



***EU-Level Consultation on  
Migration Health – “Better Health for All”  
24-25th September 2009, Lisbon***

**“Assisting Migrants and Communities (AMAC): Analysis of  
Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequalities” Project:  
Consultation background and objectives**

*The AMAC project has received co-funding from the European Commission under the Public Health Programme 2003-2008. However, the sole responsibility for the project lies with the author and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein”.*

# VOTE OF THANKS

- EC/DG SANCO/EAHC
- Portugal hosts and generous funders, MoH, HCH, and most particularly- Prof. Machado
- Project partners
- IOM Lisbon, Monica Gorraci and her team
- Maria Jose Peiro for her relentless commitment  
Audrey Bety & Claude Rochon & Laura Bennegadi  
Jennifer Hollings & Mariya Samuilova



# Background/context...

**64** Million registered migrants in Europe

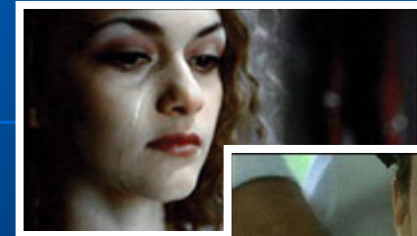
**8.9%** of the total population of the EU

~**2.3 to 8 M** irregular migrants in the EU, 1.5M in Russia



50% women, over represented in the most vulnerable

~**0.5 M** of trafficked women in the EU alone



**1.7 M** of refugees and asylum seekers

in 2006 mostly from Iraq, Serbia  
and Montenegro,

Russian Federation, Turkey,

Afghanistan and Iran

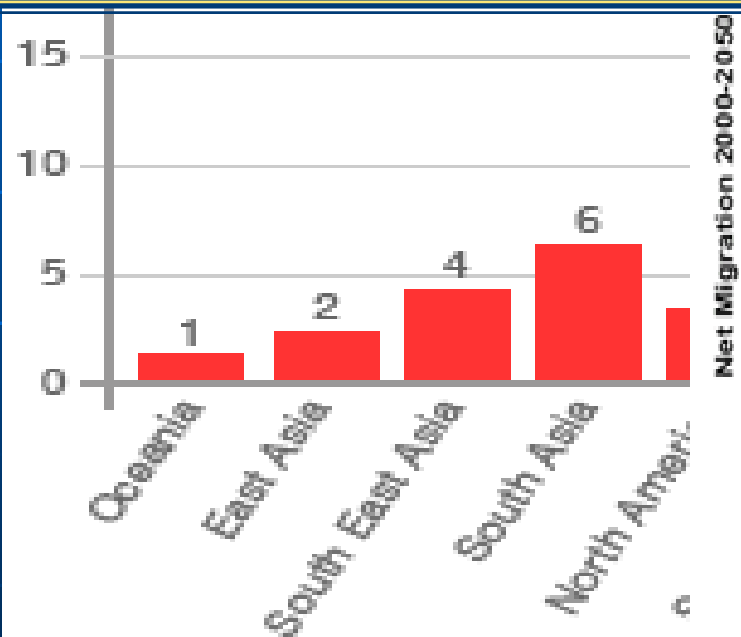


***No harmonized  
EU  
migration health  
policy***

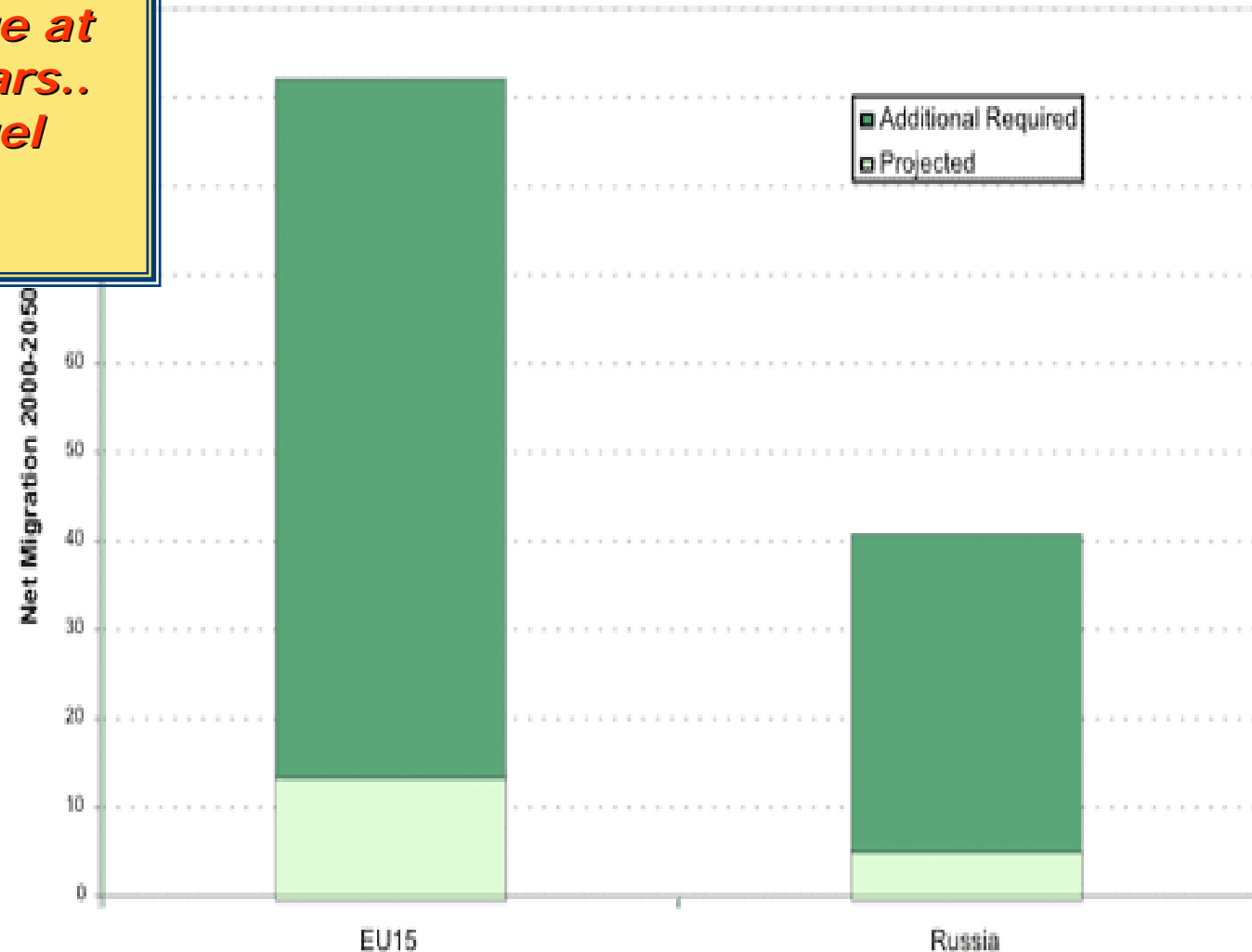
# Background/context: why... migrants?

***'Europe needs more migrant workers....It will be facing increasing labour shortage at least over the next 20 years.. EC president Jose Manuel Barroso***

***07-11-2007***



Additional Net Migration Required to Hold Working Age Population Constant at 1995 Levels in 2050



