



Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe

18 November 2015



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe



**Organisation
mondiale de la Santé**

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'

Europe



Weltgesundheitsorganisation

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR

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**Всемирная организация
здравоохранения**

Европейское региональное бюро

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Migration in the WHO European Region

The European Region is undergoing **demographic changes** caused by migration among other factors.

These changes entail different **epidemiological and public health implications** across the region, which are different but all **interrelated**.



Demographic

77 millions of migrants are living in the WHO European Region,
8% of its population



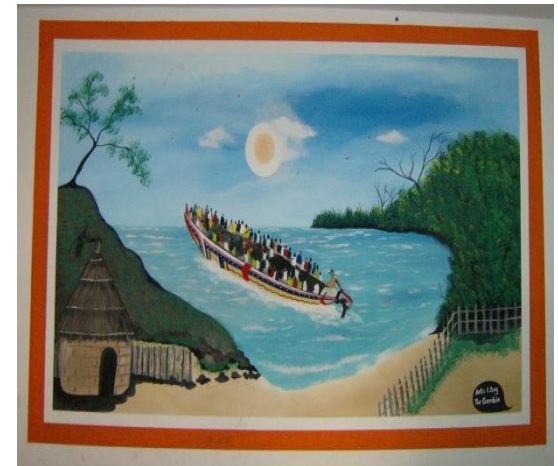
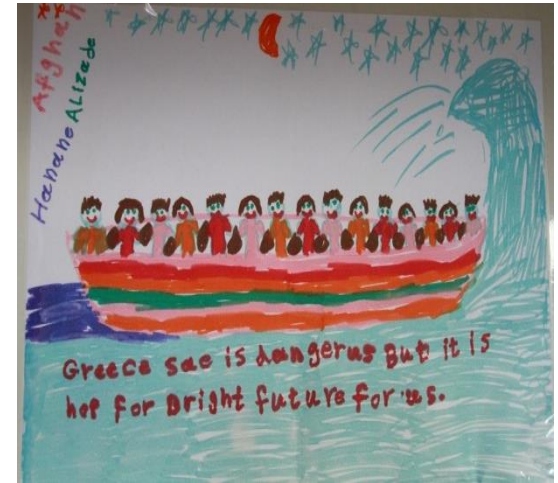
Migration process as a social determinant of health that is often exposing to a burden of inequities



