to vaccinations and promoting a conscious and informed choice. In the square, pharmacists, GPs and Cittadinanzattiva volunteers meet citizens to raise their awareness of the importance of vaccination as a prevention tool and inform them about the different vaccines available today and the places where it is possible to get vaccinated. The tour will cover 10 Regions until the first half of 2025 (i.e. [Torino](#), [Varese](#), [Palermo](#), [Puglia](#), etc). [Read more](#) (IT)

16 novembre 2018

OPEN DAY
DEL TRIBUNALE PER I DIRITTI DEL MALATO

I volontari del TDM di Cittadinanzattiva incontrano i cittadini per informare sui vaccini, distribuire gratuitamente una copia della nostra guida utile e raccogliere segnalazioni. Vieni a conoscere i tuoi diritti e le tue responsabilità!



2018-2019 Open Day in 37 cities

Cittadinanzattiva local offices opened to give information on vaccines and help citizens to face any critical issues in this area. Activists and experts met citizens (i.e. [Asti](#), [Cinisello](#), [Ariano](#), [Firenze](#), etc.) to promote proximity information, distributing useful material and collecting reports in order to offer tools and support to protect themselves. [Read more](#)



Our engagement on pediatric vaccination & RSV at the EU level



RSV in our EU training session ([IT](#) – [EN](#))

THE VALUE OF PAEDIATRIC VACCINATION

Protecting current and future generations across Europe



The value of paediatric vaccination in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

16 November 2021, 14:00-15:30 CET



MEP Brando Benifei



Dr Mihai Negrea
YC4PV



Prof Susanna Esposito
WASid



MEP Petar Vitanov



Claire Wright
Meningitis Research Foundation



Daniela Quaglia
Active Citizenship Network



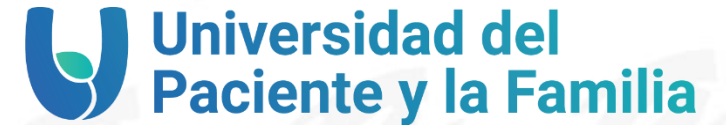
Janice Murtagh
MSD



Active Citizenship Network was at the [9th Life Course Immunisation Summit](#) on equitable access to vaccination across the life course with a focus on bronchiolitis, held during the [16th Excellence in Pediatrics Conference](#) Barcelona (Spain) – 28/30 Nov. 2024



Pediatric community: building alliances



*Асоциация за репродуктивно здраве,
бременност и грижа за децата
"Усмивни се"*

*Bulgarian association for reproductive health, pregnancy and
infant care "Smile"*

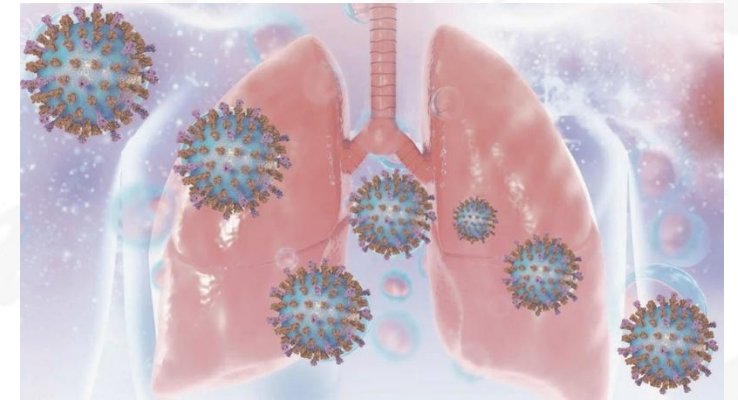


Founder of the Alliance "Poland Breaths Healthily in which ACN is a partner to contribute to the White Paper on VPRDs issue.



RSV Observatory promoted in Italy

- The Observatory is an **independent initiative** aimed at monitoring how RSV prevention policies are being implemented in Italy.
- The main goal of the Observatory is to **promote equitable access to RSV prevention** across the country.
- New prevention opportunities:
 - Monoclonal antibody for infants
 - Maternal vaccine
 - Vaccines for adults and older people
- Need for stable governance to ensure coherence and continuity

