



EU-Level Consultation on Migration Health

Lisbon, 24 September 2009

- ❑ **Research and advocacy project**
- ❑ **Duration:** 3 years (March 2008-March 2011)
- ❑ **Beneficiaries:**
 - Undocumented migrants
 - Asylum seekers
- ❑ **19 MMSS** (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom).
- ❑ **Objective:** Improve access (access on equal grounds)
- ❑ **Main instruments:** creation of a network, observatory, legal report, website, advocacy activities at national and EU level, european and national events.



“BETTER HEALTH” FOR UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS IMPLIES:

- RECOGNISE THE SPECIFICITIES OF UDMs WITHIN THE REST OF THE MIGRANT POPULATION
- GIVE VISIBILITY
- ADOPT TARGETED POLICIES AND MEASURES



Discrimination as regards legal entitlements and administrative conditions

- Very weak entitlements: Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom
- Difficult administrative conditions: Belgium, France, Netherlands
- High degree of uncertainty: Malta, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Belgium

Tendency to restrict access (Netherlands, United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Sweden)

Very insufficient access to health care: great difference between theoretical rights and access in practice

(1218 respondents in 10 EU MMSS)

- Only 20%: effective access in practice
- 70%: encounter barriers, mainly administrative (68.9%), economic (59.4%); lack of information (25%); fear to be denounced (23%)
- 45% of health problems without treatment; 27% only partial treatment.

The myth of “inmigration for health”

Only 6% of people cited health as one of their reasons for migration and they are living in countries with very short legal entitlements.

No answer and no debate at EU level



- To promote equal access to health care for all residents of the EU, including UDMs – promote the adoption of legally binding norms**

- To open the debate at EU level:**
 - Encounters with DG JLS and DG Sanco**
 - Questions to candidates to the EP**
 - Joint Communication on access to health care for UDMs**
 - Visibility in the Communication on health inequalities**
 - Resolution of the European Parliament**

- To improve access at national level**



- Discrimination regarding legal entitlements and administrative conditions**
 - Weak entitlements: Sweden, Germany**
 - Difficult administrative conditions: Belgium**

- To promote equal access as regards nationals at EU level**
 - Amendment of the Reception Directive**

- To improve access at national level**



- Effective access to health care and prevention on equal grounds for UDMs and AS**
- Addressing specific needs of vulnerable groups**
- No duty to denounce undocumented migrants**
- Protection against expulsion of seriously ill undocumented migrants**
- Effective access to health care for foreigners confined in detention centres**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!

REPORTS:

HUMA, “Access to health care for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers in 10 EU countries” (Sep. 2009) available at www.huma-network.org

MÉDECINS DU MONDE, Second Report of the MDM European Observatory on Access to Health Care” (Sep. 2009) available at www.huma-network.org

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