



Training packages for health professionals to improve access and quality of health services for migrants and ethnic minorities, including the Roma

## ADDITIONAL MODULE 1: TARGET GROUPS

### Unit 2: Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation



Elaborated by:  
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## Outline of the session

- Presentation:
  - ✓ Concepts
  - ✓ Comparative Studies in the European Context
  - ✓ Impact of the Current Economic Crisis
  - ✓ Barriers for Effective Access to Health Care
  - ✓ Recommendations from Comparative Reports
- Activity: Strategies for Improving Access to Health Care for Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation

## Terminologies and concepts

- Terminologies and concepts
  - ✓ “Illegal migrants”
  - ✓ “Undocumented migrants”
  - ✓ “Irregular migrants”
  - ✓ “Migrants in an 'irregular' situation”
  - ✓ “Migrants in an irregularized situation”
- Theoretical and political discussion related to terminology use.
- Complex character of migration status.



⇒ Terminology use in the framework of the MEM-TP project:

- **“Migrants in an 'irregular' situation”**
- Based on the idea that the person is not “irregular” / “illegal”, the legal framework “irregularizes” the migrant’s administrative status.

# Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation: Comparative Studies in the European Context

## • Comparative studies

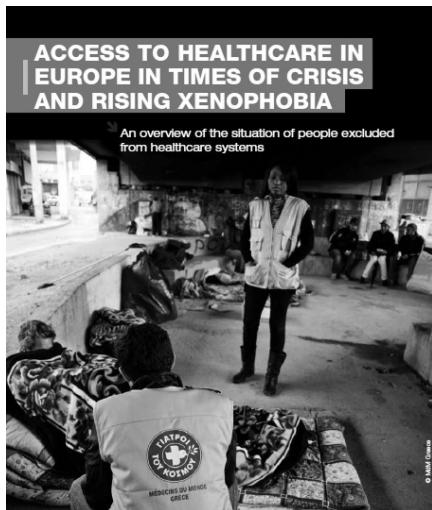
- ✓ Individual authors
- ✓ European agencies
- ✓ Professional associations
- ✓ Civil society organizations

## • Relevant aspects

- ✓ International and European Human Rights framework
- ✓ Analysis of health care entitlements of migrants in an 'irregular' situation.
- ✓ Barriers in the effective access to health care.
- ✓ Health risks related to limitation / absence of access to health care.
- ✓ Role of local and regional health policies.
- ✓ Impact of the current economic and systemic crisis.
- ✓ Recommendations.



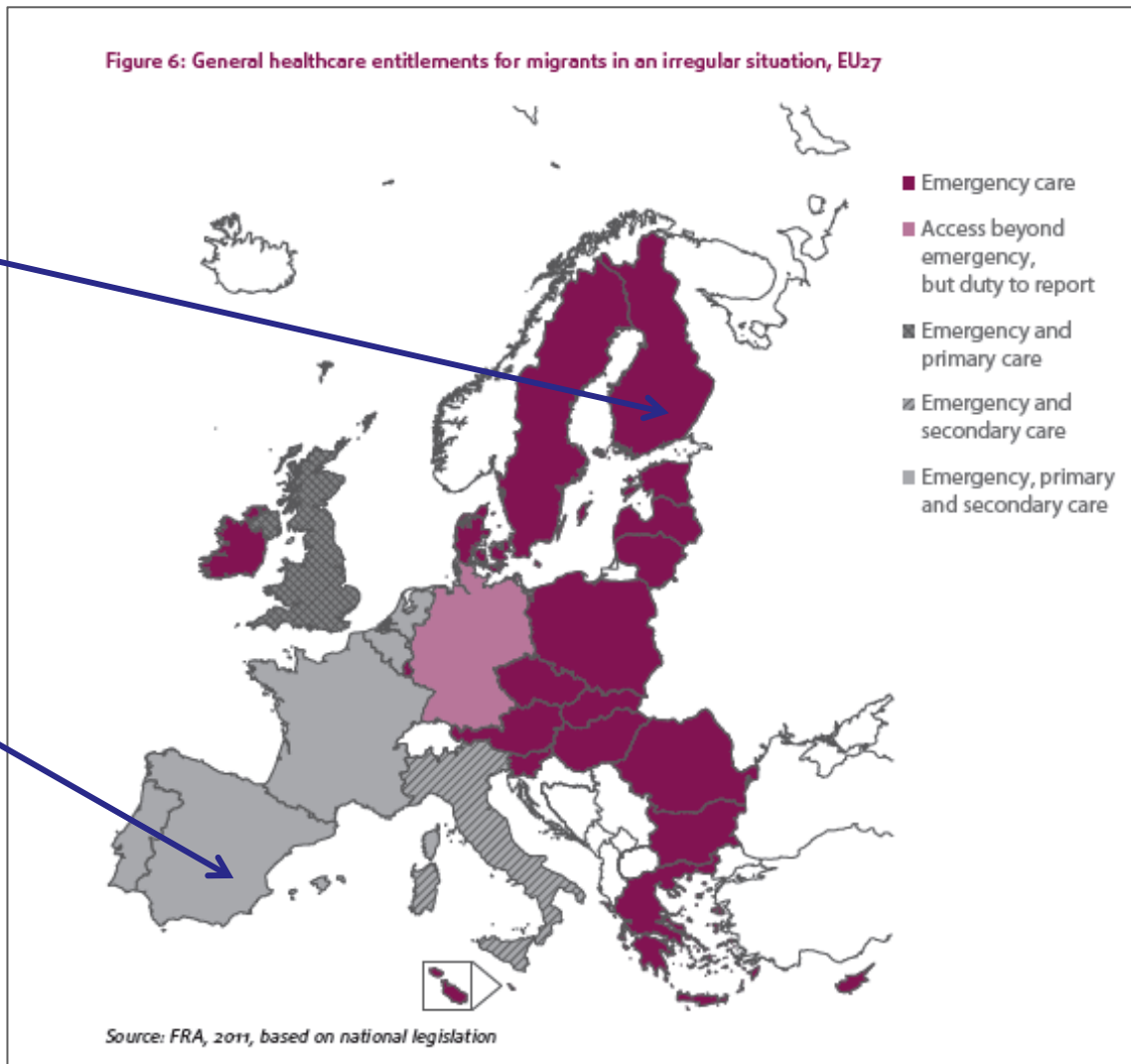
# Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation: Impact of the Current Economic Crisis