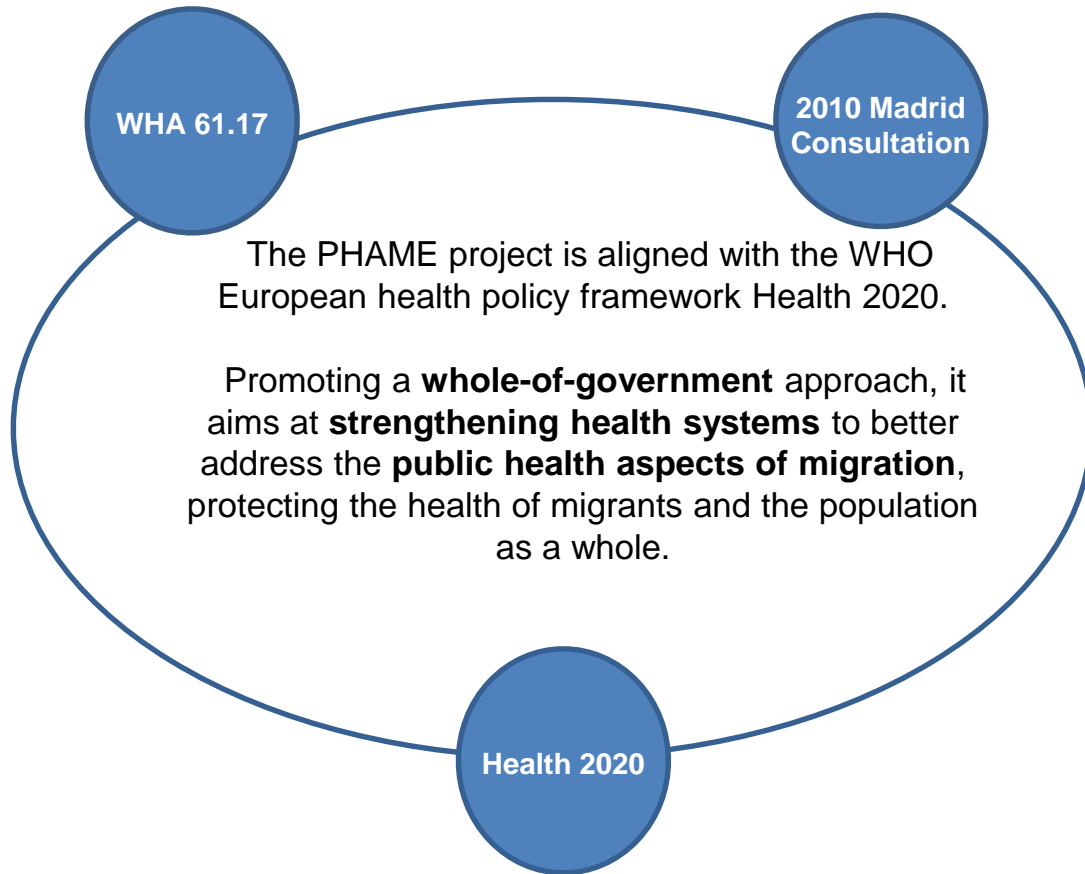
>800.000
refugees and
migrants crossed
the
Mediterranean in
2015 so far
(UNHCR)

Public health issues stemming from migration

- **Health risks**, exposure to **hazards** and **public health implications** for migrants and resident community.
- **Health status** of migrants: changing health profile, CDs & NCDs, re-emerging neglected diseases.
- Access to health services and health-system barriers (cultural, social and linguistic); strengthening of **cultural mediation and translation services**.
- **Health systems' preparedness with** multisectoral public health and migration **contingency planning**, public health risk **communication strategy**.
- **Migrant health training** for health and non-health staff.



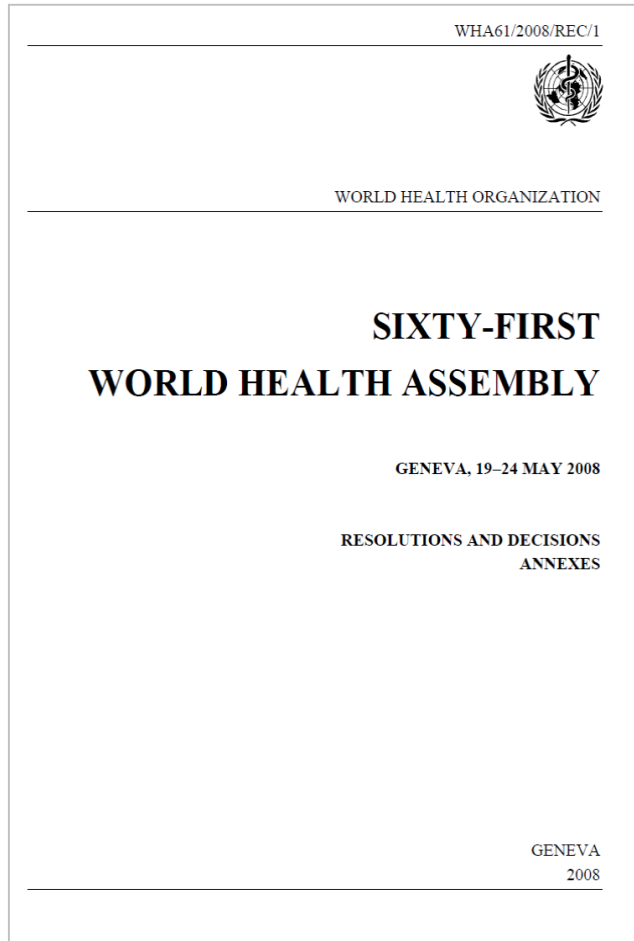
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Towards a public health approach to migrant health able to:

- ✦ Minimize negative impact of the migration process.
- ✦ Avoid disparities in health status and access.
- ✦ Ensure migrants' health rights.

