

# Implementation of an IOM course for employees in Norway that have first contact with asylum seekers and refugees

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# Norwegian centre for migration and minority health (NAKMI)

- Part of the **Norwegian Institute of Public Health** since 1.1.2018
- nexus for migrant and ethnic minority health, through research and policy development, education, training, capacity building and dissemination of research and information nationally and internationally.
- main target groups are **health policy makers** and managers, **health professionals**, researchers and students.
- NAKMI was established in 2003 by the [Ministry of Health and Care Services](#).

# Background

- Research and field assessments by IOM between 2007 -2015 in various European countries show
  - **low level or lack of knowledge** on migrant and refugee-related health among personnel working with these groups
  - Lack of training on topics like **human trafficking, stress coping strategies and language barriers.**
- Health care professionals wanted trainings about, different **communicable diseases epidemiological trends in countries of origin, torture and trauma** related to migration processes
- Law enforcement officers wanted trainings about **awareness of possible medical conditions and infectious diseases, better understanding of migrants and their sociocultural backgrounds.**

# Background

- **«Provision of training for first-line health professionals and law enforcement officers working at local level with migrants and refugees»**
- **Funded by** the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission (DG SANTE) and the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea) in the EU.

# Background

- Coordinated by German development agency (GIZ) in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as technical lead
- Implemented by NAKMI at Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) and Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) in Norway.

# Objective

- **Support** EU member states in reducing knowledge gaps of different categories of health professionals, law enforcement officers, social workers by
- **Coaching** trainers for these professionals in health-related border policies and health challenges faced by the migrant population

# Content of materials

## Module on Migration and Health

- Public Health and Migration/Communication and Mass Media
- Migration and Health
- Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases
- First Aid

## Module on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Aspects of Migration
- Occupational Health and Psychosocial Support
- Coping with Grief
- Working with vulnerable groups

# Training sessions

- «Training of trainers» organised by IOM
- In countries that are part of the EU Health Programme
- 4 target groups and 2 sets of countries
  - a) Health professionals, social workers and law enforcement officers in first line countries
  - b) Regional «training of trainers» for health professionals in non-first line countries



# Timeline

- March 2018: Project workshop in Athens
- May/June 2018. Revision of training materials to local context
- June 2018: Pilot «Training of trainers (ToT)» workshop for health personell and law enforcement officers
- June/July 2018: Report to IOM about neccessary changes
- August/October 2018: Revision of training materials
- November 2018: First «Training of Trainers» workshop for coaches/trainers

# Implementation: 2-day pilot

- 14 participants: nurses working at reception centres, a doctor, counsellors and advisors.
- Day 1: Migration and health and mental health
- Day 2: Communicable diseases
- Pre- and post tests, evaluation of all course units

# Feedback from participants

- Overall positive to the idea of a common training course
- Relevant and important content
- Opportunity to participate and give feedback was appreciated
- Adaptation to their context needed for them to be able to utilize it.

# Feedback from participants on adaptation

- Reduce information on slides
- Detailed local examples from Norway and case studies
- Less technical information on substance abuse, more information on what to do about it and what to look for
- Presentations on infectious diseases seemed too technical for non-health personnel and too basic for health personnel
- Suggestion to use NIPH guidelines on disease prevention and outbreak management

# Feedback on preferred topics

- Mental Health modules
  - Mental illness and migration
  - Gender Based Violence
  - Social Support and coping mechanism of migrants
  - Access to mental health
  
- Communicable diseases
  - Outbreak Surveillance, Investigation and response
  - Communicable diseases history taking skills
  - Recognizing and triaging the unwell person
  - Specific infectious diseases teaching

# Lessons learned

- Adaptation to national context crucial
- Engagement of asylum centre personnel and humanitarian organisations  
important and valuable
- Relevance of information
- Use local information

# Way forward

- Continue adaptation
- First «Training of Trainers» in november
- Continue cooperation with IOM and UDI to ensure the program will be used.

# Contact information

- NAKMI at NIPH

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# Other courses

## **NAKMI: Innføringskurs i migrasjon og helse**

- Oslo, 16-17 October 2018
- Registration: <https://www.fhi.no/hn/migrasjonshelse/>

## **IOM: Intercultural Competence and Communication 2-day Training**

- Oslo, 22-23 October 2018
- *Registration:* <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WVG9NLV>

## **UIB: Migrasjonskonferanse: Helse i alt vi gjør**

- Bergen, 15-16 November 2018
- Registration: <https://www.uib.no/samfunnsutfordringer/115516/migrasjonskonferanse-helse-i-alt-vi-gj%C3%B8r>