- Current situation of population groups in situation of social vulnerability, including migrants in an 'irregular' situation, in 5 European cities (2012) and 14 cities of 7 European countries (2013).
- Increase of unemployment and xenophobia.
- Limitation of health care entitlements.
- Introduction of fees in the access to health care services.
- Increase of barriers in the effective access to health care.
- Deterioration of self-perceived health.

2011

Figure 6: General healthcare entitlements for migrants in an irregular situation, EU27



2013:

Sweden:  
Law on health and medical care for foreigners living in Sweden without necessary permits

2012:

Spain:  
Royal Decree-law 16/2012

## Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation: Barriers for Effective Access to Health Care

- Limitation or absence of health care entitlements.
- Lack of awareness of existing entitlements by professionals, administrative staff and migrants.
- Complexity of administrative procedures.
- Obligation of reimbursement in co-payment systems.
- Fear of denunciation.



## Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation: Barriers for Effective Access to Health Care

- Cultural and idiomatic aspects.
- Previous experiences of discrimination.
- Precariousness of the socioeconomic situation, with frequent changes or absence of a permanent residence.
- Cases of denied access despite being entitled.
- Fear of a negative impact of an HIV+ diagnosis on the residence authorization process.
- Difficulties in accessing appropriate health care in detention centers.





## Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation: Recommendations from Comparative Reports

- Health care entitlements

- ✓ **Equality of conditions** in relation to public coverage, reimbursement or co-payment for all people residing in a country, regardless of nationality, administrative status or employment situation.
- ✓ **Access to all health care levels**, not only emergency care.
- ✓ Cessation of a **migration control** during the health care delivery.
- ✓ Maintenance of health care entitlements in the situation of **economic crisis**.

## Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation: Recommendations from Comparative Reports

- Improvement of effective access to health care
  - ✓ Removal of cultural, idiomatic, social and structural **barriers**.
  - ✓ Health care delivery without **discrimination**.
  - ✓ Improvement of health care in **detention centers**.
  - ✓ Role of **local and regional policies and interventions**.

## Activity:

### Strategies for Improving Access to Health Care for Migrants in an 'Irregular' Situation

- **In small groups**

- ✓ Strategies for improving access to health care for migrants in an 'irregular' situation in your region / country.
- ✓ Prioritization of strategies.

- **In plenary**

- ✓ Summary of small group results.
- ✓ Group discussion.





Thank you and questions ...

*Pictures: Andalusian Childhood Observatory (OIA, Observatorio de la Infancia de Andalucía) 2014;  
Josefa Marín Vega 2014; Redlsir 2014; Morguefile 2014.*

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