

## 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 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

### What has been achieved so far

- ✓ Raising-awareness project poster with a Q&A landing page on the project website.
- ✓ Through focus groups conducted in local communities we identified misconceptions about migrants/refugees. These mainly have to do with health issues. Common misconceptions are that migrants carry infectious diseases and that they overload the national welfare systems- Please visit our project website to learn more (<http://www.mighealthcare.eu/e-library>).
- ✓ According to the latest Mig-HealthCare survey, the most common problems faced by migrants in the 10 participating countries are dental (36.6%), headaches/migraines



(34.9%), sleep disorders (27.2%), while a large proportion of them report having chronic health problems such as cardiovascular diseases (9.6%), diabetes (9.4%), urinary tract infections (10.3%), and others. Key findings also showed problems in health services, inequality and discrimination in access to healthcare services. Problems have also been encountered in addressing mental health issues from healthcare systems in host countries, while the reception model is assumed to contribute to isolation, uncertainty and social exclusion.

The consortium has been working towards the development of the project’s roadmap. The roadmap indicates requirements and concrete steps for action-taking when delivering health care to migrants and refugees. The project partners are developing a toolbox that is to be used by 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.

Mig-HealthCare and MyHealth - [www.healthonthemove.net](http://www.healthonthemove.net) are projects funded under the same DG SANTE call issued in 2016. The two projects have decided to collaborate creating a joint interactive map that will show available services, projects and tools for migrants and refugees in Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, UK, Czech Republic, Italy, Bulgaria, Malta, France, Austria, Sweden and Germany. Visit our [website](#) frequently for updates on this issue.

**Other project outcomes so far include:**

- ✓ Addressing common misconceptions on the topics of migrants and refugees in relation to health; available at <http://mighealthcare.eu/e-library>
- ✓ Disseminating the project both in offline and online environments to more than 15,000 individuals on a Local, Regional, National, European and International level
- ✓ Brief country profiles providing an overview of healthcare provision and challenges in 10 EU countries; available at <http://mighealthcare.eu/mig-healthcare-database>
- ✓ Research was conducted through a survey with migrants and focus groups and interviews with health care professionals and service providers. Research results are being prepared for scientific publications. Please visit our website for relevant announcements.

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