Source: World Bank Staff Estimates.

Why....

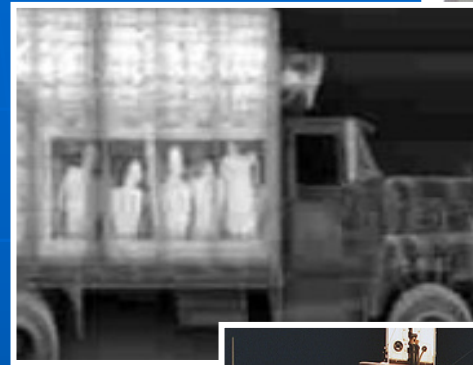
# Migration and Health of Migrants

"Migration is in and of itself is not a risk-factor to health: *the circumstances* surrounding the migration process can pose risks to health

The nature of modern migration is such that poverty and social exclusion and resulting health consequences *disproportionately affect some migrant communities*

Margaret Chan:

"A **focus on the health needs of migrant populations** fits with the growing concern about **inequalities in health outcomes...** regardless of whether these differences occur between countries or within countries. "



Somewhere close to us... 5

Migration Health Department



# AMAC project Outline

## Assisting Migrants and Communities

### Analysis of Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequalities

- EC Public Health Programme 2006: Health Determinants Strand
- Budget: EUR 333.333
- Start date: February 2008
- Duration: 22 months
- Target area: EU Member States, EEA and EU accession and candidate countries
- Implemented by: MH, IOM Brussels
- Co-funded by the European Commission's Health Programme 2006(60%) and the Portuguese High Commissariat for Health



# AMAC project

Building upon the past two years European initiatives addressing Health and Migration, AMAC aims to consolidate their results and **promote multi-stakeholder engagement in the dialogue on health inequalities linked to migration.**

A Partnership with governments, WHO, Universities and Centres from Ireland, Italy, France, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the UK.