WHA Resolution 61.17 on Migrants' Health



Calls for:

- Migrant-sensitive health policies
- Equitable access to services
- Information systems to assess migrant health
- Sharing information on best practices
- Raising cultural and gender sensitivity and specific training of health service providers and professionals
- Bi/multilateral cooperation among countries
- Reducing the global deficit of health professionals



PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Global Consultation on Migrant health

**Global Consultation on Migrant Health
Madrid, Spain 3-5 March 2010**

- Take stock of action by MS & Stakeholders**
 - Reach consensus in priority areas and strategies**
 - Initiate an operational framework to assist MS & Stakeholders**
- 

Health 2020: strategic objectives

Working to improve health
for all and reducing
the health divide

Improving leadership, and
participatory governance
for health

Health 2020: four common policy priorities for health

Investing in health
through a life-
course approach
and empowering
people

Tackling Europe's
major health
challenges:
noncommunicable
diseases (NCDs)
and communicable
diseases

Strengthening
people-centred
health systems,
public health
capacities and
emergency
preparedness, sur-
veillance and
response

Creating resilient
communities and
supportive
environments

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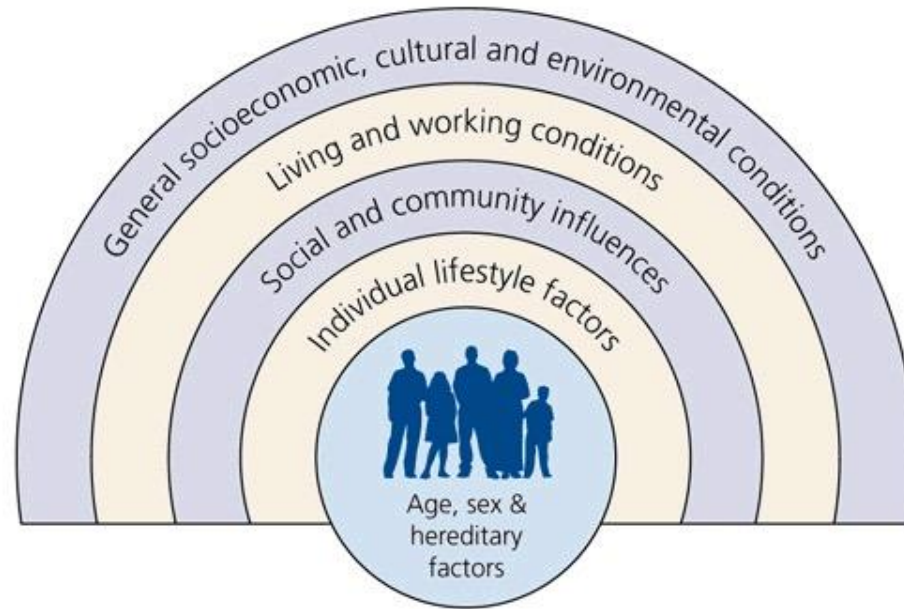
Investing in health through a life-course approach and empowering people

Tackling Europe's major health challenges: noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and communicable diseases

Strengthening people-centred health systems, public health capacities and emergency preparedness, surveillance and response

Creating resilient communities and supportive environments

Social Determinant of Health



Review of social determinants and the health divide in the WHO European Region: final report

“Withholding access, **denying** them (irregular migrants) **the “right to the highest attainable health”**, is seen as one important element of “internal migration control”, and detention is another.

