EUropean Refugees HUman Movement and Advisory Network

Winter 2016 Newsletter

EUR-HUMAN at a glance	1
ATOMiC checklist	2
Project overview	B
Core issues	6
Evaluation	5
Preliminary recommendations	7
Spreading the word	7

EUR-HUMAN at a glance

EUR-HUMAN project "**EU**ropean **R**efugees - **HU**man **M**ovement and **A**dvisory **N**etwork" (Specific Call HP-HA-2015 Project Proposal number 717319), is an integrated project under the Third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health 2014-2020 (duration 12 months). The last years, many Middle East and Sub-Saharan countries are confronted with serious conflicts, riots and political and financial crisis. This have led to an increase of massive migration influx towards Europe. Pre-migration physical or psychological traumas, adversities during migration, and post-arrival challenges are the main reasons for developing various physical and mental health problems for populations that have experienced war, persecution, displacement, torture, physical danger, separation, detention, hostility and uncertainty. The overall aim of the **EUR-HUMAN** project is to enhance the capacity, knowledge and expertise of European member states who accept refugees and other migrants in addressing their health needs, safeguard them from risks, while at the same time to minimize cross-border health risks. This initiative focuses on addressing the early arrival period, transition and longer-term settlement of refugees in European host countries. A primary objective of this project is to identify, design and assess interventions to improve primary health care delivery for refugees and other mi–grants with a focus on vulnerable groups.

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ATOMiC checklist

In the context of the **EUR-HUMAN** project a plethora of information has been collected to identify success factors and obstacles in the optimization of health care delivery for refugees and other migrants. The "Appraisal Tool for Optimizing Migrant Health Care" (ATOMiC) was developed to provide practical guidance for improving health care services for often vulnerable groups. ATOMiC is based on the findings of a systematic literature review, a survey among health care professionals at different European sites and a series of interviews with international experts. ATOMiC focuses on the route between appraisal of a promising idea or plan and the decision to proceed with its implementation.



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Overview

EUR-HUMAN consists of seven (7) different work packages which span all the stages of the project. EUR-HUMAN team has made significant progress in the last year working on communication and liaison with refugees and stakeholders in different countries (WP2), reviewing the literature and conducting interviews with experts and discussion with stakeholders (WP3), finding the best tools and set of guidelines in collaboration with thirty (30) experts from fourteen (14) different European countries (WP4), developing protocol for rapid mental health assessment and the Model of Continuity of Psychosocial Refugee Care - MCPRC (WP5) and describing the present situation on primary healthcare (PHC) in six (6) different countries for refugees and other migrants (WP6). Based on the aforementioned WPs and results, the EUR-HUMAN team developed on-line training material for PHC personnel in order to provide holistic, comprehensive, integrated and person centered PHC services to these vulnerable populations. The training material initially was developed in English (by MUW team) and after that was translated and adapted by six (6) intervention countries (Austria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia) according their local situation. In Austria the training material was also translated in Arabic in the context of training refugees and other migrants who in their country of origin were health care providers.



Module 1. About the course (consisted of six chapters).

Module 2. Health monitoring, acute and infectious diseases and vaccination (consisted of five chapters).

Module 3. Legal aspects regarding PHC for refugees and other migrants (consisted of nine chapters).

Module 4. Provider – patient interaction (communication and the relevance of culture in medical practice) (consisted of fifteen chapters).

Module 5. Mental health and psychological support (consisted of eight chapters).

Module 6. Sexual and reproductive health (consisted of twelve chapters).

Module 7. Child health (consisted of nine chapters).

Module 8. Chronic diseases, health promotion and prevention (consisted of ten chapters).