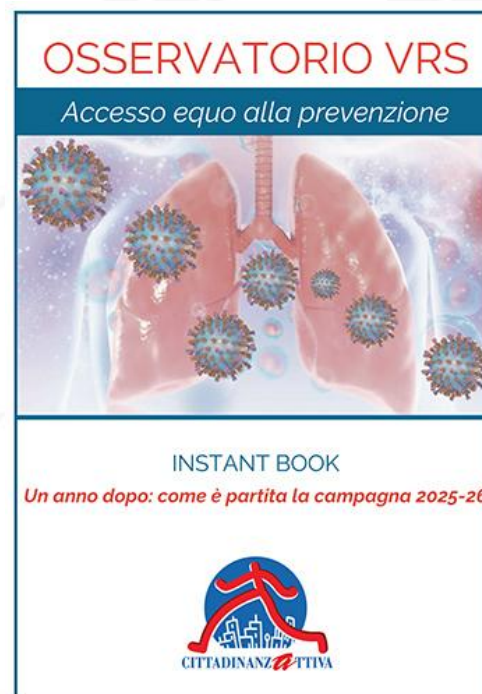
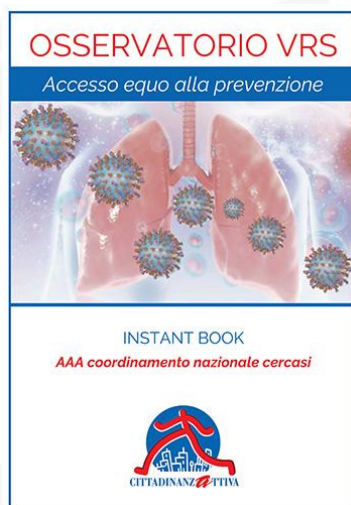
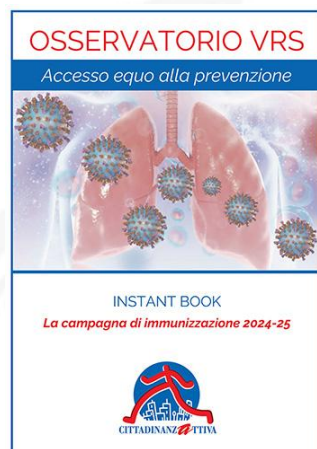


To do this, we adopted a **participatory approach**, involving institutions/regions, healthcare professionals, scientific societies, patient associations and civic organizations to support **evidence-based and equitable prevention strategies**.

Activities

[Read more](#)

- Over the past year, we conducted **independent monitoring** of how RSV prevention strategies are being implemented across regions.
- **3 multi-stakeholder roundtable** (March–July–October 2025)
- **3 instant books** summarizing the discussions
- developed a **final position paper with recommendations**



Infants: a model that works

Strengths

- Coverage >80–90%
- Regular administration in birth centers
- Two models for infants born out of season (vaccination centers or family pediatricians)
- Reduction in hospitalizations for bronchiolitis

Issues to monitor:

- Harmonized protocols
- Catch-up cohorts
- Tracking systems



Pregnant women: a missed opportunity

- 2024–25: vaccination almost absent (Sicily, Molise)
- 2025–26: vaccination almost absent (Sicily, Marche, Basilicata)

Reasons:

- not included in the national schedule/vaccination calendar
 - lack of resources
 - extra-LEA* constraints
-
- Draft State-Regions Agreement (Nov. 2025): inclusion of maternal vaccine and funding → late start



*Livelli Essenziali di Assistenza (LEA), known in English as Essential Levels of Care, are the benefits and services that the Italian National Health Service (SSN) is required to guarantee to all citizens throughout the country, free of charge or through the payment of a ticket.

Progress & Challenges (I)

Progress in the pediatric population

- Synchronized start of the 2025–26 campaign for newborns
- High uptake where pediatricians are actively involved
- Upcoming introduction of maternal vaccination (end of 2025)
- Active role of scientific societies and associations

Challenges

- No vaccination program for RSV in adult population
- National immunization schedule not updated
- NITAG dissolved – technical advisory gap
- Funds allocated late and not distributed
- Fragmented institutional communication
- Persistent regional inequalities



Progress & Challenges (II)

Challenges

- No national RSV campaign
- Non-uniform messages
- Public confusion (e.g. antibodies vs vaccines)
- Expectations created and then unmet



Strengths

- Local communication by pediatricians, GPs and gynecologists
- Independent initiatives by scientific societies and associations
- Attempts at coordination between regions

Key messages

- One of the key findings of the RSV Observatory is the **significant variability between Italian regions**.
- Some regions have been proactive in implementing prevention strategies, while others — especially those under financial recovery plans — face structural limitations.
- Delays in funding allocation and inconsistent communication have further contributed to **unequal access across the country**.
- This situation risks undermining **public trust and participation in prevention programs**.

*RSV Observatory is an independent project by Cittadinanzattiva
with an unconditional contribution from:*



sanofi



