



## **CARE: Common Approach for REFugees and other migrants' health**

*The CARE Project is a twelve month EU funded project, approved through a specific call under the Third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020)*

The CARE project, launched on April 2016 and implemented into five states interested by strong migratory pressure (*i.e.* Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia and Malta), has just reached its end achieving clear and solid results. Key public health challenges related to migratory fluxes to Europe were addressed through targeted and appropriate healthcare provision for migrants/refugees, monitoring of communicable diseases, training of relevant professionals and production and distribution of information and awareness raising materials. Capitalizing on its public health approach, the CARE project has also issued targeted public health recommendations.

The partnership consists of a broad and highly skilled mix of public health authorities and civil society organisations, all with scientific, policy and public health background, capable to promote and sustain the good health of migrants and refugees in EU Member States experiencing strong migration pressure. The project was coordinated by the Italian Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (INMP) with the participation of the Italian Ministry of Health, the Italian Red Cross, the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), the AOU Meyer Pediatric Hospital, the Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital (OPBG), Oxfam Italia (OIT) from Italy. Furthermore, from Greece, Praksis NGO, the National School of Public Health (NSPH), SYN EIRMOS NGO of Social Solidarity, CMT Prooptiki (CMT) and the Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP) participated. In addition, the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) from Slovenia, the Ministry for Health of Malta and the Croatian Institute of Public Health (CIPH) were included in the CARE Consortium.

Specifically, the multidisciplinary teams of the CARE project working in the targeted hotspots and migrants' / refugees' centres in Greece and Italy, successfully delivered effective healthcare services to the needs of migrants/refugees, using the clinical protocols developed within the framework of the project. Furthermore an electronic "health tracking and monitoring system" has been developed and implemented: it is composed by a local operating health recording software -complying with all privacy



Co-funded by  
the Health Programme  
of the European Union

[www.careformigrants.eu](http://www.careformigrants.eu)

The project "717317/CARE" has received funding from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020)

## PRESS RELEASE

applicable regulations - installed into the laptops of the multidisciplinary teams in the participating centres, and a usb device given to each migrant, where his/her relevant health data are stored for future monitoring and follow-ups activities. This system allows the continuity of the migrant's health care in his/her subsequent transfers to other reception centres.

Furthermore, the CARE project developed and piloted: 1) a syndromic surveillance system, that can facilitate the detection of infectious disease outbreaks and contribute to the early detection of public health emergencies in migrant centres, 2) a comprehensive survey on vaccination policies at national level , and 3) a dispatch travel health information model targeted to the information needs of frontline health care workers in migrant centres on the ongoing outbreaks in the Mediterranean Migration Routes.

At community level, the CARE project has developed informative material for the general public, in order to combat existing stereotypes regarding migrants' health by demystifying existing myths, as well as material for migrants and refugees focusing on their access right to healthcare services. In addition, training seminars addressed to health and non-health professionals working with migrants/refugees took place during October, November and December 2016 in Italy, Croatia, Malta, Slovenia and Greece. Lastly, the CARE project has developed recommendations on the strategic Public Health planning regarding migrant and refugee populations and the role of civil society organisations.

Overall, the project partners have developed and implemented common tools that have evidenced their efficacy and compliance with the goals originally identified by the project.

### **For more information**

For more information on the project and the national partners, please visit [www.careformigrants.eu](http://www.careformigrants.eu)

### **Press contact**

Dr. Gianfranco Costanzo, MD

INMP (National Institute for health, migration and poverty – Rome, Italy)

[care@inmp.it](mailto:care@inmp.it)

*The content of this press release represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it can not be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.*



Co-funded by  
the Health Programme  
of the European Union

[www.careformigrants.eu](http://www.careformigrants.eu)

The project "717317/CARE" has received funding from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020)