

# Health of Migrants

## Rational and events under the Portuguese EU presidency

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PT Presidency Health Task Force  
Ministry of Health

*Health and Migration Advisory Group Meeting  
DG SANCO, Luxembourg, 25-26 February 2008*



## H & M in the EU - rational



- EU needs and will continue to need migrants (demographic and economical reasons)
- Benefits from increased synergy of health, migration and development policies
- Prevention and access to care by migrants as a pre-requisite for public health of the EU, essential element of its social, economical and political development, and for the promotion of human rights

# Health and Migration – a process



- Conference “**Health and Migration in the EU**”. 2 reports (vision) + proceedings + EU network.
- Exploratory opinion of the **European Economic Social Committee**
- **EPSCO Council** conclusions (Dec 2007)
- Side event at **WHA** (May 2007)
- WHO report + **EB** resolution (Jan 2008) – **WHA** (May 2008)
- Collaborations – European Forum of Medical Associations and WHO (April); Conference “**People on the move**” – Slovakia and Council of Europe (Nov)



Over 300 people participated in the Conference

including  
EU Health  
Commissioner,  
EU Parliament MEP  
EU and non EU  
Health Ministers,  
and  
WHO Regional  
Director and  
General Director

## H & M in the EU - goals



- To identify the main problems affecting migrants in the EU and the determinants of their health status
- To improve scientific knowledge as a condition for evidence based policies aimed at addressing migrants health needs





# Health and Migration in the EU



## Plenary sessions

- Health and Migration in the EU (*presentation of preparatory reports*)
- Migration in the EU: a challenge for development or a burden for health? (*geographic dimension, political dimension, health status, determinants*)

## Parallel sessions

- Better health for all in an inclusive society (*health promotion, global health*)
- Mobility, public health and information systems
- Health promotion and disease prevention

## Workshops

- Mental health
- Migrant workers' health
- Maternal and child health
- Accessibility and quality of care

## Ministerial round tables

- How can we promote health in an inclusive society?



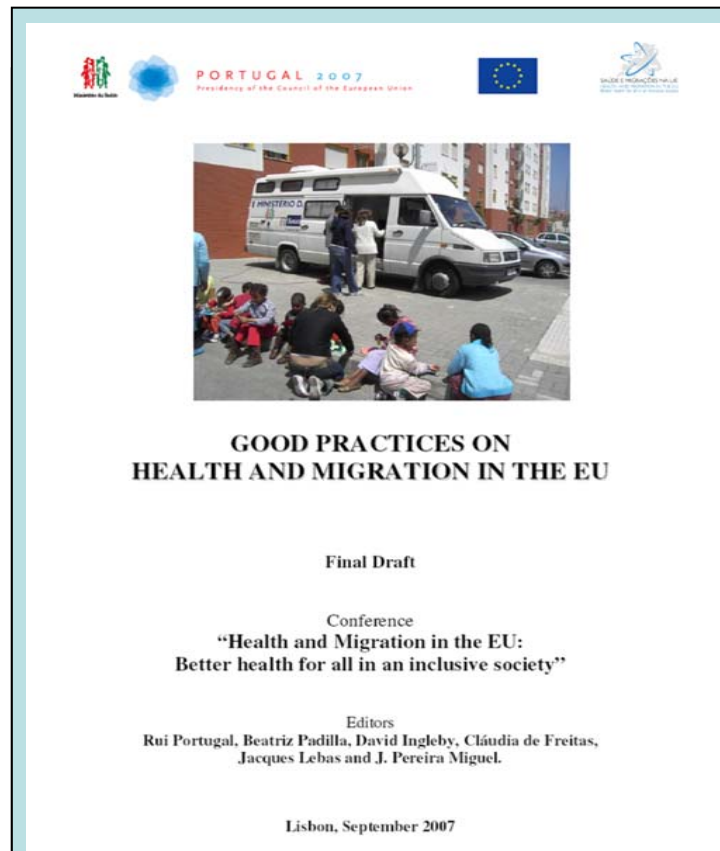
Report for the Conference on  
“Health and Migration in the EU”  
(available at <http://www.eu2207.min-saude.pt>)



# Challenges for health in the age of migration



- H & M in the EU: building a shared vision for action
- Conceptual framework
- Immigrants in the EU: features, trends and vulnerabilities
- Communicable diseases
- Non-communicable diseases
- Migration and health: national policies compared
- The road ahead: conclusions and recommendations



