

Press Release

The Mig-HealthCare project: Minimizing health inequalities and improving the integration of vulnerable migrants and refugees

Over the past few years we have seen an increase in the number of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants traveling to Europe. They face integration challenges as well as diverse barriers when accessing health services in European countries. Among them, there are several vulnerable persons, including children, women and victims of torture who, as a result of their experiences, may have specific health needs. In many cases however, they do not receive appropriate health and social care that best meets their needs.

Mig-HealthCare, a three-year project, aims to improve health care access for refugees and migrants, support their integration in European communities and reduce health inequalities. By strengthening community based health care services and promoting their sustainability, the project will also contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities. The project is funded under the Health Programme of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA) of the European Commission. It brings together fourteen partners from ten European countries including universities, national authorities and NGOs with diverse experience on health and integration issues.

The Mig-HealthCare project will undertake research to better understand the health care needs of refugees and migrants as well as the challenges they face in accessing health care services in different European countries. It will review national and regional initiatives and assess best practices from past and ongoing community based services. Using the results of this research, partners will develop a roadmap and tools for the implementation of community based health care models that emphasize prevention, physical and mental health promotion and integration. They will provide training for health and social care service providers and



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pilot test the community based health care models in six European countries, in order to promote the sustainable use of the models well beyond the project duration as well as produce final recommendations for the effective provision of health services. The project website will provide a platform to access all the project information, research results and tools as well as a database with information on existing social and health care services for migrants and refugees.

The Consortium, lead by Astiki Mikerdoskopiki Etaireia Prolipsis (PROLEPSIS), is comprised of the following partners: Ethniko and Kapodistriako Panepistimio Athinon (UoA), Perifereia Stereas Elladas (RSE), Kentriki Enosi Dimon kai Koinotiton Ellados (KEDE) and Ministry of Health from Greece; Oxfam Italia Onlus (Oxfam Italia); Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum Ev (EMZ) from Germany; National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (NCIPD) from Bulgaria; Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sante Publique (EHESP) from France; Centre for the Advancement of Research & Development in Educational Technology (CARDET) from Cyprus; Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali-Malta Association (KOPIN) from Malta; Uppsala Universitet (UU) from Sweden; Verein Multikulturell (VM) from Austria and Universitat de Valencia (UVEG) from Spain.

For more information about Mig-HealthCare visit www.mighealthcare.eu or contact info@mighealthcare.eu