

HEALTH EVIDENCE NETWORK SYNTHESIS REPORT 43

Public health aspects of migrant health: a review of the evidence on health status for labour migrants in the European Region

Judit Simon | Noemi Kiss | Agata Łaszewska | Susanne Mayer



**World Health
Organization**
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

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HEN and the WHO Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe project

At the fifth meeting of the WHO European Advisory Committee on Health Research (EACHR) which took place on 7–8 July 2014, EACHR agreed to form a subcommittee on migration and health to review the Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe (PHAME) strategic framework. EACHR recommended that the Secretariat commission three HEN synthesis reports tackling the challenges of three distinct migration groups: undocumented migrants, labour migrants, and refugees and asylum-seekers.

This HEN synthesis report is therefore the result of a cross-divisional effort in the Regional Office between the PHAME project of the Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being and the Evidence and Information for Policy-making unit of the Division of Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation.

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Abstract

This report synthesizes the findings on policies and interventions to improve the access to and quality of health-care provision for labour migrants in the WHO European Region. Based on a systematic literature review in MEDLINE, EMBASE, ASSIA, EconLit, SSCI and a grey literature search of studies published in English between 2005 and 2015, 33 relevant studies were identified. Sixteen studies focused on specific policies or interventions for labour migrants and included information on whether they were successful, 17 studies plus two additional studies included best practice recommendations for future policy-making. The findings point at barriers other than legal ones, which prevent full health-care utilization and highlight, inter alia, the role of documentation status, high socioeconomic status, health insurance, labour unions and safe working conditions. Other important factors include the necessity of an intersectoral approach among different government divisions and cross-border cooperation as potential contributors to reducing inequalities for labour migrants.

Keywords

DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE, EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH CARE, HEALTH POLICY
MIGRANT WORKERS, SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ASSIA	Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts
EACHR	European Advisory Committee on Health Research
EconLit	American Economic Association's electronic bibliography
EU	European Union
HEN	Health Evidence Network
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITSAL	Project Immigration, Work and Health (Proyecto Inmigración, Trabajo y Salud)
NGO	nongovernmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PRISMA	Transparent reporting of systematic reviews and meta-analyses
SOPHIE	Evaluating the Impact of Structural Policies on Health Inequalities and their Social Determinants, and Fostering Change
TRAIN	Transit to Russia AIDS Intervention with Newcomers
PROMeTHEUS	Health Professional Mobility in the European Union Study



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