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социален комитет

Comité Económico y  
Social Europeo

Evropský  
hospodářský a  
sociální výbor

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Socialt Udvalg

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Sozialausschuss

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sotsiaalkomitee

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and Social Committee

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et social européen

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sociala kommittén



European Economic and Social Committee

# OPINION

## Health and Migrations

# **H & M - general conclusions**



- **Health is key to migrants integration in culturally diverse societies, and for their contribution to economic growth and development of host and home countries**
- **Migrants experience increased health risks, similar to those of the more vulnerable and disadvantaged groups**
- **Many of migrants' health problems are the product of social and environmental factors and cannot be addressed by the health sector alone**
- **More data and knowledge on migrant health in the EU is needed**
- **Special consideration needs to be given to migrant health across all relevant policy processes, with special emphasis on employment and social policies, and cooperation and development policies**
- **The European Health Strategy and other instruments and current work need to address migrants health (eg. EUROMED, EU-Africa cooperation, EU neighbouring policy)**
- **Important links to be established with WHO work and that of the Council of Europe – a global call for action, for additional and concerted efforts**



## H & M - specific conclusions



- Need for more surveillance and research on health issues focusing mobile populations
- “Health in all Policies” approach as a philosophy to guide intervention and action
- Need for consensus and convergence in EU countries approaches to policies and strategies for prevention and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases affecting migrants
- Workplace and residence as entry points for the delivery of health services and information to migrant workers and their families
- Migrant women and children to be considered a priority
- Endorsement of ethical responsible recruitment of health professionals from third countries

## H & M – final messages



- Health and migration are global and call for global answers
- One main key of development is investment in migrant health to reduce poverty and promote migrant integration in the host societies
- Privileging migrant access to culturally-sensitive health services is essential
- Strengthening development cooperation targeted at essential health needs is critical to prevent disease at the source and ensure better health for all in today's globalised world



# Overview of policies *(work in progress)*

Milena Chimienti, Beatriz Padilla, Ana Fernandes

- Austria, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Slovenia, Romania
- Main geo origins of migrants
- Entitlement of migrants in health care
- Who is responsible for migrant's health
- First specific initiatives (how it started, philosophy)
- Types of initiatives at national level (budget, human resources, approach, target topic, target group)
- Results and good practices
- Challenges
- Future plans

# EPSCO Council – 6 Dec 2007



- **Health and Migration in the EU – *Policy debate/ Adoption of Council Conclusions***
- Presidency's summary of the conclusions of the EU Conference on Health and Migration in the Annex

## EPSCO Council – invites ...



- **COM and MS** – develop cross-sector policies, facilitate sharing of knowledge and analysis of information, encourage partnerships for knowledge improvements, innovation and more effective interventions, promote strengthening of health systems in countries of origin.
- **COM** – migrant health in the new Health Strategy, network of national experts, 2nd PCAH and 7th FPR&D to support actions, enable support from other funds, cooperate with WHO and others.
- **MS** – integrate migrant health into national policies, HiAP approach, facilitate access to health care, share good practices, share data and knowledge on the effectiveness of interventions.



# Health of Migrants - WHO EB

## Jan 2008



- Agenda item proposed by Portugal in 2006
- Report by the Secretariat on Health of Migrants (EB 122/11) – EB invited to note the report
- Resolution EB 122.R5 presented by Portugal, several EU MS and others as co-sponsors, amended, recommended to the 61st WHA for adoption

# Health of Migrants

## WHO Secretariat report



- Migration flows and the globalized world
- Basic principles of a public health approach
- Determinants associated with the health of migrants
- Health issues stemming from migration
- Migrants and health systems
- Strategies for improving the health of migrants



# 61st WHA resolution – calls upon



- **MS** – promote migrant-sensitive health policies, equitable access to health promotion and care, analyse trends, identify gaps in service delivery, share information and best practices, raise providers and professionals cultural and gender sensitivity, promote cooperation among countries involved in the whole migratory process, promote strengthening of health systems in developing countries etc
- **Director-General** – promote migrants' health on the international agenda, explore policy options and approaches, analyse the major challenges, support regional and national assessments, inclusion of migrants' health in regional and national health strategies, help collect and disseminate data, promote partnerships etc