



EU-Level Consultation on Migration Health
Better Health for All

**Recommendations under discussion
in the CoE Committee of Experts on
Mobility, Migration and Access to
Health Care (SP-MIG)**

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Council of Europe

European Health Committee (CDSP)

**Committee of Experts on
Mobility, Migration and Access
to Health Care (SP-MIG)**

Mandate: July 2008 - June 2010

Task: to produce draft recommendations

Members

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Purpose of recommendations

- To provide health policy guidelines which member states can implement within their territory.
- Based on a thorough overview of the current situation, a review of existing evidence, collection of good practice cases and a summary analysis of existing problems.

Timetable for recommendations

- December 2009: Final meeting of SP-MIG; draft to be finalised.
- January 2010: Draft to be fine-tuned by European Health Committee (CDSP) and Council of Ministers, leading to publication as a recommendation to the 47 member states.
- June 2010: Presentation of recommendations at conference in Pecs, Hungary.

Background includes:

- Recommendations of the Council of Ministers (2006/164) on health services in a multicultural society.
- Bratislava Declaration on Migration, Health and Human Rights (2007)
- Conclusions of Portuguese Presidency Conference, Lisbon (2007)
- Resolution of World Health Assembly (2008) on migrant health

Structure of recommendations

1. **Preamble** describing legal and policy context and listing recommendations
 2. **Appendix** explaining recommendations and offering guidelines for implementation
 3. **Explanatory memorandum** providing argumentation and evidence base
- PLUS:
- **Supporting documents** (compilations of information on relevant topics)

Content of recommendations

Global summary:

1. “Reduce health risks to which migrants are exposed”
2. “Ensure access to good quality health services”

Areas covered by recommendations

1. Migrants' living conditions and health

- Monitor the **overall situation** of migrants
- Monitor their **state of health**, identify **risk factors**
- **Review existing policies** in all sectors to reduce health risks for migrants

2. Entitlement to health care

- Reduce **financial barriers** to health care for migrants; ensure that their entitlements are known to all concerned.

3. Accessibility of health care

- Improve **accessibility** of health care for migrants; provide appropriate **health promotion** and **health education**
- Ensure availability of high-quality **translation and interpreter** services

4. Quality of health care

- Improve the **matching** of health care to the needs, culture and social situation of migrants

5. General guidelines

- Embed changes in **policy** and ensure their implementation by all actors involved
- **Involve migrants** in all measures to protect their health
- **Disseminate** knowledge about the problems and their solutions

5. General guidelines (cont.)

- Integrate **health and social care**
- Carry out **research** to identify problems in health care and evaluate proposed solutions
- Set up appropriate **training and education** programmes
- Encourage **coordinated action at a European level**

WARNING

"Ill-health among immigrant groups can sometimes be traced to their socio-economic position in the host society. In spite of this, culture, ethnicity and migrant status are factors which can play an independent role, and are therefore important for the attainment of better health for all!"