



Press release

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## EUPHA calls for a new migrant health agenda

Nothing about me without me – a need for a new migrant health agenda

Migration has become a top issue on the European political agenda, but the health of migrants needs a lot more attention. We should turn the focus from an agenda of conflicts and problems into an agenda of solutions.

Research shows huge differences in the level of integration of migrants in national health policies – and substantial room for improvements in most countries. At a recent conference on migrant health<sup>1</sup> main actors on the European scene like the European Commission, WHO European Office, International Organization of Migration (IOM), Médecins de Monde and others discussed the challenges and the need for better collaboration across borders and institutions. An important message from the conference was to learn from local communities where migrants and non-migrants have close contacts and realize the potential of each individual – thereby reducing tension and conflict.

The migrant crisis facing Europe has shaken European institutions to their core. Many refer to the arrival of migrants as a threat to their social, political, and religious identity. Yet, many other people are reaching out to migrants, offering them food, shelter, and above all hope. On behalf of Europe's public health community, EUPHA calls on our political leaders to act decisively to address the public health challenges, including damage to mental health, trauma, access to essential health care, gender based violence and others that may arise from the movement of migrants, in a way that is equitable, humane, and consistent with deep seated European values. Successful integration of migrants requires a focus on health issues that may hamper education, employment and active social participation. Health programmes and health services need to adapt to the needs of newcomers and ethnic diverse populations. In order to achieve these goals we need to involve the migrants themselves in the process and governments as well as NGOs must collaborate and coordinate their efforts at all levels. EUPHA stands ready to offer support in developing these responses.

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<sup>1</sup> 6th European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health, 23-25 June, Oslo, organised by EUPHA Section on Migrant and ethnic minorities health and the Norwegian Center for Minority Health Research (NAKMI)



## About EUPHA

EUPHA is an international independent umbrella organization for public health and health care associations and institutes in Europe. As the largest European scientific based network of public health professionals, EUPHA encourages a multidisciplinary, evidence-based health in all policies approach. EUPHA joins forces in order to be a collective European-wide voice advocating improvement of the publics' health and health services.

## About EPH Conference

The EPH Conference is an initiative of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and aims to contribute to the improvement of public health in Europe by offering the means to exchange information and a platform for debate to researchers, policymakers, practitioners, young professionals and students in the field of public health, health services research and public health training and education.

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