

## 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

Mig-HealthCare was a three-year project which aimed to facilitate access to healthcare for vulnerable migrants and refugees, support their inclusion and participation in European communities and reduce health inequalities. The project was launched in May 2017 and completed in June 2020. It was 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: Greece – Italy – Germany – Bulgaria – France – Cyprus – Malta – Sweden – Austria - Spain

### Achievements

- ✓ The [Mig-HealthCare survey](#) and focus group indicating the most common problems faced by migrants in the 10 participating countries.
- ✓ The Mig-HealthCare report on [Models of community health and social care and best practices](#)
- ✓ Focus groups conducted in local communities to identify misconceptions on migrants and health issues and an awareness raising project poster with a [Q&A landing page](#) on the project website.
- ✓ The project [Roadmap](#) which indicates requirements and concrete steps for action-taking when delivering health care to migrants and refugees.
- ✓ A [Toolbox](#) for service providers addressing a list of physical and mental health issues pertaining to migrants and refugees. Stay tuned for the launch of the roadmap and toolbox in the next newsletter.
- ✓ The [Algorithm](#), a tool, comprising a set of questions, which guides the user on how to access all the categories and tools that are available through the Roadmap & Toolbox
- ✓ A [Database](#) that offers health professionals key statistical information about migrants/refugees in the consortium countries.
- ✓ An [interactive map](#) developed jointly by the Mig-HealthCare and the MyHealth ([www.healthonthemove.net](http://www.healthonthemove.net)) showing organizations and services that provide health and social care to migrants/refugees in 17 EU countries.
- ✓ A [Tutorial video](#) on the Mig-HealthCare Roadmap and Toolbox.
- ✓ A [Final Virtual EU Info Day](#) was organized on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 with an approximate of 140 attendees and with representatives from the European Commission, the World Health Organization and executives from scientific organizations. The Info Day presented the project's research findings on issues related to the provision of healthcare services for migrants/refugees, as well as results from a survey among 10 European countries on the health status of this group.



## Recommendations

Universal access to health and social care and services must be ensured for all migrants/refugees (including undocumented migrants, such as visa or permit 'over stayers', rejected asylum seekers and individuals who have entered a country without documentation). Below are our recommendations:

- Engage communities and emphasize community action, engage multidisciplinary teams of experts
- Community health care services for migrants/refugees need to address issues related to continuity of information, language, culture and communication and health literacy. This will make services more inclusive and responsive to the multiple sociocultural needs of migrants/refugees
- Health care delivery should also incorporate routine disease management activities addressing specific health concerns and health issues for migrants/refugees in addition to the emergency care entitlement. Such services are best effective at the primary health care and community levels
- Address health promotion and disease prevention and implement relevant interventions at the community level
- Understand local community perceptions about migrants/refugees, identify misconceptions, design strategies to manage and overcome differences through appropriate action
- Offer health professionals easy access to language appropriate material and tools relevant to migrant and refugee health

## CONTACT US

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