

# Press Release

June 2020

## Recommendations to improve the integration of vulnerable migrants and refugees and the Mig-HealthCare roadmap and toolbox




During its 3-year implementation, the 14-member consortium of Mig-HealthCare undertook 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 reviewed national and regional initiatives and assess best practices from past and ongoing community-based services. Based on the research and piloting conducted by the consortium partners important recommendations were developed concerning the delivery of health care to migrants/refugees.

The Mig-HealthCare project emphasizes that universal access to health and social care 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).

The Mig-HealthCare recommendations are:

- 1 Engage communities and emphasize community action, engage multidisciplinary teams of experts.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 Address health promotion and disease prevention and implement relevant interventions at the community level.
- 5 Understand local community perceptions about migrants/refugees, identify misconceptions, design strategies to manage and overcome differences through appropriate action.
- 6 Offer health professionals easy access to language appropriate material and tools relevant to migrant and refugee health.

The Mig-HealthCare partners developed a roadmap and toolbox for the implementation of community-based health care models that emphasize prevention, physical and mental health promotion and integration.

-  The [Roadmap & Toolbox](#) provide information and also tools available in different languages on health issues of importance for migrants/refugees.
-  The [Database](#) offers health professionals key statistical information about migrants/refugees in the consortium countries.
-  The [Interactive map](#), developed in collaboration with the MyHealth program, provides information on health, psychological and social support services in 13 European countries (refugee accommodation structures, NGOs, public healthcare organizations etc).

An EU Final Virtual Info Day was organized on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 to 14:30 (10:00 – 13:30 CET) to finalize the project. Representatives from the European Commission, the World Health Organization and executives from scientific organizations took part. The Info Day presented the project's research findings and discussed the project recommendations. More information on our Info Day can be found [here](#).

Mig-HealthCare was a three-year project, co-funded by the European Union's Health Program (2014-2020). It was implemented by a 14-member consortium of Universities, national authorities and NGOs: Prolepsis Institute (coordinator, Greece) CARDET (Cyprus), the EHESP French School of Public Health, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE), the Ethno-Medical Centre (Germany), Kopin (Malta), the National Health Operations Centre (NaHOC, Greece), the Research Institute on Social Welfare Policy (University of Valencia, Spain), Oxfam Italy, the Region of Sterea Ellada (Greece), Uppsala University (Sweden), Verein Multikulturell – Tyrolean Integration Centre (Austria), National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (NCIPD, Bulgaria).

For more information on the project and 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, please visit our website- [www.mighealthcare.eu](http://www.mighealthcare.eu)

Contact us at: [info@mighealthcare.eu](mailto:info@mighealthcare.eu)

