Workshop "Regional health policy - Promoting equity in spite of cross-currents?"

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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 $\rightarrow$ accessibility to all, especially to the most vulnerable ones.

- “Healthy migrant effect” $\rightarrow$ 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
• 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Health demand and utilization of services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographic outline</td>
<td>Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospitalizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mother-child health obstetrical events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational accidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Infectious diseases</td>
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<td>Mortality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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)
Bibliography

- Glossary on Migration (IOM, 2004)
- Mladovsky: *Migrant Health in EU*; Eurohealth Vol 13 No 1
- Mladovsky: *Migration and health in EU health systems* Vol 9 No 4