# Health Inequalities...

Are addressed in topics such as:

- Non-entitlement (lack of access, in paper or in practice – procedures)
- Poor accessibility (ill-equipped health services and personnel)
- Non-consideration of ethics and human rights (bioethics, care for UDMs)
- Key health areas across the life-span such as maternal, child, and adolescent health



# How?

1. **Review report** of the policy environment following the high-level migration-health related conferences and consultations of 2007 and **expert meeting to identify priorities**
2. **Promoting Synergies** between partners' current European-level projects on health inequalities as relate to migration health
3. Background papers **drafted and reviewed at 3 multi stakeholders workshops**
4. **Final EU-level consultation**
5. **Dissemination** of the results of the workshops (including background papers) and of the final consultation



# 1/Review report - Migration Health Debate

## Facts

- Migration necessary and unavoidable phenomenon
  - Win-win situation: migration as an opportunity
  - Health as a core/essential component of public health

### AMAC thematic priority area

- Migrants' i...  
of determi...
  - Health car...
  - Socioeconomi...  
need to be
- **Research in Migration Health**
  - **Training for health professionals**
  - **Access to health care**
  - **Bioethics**
  - **Maternal, Child and Adolescent  
Elder, Health**



## 2/ Promoting synergies

By :

- **Partnerships** with current DG Sanco projects in the field;
- **Mapping** of recent migration health initiatives at European level to identify gaps, foster further synergies and inform future strategies
  - Recommendation of 2nd Meeting of the Advisory Group on Migration and Health (Luxembourg, Feb 2008)
  - Collaboration proposed by EAHC to IOM within the framework of the AMAC Project
  - 1st mapping attempt of EC funded projects: the current matrix will be presented at the Consultation



### 3. Background papers reviewed at multi-stakeholder Workshops

Workshop I Barcelona, 9-10 October, 2008  
Hosted by the Catalan Dept. of Health



- **Research on migration health** in Europe
- **Training of health professionals** focus on **mental health care**)

Links between research, training, **policy and change** in making health services more responsive to diversity in society



### 3. Background papers reviewed at multi-stakeholder Workshops, cont.

Workshop II Brussels, Dec. 2008

3 Topics:

1/Migrant's **right to health** (legal provisions across EU and MS texts), actual access (**procedures**)

2/ What access and care for irregular/**UDMs**

**3/Bioethics**



Workshop III ,Malta, March 2009, hosted by the Maltese MoH

Theme : **Migrant health across the lifespan**

Developing a **public health force for addressing migrant health needs** in Europe



# and 4.... Final EU-level consultation





## EU-Level Consultation on Migration Health “Better Health for All”

### To:

- **Engage** multidisciplinary stakeholders;
- Present the workshop results;
- Develop action points for integrating the **recommendations** into national and EU-level migration health-related strategies



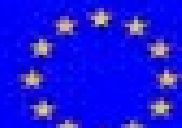
Ministério da Saúde



Alto Comissariado  
da Saúde



IOM International Organization for Migration



# Recent EU References/policy environment

## Council Conclusions on:

- “Common values and principles” (June 2006): access to quality care is part of social protection and contributes to social cohesion
- Common values and principles in EU Health Systems 1-2 June 2006: values of universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity (equal access according to need, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, social status or ability to pay)
- “Health in All Policies” (Nov. 2006) calls for broad societal action to tackle health determinants... to.. enhance social cohesion and social capital and improve health and safety and so contribute to higher productivity and economic growth in the EU;
- Council (2007) Conclusions : noting the recommendations from the Portuguese presidency ....Implementation of Health Strategy to include migrant health aspects

**Lisbon treaty:** The Union shall aim to **eliminate inequalities**, and to promote equality ...The Union shall take into account requirements linked to ....the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and **protection of human health**.

## Policy environment cont...

- P  
( Although the Migrant Health agenda has gained significant momentum over the past years
- C  
c  
s Difficulties remain in translating its vision in coherent policies and programmes
- 6
- V -the current economic crisis might bring further challenges....

- E  
-EC Communication on Health Inequalities

the EU”

) People  
are

qualities



*...For further inspiration during our work ...recalling that*

The Portuguese Presidency : “ .... encourages the MS, the Commission and the European Parliament to improve migration policies in such a way that **migrant health is one of the core elements**”

*Health and Migration in the EU: better health for all in an inclusive society”  
Conference recommendations*



An example of "*good practice*" 😊?  
How we thought over 28 centuries ago ...

"Disguised as strangers  
coming from other lands, the Gods indeed, in many  
forms, visit the cities and check....  
the equity of humans."

Homer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