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Module 1 - About this course		Module 2 – Acute diseases ■		Module 3 - Legal issues	
		Pre test score	0 %	Pre test score	40 %
Post test status	1 attempt	Post test status	3 attempts	Post test status	2 attempts
Highest score	100 %	Highest score	90 %	Highest score	12 %
<u>Module 4 – Provider-patient</u> interaction		Module 5 – Mental health ■		<u>Module 6 – Sexual- and</u> Reproductive Health	
Pre test score	0 %	Pre test score	40 %	Pre test score	20 %
Post test status	1 attempt	Post test status	1 attempt	Post test status	1 attempt
Highest score	40 %	Highest score	100 %	Highest score	40 %
<u>Module 7 – Child hea</u>	<u>alth</u>	Module 8 – Chronic	diseases and		
Pre test score	60 %	health promotion			
Post test status	1 attempt	Pre test score	33 %		
Highest score	33 %	Post test status	1 attempt		
_		Highest score	66 %		

All participating countries decided to choose specific interventions in order to train PHC personnel based on their country specific situation and the results of WP2-WP6. All intervention countries decided to train multi-disciplinary teams that included by GPs, nurses, midwives and social workers/health visitors. Additionally to the online training material, the Greek research team in collaboration with seven Greek experts created training material available via a YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvl3kOrEidGv2XA4zAUs01Q).

As the training material is on-line, the multidisciplinary teams were trained via their own PC or laptop. Additionally, in some countries (i.e. Croatia, Hungary, Italy) PHC personnel were trained face-to-face. The team in Croatia developed a two-day face-to face training focusing of mental health and psychosocial support to refugees and other migrants which was successfully piloted with a multidisciplinary group of thirty (3) PHC personnel. The training focusing kit including Guidebook for Facilitators and training materials was refined and made available in English and Croatian languages.



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5 VOL. 3 Winter 2016

After their training procedure was completed, PHC personnel began applying the newly earned knowledges and skills autonomously when they treated refugees and other migrants in hosting centres or in their infirmaries. The pilot intervention of the EUR-HUMAN project took place, in Kara Tepe hosting centre of refugees and other migrants (Mytilene Island, Greece). During this pilot intervention the tools, questionnaires and procedures were tested in order to enhance capacity building of the European countries that accepted and host refugees and migrants. In total thirty (30) refugees and migrants took place (three (3) men, fifteen (15) women and twelve (12) children).



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Core Issues of the Training Procedure

The training procedure is found to be acceptable by PHC providers and easy applicable;

 The training material is comprehensive, holistic and refers to multidisciplinary and multi-professional teams and not only GPs;

- The course contains the latest information and guidelines regarding refugees and other migrants;
- The training material is easily adaptable by different countries (and within countries too) according to their specific needs;

 The training material is efficient and capable to improve knowledge, skills and attitudes of PHC personnel in providing cultural appropriate healthcare services;

- ♦ As the training material is on-line, it is easily accessible by any electronic device with internet connection;
- In general, the current training material could enhance the capacity building in PHC provision;



Evaluation

A one-day evaluation meeting took place in Heraklion, Crete on December the 7th , 2016 with thirty-three (33) participants including academics, experts, and officers from Greece, Austria, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Slovenia, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Spain. Additionally, four (4) academics and experts that are part of the Advisory Board of the project, participated via the electronic platform GoToMeeting. The aim of the meeting was to evaluate the whole project and to propose a roadmap to European countries that receive refugees and other migrants.

During the final period of the project, the EUR-HUMAN consortium will submit the final recommendations both to the European Commission and hosting countries (ministries responsible for managing the current refugee crisis).

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Preliminary Recommendations

• We suggest the creation of a chat room so participants could interact, discuss and to apply questions during their on-line training. In general, the course materials need to be more interactive;

The on-line training material needs to be up-dated from time to time, even after the end of the EUR-HUMAN project and when an update is done, an email notification has to be sent to each participant;

♦ We propose the on-line training material to be advertised by local, regional and national authorities in order to train more PHC providers;

 It is proposed PHC services to refugees and other migrants to be provided by multidisciplinary healthcare teams;

 It is proposed the provision of healthcare services to be supported by an electronic patient record as well as an e-smart card;

 It is proposed to use the tools and materials as well as the ATOMiC checklist produced by the EUR-HUMAN project in order to improve the provided healthcare services;

It is proposed higher education institutions responsible for training of PHC in different disciplines to adapt the training material in their curriculums.



Spreading the Word

Dissemination of EUR-HUMAN project is important and there are a number of ways you can help:

- ♦ Contact us to arrange free delivery of our project flyer or printed copies of our newsletters and leaflets
- Follow us on twitter at https://twitter.com/eur_human
- Add a link to EUR-HUMAN website on your own page
- ♦ Get in touch with us by using the contact form on the project website http://eur-human.uoc.gr/

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Project Partners





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