

mig-HealthCare: Strengthening Community Based Care to minimize health inequalities and improve the integration of vulnerable migrants and refugees into local communities

About the project

Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are at a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion compared to the general population in their host countries. Furthermore, different vulnerable groups face diverse barriers when accessing health services and in many cases they do not receive appropriate health and social care that best meets their needs. Research has shown that community-based health care models can improve access to healthcare to marginalized and vulnerable groups such as refugees.

Mig-HealthCare is a three-year project which aims to facilitate access to healthcare for vulnerable migrants and refugees, support their inclusion and participation in European communities and reduce health inequalities. The project, which was launched in May 2017, is implemented by a consortium of Universities, national authorities and NGOs from across Europe, with diverse experience on issues of public health and integration of refugees and migrants.

Participating countries are:

Greece – Italy – Germany – Bulgaria – France – Cyprus – Malta – Sweden – Austria - Spain

Objectives:

- ✓ Describe the physical and mental health profile of vulnerable migrants/refugees in the European Union
- ✓ Identify the needs, expectations and capacities of healthcare service providers to migrants and refugees
- ✓ Assess existing health care services and best practices in order to develop a roadmap for effective community based healthcare models for vulnerable migrants and refugees.
- ✓ Train community health and social care service providers on appropriate delivery on healthcare models.
- ✓ Pilot community based care models which emphasise prevention, health promotion and integration.
- ✓ Provide recommendations and the creation of online European networks of collaboration.

What has been achieved so far

✓ Research on access and provision of healthcare services to migrants and refugees

In April 2018, the consortium concluded a year long research effort focused on access and provision of healthcare to migrants and refugees. The research, led by the University of Uppsala included both a literature review as well as a series of focus group discussions and interviews in the 10 EU participating countries.

The first phase of this research scoped over 70 papers from across Europe written both in English and native languages in order to provide an overview concerning migrants' access to healthcare in 10 EU member states. Following the literature review, partners conducted qualitative research in all 10 countries. Between November 2017 and April 2018, 20 focus group discussions and 19 interviews with healthcare providers, policy makers, NGO representatives and volunteer workers were conducted. The collected data were then analyzed and put together in a transnational research report. The research results will be presented in academic conference, publications, as well as on the migHealthCare website.

Other project outcomes so far include:

- ✓ Mapping the HealthCare needs of migrants and refugees: survey with over 1000 migrants and refugees
- ✓ Brief country profiles providing an overview of healthcare provision and challenges in 10 EU countries; available at <http://mighealthcare.eu/mig-healthcare-database>
- ✓ Research on best practices for community-based healthcare interventions
- ✓ Collection of information on existing misconceptions about health issues concerning migrants; In order to develop citizens tools addressing these misconceptions.



2nd Transnational Partners meeting

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