

Summary of Country Assessments on Migration and Health in the Joint Action on Health Equity Europe (JAHEE)

COLLATING EXISTING DATA TO IDENTIFY GAPS IN POLICY AND PRACTICE TO ADDRESS EQUITY IN HEALTH FOR MIGRANTS

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MAIN MESSAGES

- Available data of quality, as well as effect evaluation of implemented policy/measures is necessary for
 - identifying inequities in migrants' health and
 - implementing a knowledge-based approach to health protection and health care for migrants.
- Having an overview of the complex migration and health field enables partners to identify entry points for implementing actions to reduce inequities in migrants' health.



Example of poster based on the CA's

OBJECTIVE

JAHEE is a European initiative to contribute to achieving greater equity in health outcomes. The objective of the Country Assessment (CA) is to give an overview of the migration and health field in the partners' countries and help the participants to identify a feasible action to implement during the project period.

METHODS

Partners in the project were tasked to provide available information and examples of available data and policy in their country.

The project's first deliverable, the 'Policy Framework for Action', reviewed the state of the art concerning migration and health, examining the inequities that have been found and the interventions that have been proposed to address them. It outlined six main areas for the CAs to cover: 1) Data and research 2) Governance and leadership 3) Intersectoral action 4) Health Service Responsiveness 5) Migrants' access to health services 6) Vulnerable groups.

A competent authority, supported by their ministry, has filled in the CAs. Other stakeholders have been involved where relevant.

RESULTS

- Difficulties in completing the CA concerned the availability of data, quality and interpretation of data, also complicated by complex government structures. Many found a lack of evaluation of policies and measures.
- The CA has already been used for addressing migrant health issues in some of the partnering countries and is stimulating cooperation across sectors.
- All partners have identified feasible actions to implement during the project period, covering a range of topics.



DISCUSSION

Systematic implementation of policies on migrant health has been limited. However, a great deal of experience has been gained in research and practice since the beginning of the century. While these assessments are not comprehensive, they serve to give an overview of the field and enable the partners to identify a feasible action to implement during the project period. This furthers the objective of Work Package 7 of JAHEE, which is to contribute to greater equity in health for migrants.

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