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Health needs and access to health services by migrants
across the European Regions:
a proposal to build a minimum set of shared indicators

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Health of migrants: an emerging issue

- Migrants enhance economic, social and cultural aspects of the communities, eventually changing their perspectives
- Right to health → accessibility to all, especially to the most vulnerable ones
- “*Healthy migrant effect*” → the advantage may reduce over time or in subsequent generations



MIGHRER I

Migrants and Healthcare: Responses by European Regions (1/2)

- RHN (Regions for Health Network) of the WHO-Euro, coordinated by Emilia-Romagna
- “region-centered” approach aiming to gather and describe strategies and actions adopted at regional level across Europe regarding the health of migrants



MIGHRER I

Migrants and Healthcare: Responses by European Regions

2/2

- started in 2006
- participation of 11 Regions
- the final report is now ready to be published

Sharing information across EU Regions...

- **UNECE/EUROSTAT:**
Work Session on Migration Statistics
 - models for estimating international flows in EU
- **PROMINSTAT (European Commission) :**
 - promotion of comparative quantitative research in the field of migration and integration in EU
- **WHO, IOM**
 - resolution emerged from the **Global Consultation on the Health of Migrants** (Madrid, 2010):
 - monitoring and reduction of differences in definitions and datasets across Regions



Benefits of monitoring migrant health

- preventative strategy → preserving the health advantage (chronic disease)
- early recognition of evolving health influence (decreasing incidence of many infectious disease / adoption of health risk factors)
- development of multi-sectoral policies → where individuals are at risk (workplace..)



The Italian and Emilia-Romagna experience

(1/2)

- **2007-2009**
 - taskforce bringing together several national institutions (ISTAT, INAIL..) and many Regions
 - implementation of a **standardized method** to monitor the health profile of immigrants
 - development of a **minimum set of indicators using administrative data**
 - referring to both national and regional level
 - possibility to draw historical series (from 1992)
 - minimum territorial detail that corresponds to municipality or province area

The Italian and Emilia-Romagna experience (2/2)

- study population: based on citizenship
 - *immigrants from countries with high emigration flows*
- compared to: Italian citizens and immigrants from developed countries
- investigated fields:

Population		Health demand and utilization of services				
Demographic outline	Labour	Hospitalizations	Mother-child health obstetrical events	Occupational accidents	Infectious diseases	Mortality





Emilia-Romagna results (1/2)

- sharp increase in immigrants in the Region, among the highest rates in Italy (10.2% in 2009 Vs. 3.8% in 2002)
- moderate health problems among immigrants, (young age profile, “healthy migrant effect”)
- the majority of the contacts with the health services are due to physiological events, as pregnancy for women, or caused by the lack of prevention actions, such as injuries for men and abortion for women



Emilia-Romagna results (2/2)

- *infectious diseases* still represent a major cause of hospitalization among immigrants, both for men and women
- *about antenatal care*: if compared to Italian women, the proportion of women undertaking less than 4 visits during pregnancy, or the first visit after the first trimester is higher in immigrants



Comparison across EU Regions (*MIGHRER II proposal*): strategies/steps

- review of existing database and indicators of international institutions (OECD, WHO, EUROSTAT, ONU, UN-ECE,..)
- building of a country-specific matrix indicating definitions, data availability and the calculation feasibility of the indicators
- definition of a core-set of shared feasible indicators across EU Regions



Comparison across EU Regions: critical key points

- different migration history across EU Regions (early migration Countries vs long-term migration Countries)
- country-specific migration law
 - different operative definition of migrant (citizenship, country of birth, ethnicity)
- data availability regarding the so called *migrant-relevant indicators* (i.e. origin, length of residence, migration history)



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