However, these measures do not seem to have much effect on the numbers of irregular migrants – their main effect is **increased vulnerability to marginalization, destitution, illness and exploitation.**”



Technical assistance to Member States



- ✦ Assessment missions: identifying **potential gaps for technical assistance** and future collaboration.
- ✦ Providing technical assistance to develop **migration and public health contingency plans**: analysis of scenarios, risk assessment, definition of SOPs, chain of command and communication flow.



Presentation of the Regional Contingency Plan in Sicily, Italy, September 2014



Presentation of assessment report and drafting of Migrant Health chapter in National Emergency Plan, Malta, June 2015

Support Countries in:

- Choice of goals, policies & approaches to reduce social inequities in health
- Strengthening the decision making systems & capacity to improve equity outcomes across

Multisectoral agenda

- Task-force on refugees and migrants health
- Whole of Office/Cross cutting approach

Country Offices
Procurement
Risk assessments
Guidelines
HSC

Refugee and migrant health, a multisectoral agenda

The public health aspects of migration are influenced by **policies and interventions** run by stakeholders **out of the health sector**, which do not always take into account the health implications of their actions.

Ministry of
Health

Ministry of
Interior

Ministry of
Labor

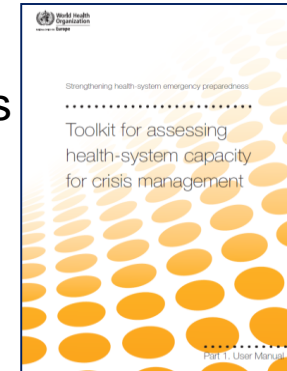
Ministry of
Social Affairs

Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Ministry of
Education

Partnership

- Toolkit for assessing health system capacity to manage large influxes of migrants:
- Adapting EC funded WHO Toolkit on Health System Crisis
- In coordination with IOM
- With the collaboration of: IOM, UNHCR, ECDC



ECDC
IOM
UNHCR
CDC

Research and evidence

Three Health Evidence Network (HEN) synthesis reports were commissioned to synthesize the available evidence on access and delivery of health care for three distinct migration groups:

- (1) undocumented migrants
- (2) labour migrants
- (3) refugees and asylum seekers

Additional research and evidence is necessary to develop evidence-informed migrant health policies.



Inter-regional collaboration is key to move forward on the **public health risk analysis** and the development of **migration and health country profiles**.

Public Health Panorama article on Intersectoral action for migrant health

Descriptive study on the health status of migrants arriving to Sicily

Study on the health hazards during the migrant journey

Study about the governmental and non-state actors in the field of health and migration in the WHO European Region

Case study article on imported cases of meningococcal meningitis

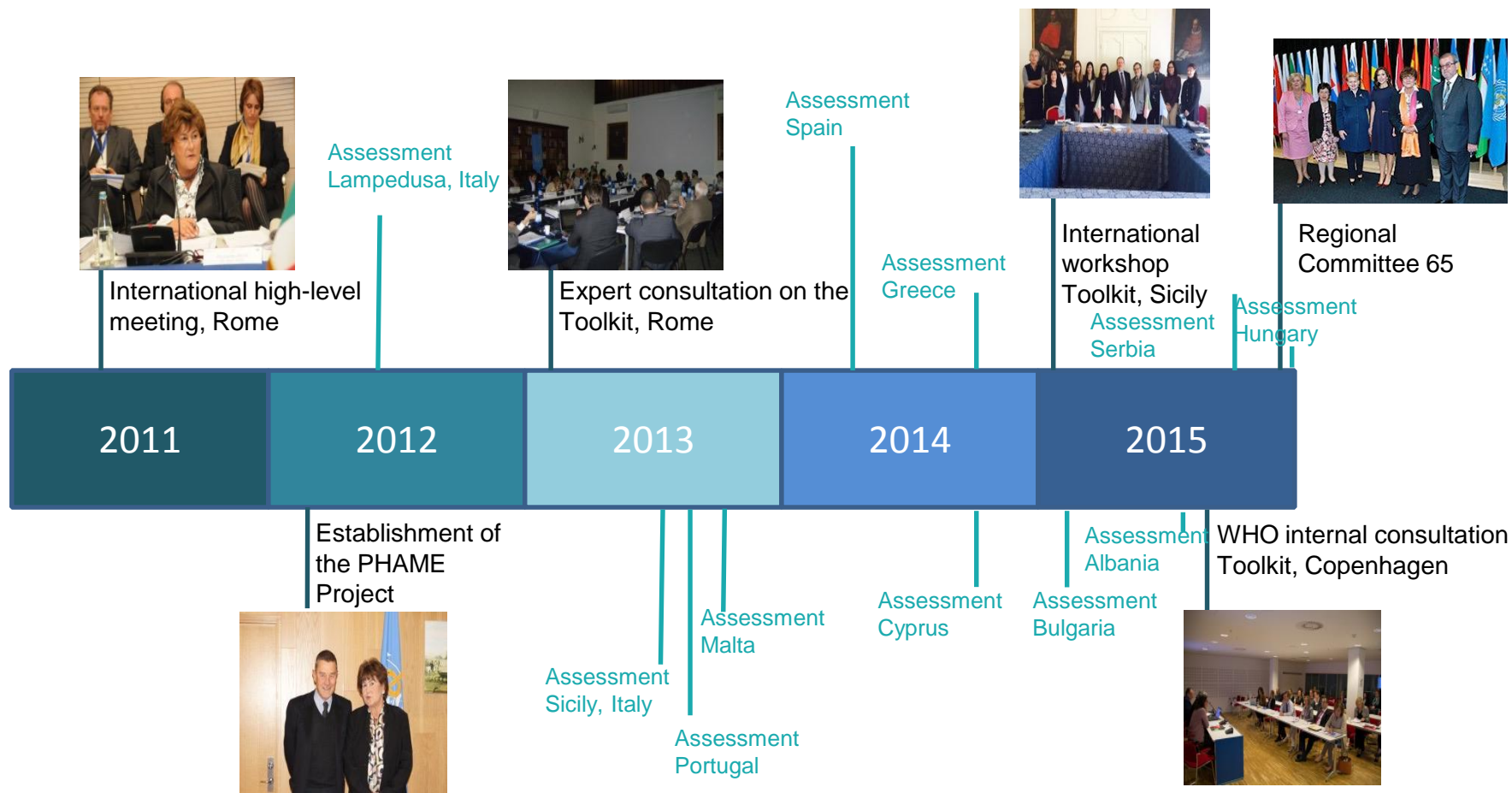
Publication on migration and non-communicable diseases

Migration and Health database within the WHO/Europe web-based portals

HEN reports

- University of London
 - University of Pècs
 - University of Valencia
 - University of Venice, Cà Foscari
- Methodology
 - Reviews
 - Studies
 - Publications
 - Newsletter
 - Trainings

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The path covered and the way forward

2014 – RC64: Technical briefing on Migration and Health

2014 – SCRC agrees to hold a preliminary discussion at RC65 before a formal discussion at RC66

2015 – RC65: Ministerial lunch on Migration and Health

How should the WHO Regional Office for Europe be involved and engaged in the public health aspects of migration ?

What actions should be taken to protect the population at large against public health threats?

What actions should be taken to protect the health of migrants?

What actions should be taken to prepare a formal discussion at RC66?

2016

23 – 24 November 2015: High-level Meeting on Refugee and Migrant Health

Moving forward towards a common public health understanding of refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region.



- Adequate **health-system preparedness and capacity**: robust epidemiological data, migration intelligence, careful planning, training, etc.
- Health systems cannot address refugee and migrant health alone. Close **collaboration with other sectors** (interior, education, housing, social security, employment) is needed.
- **Adequate standards** of care for refugees and migrants are important for population health and for protecting and promoting their human rights as well as those of the host communities.

2016 – towards RC66

Thank you

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