



## **Focus on WP7 of the CARE project**

### ***Addressing socio-cultural issues:***

#### ***Empowering professionals, combatting stereotypes and providing rights based knowledge to migrants/refugees***

Cross cutting activities of the CARE project, which are part of Work Package 7, explicitly address three different and distinct objectives: a) empowering and providing capacities to health professionals and non-health personnel to meet the needs of migrants / refugees; b) raising knowledge and increasing the awareness of the general public to reduce misconceptions about migrants' health; and c) promoting migrants' health literacy with emphasis on the rights to accessing healthcare services.

In order to practically address all aforementioned objectives, the CARE partnership has developed a common training and awareness raising material, through a joined EU effort. Based on the developed material, partners across the 5 EU member states are currently responding to the most pressing socio-cultural challenges related to public health aspects of the migration crisis in Europe.

Therefore, we believe that with the CARE project, we are moving one step closer in terms of building resilient to the migration crisis communities.

Work Package 7 Leader

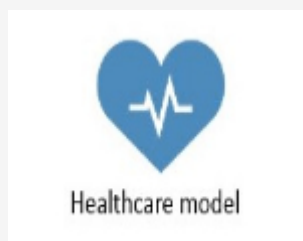
Dr. Maja Sočan

Slovenian National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ)

## Advancements of the CARE Project

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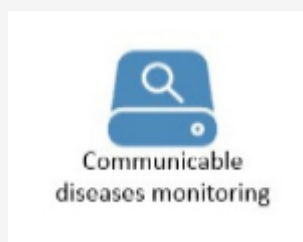
The CARE project is addressing key public health challenges of the migration crisis in Europe, through targeted and appropriate healthcare provision for migrants/refugees, monitoring of communicable diseases, training of relevant professionals and production of awareness raising material and dissemination campaigns.



Specifically, the healthcare provision model of the **CARE project addresses the challenge of providing effective and targeted services to the health needs of incoming migration populations**. At the moment, **trained multidisciplinary teams** composed by doctors, psychologists and transcultural mediators, working into Italian (Lampedusa and Trapani Milo) and Greek hotspots (Kos and Leros), are **piloting the CARE innovative clinical protocols**, referring to the management of: a) cases of scabies, b) cases of rash and fever, and c) age assessment of unaccompanied minors.



The aforementioned teams are also requested to collect migrants/refugees' health data, in order to better **monitor their health**. The electronic system is composed by: 1) a software - complying with all privacy applicable regulations - to be installed on local PCs of the outpatient departments (OPDs) of the 4 project hotspots and 2) electronic portable devices to be delivered to migrants, where their relevant health information are stored for future medical examinations.



**Migrant centres also face specific challenges in preventing and controlling communicable diseases' transmission**. For this reason, three CARE project activities are aiming at strengthening prevention and early detection capacities at national level. Firstly, the CARE project is piloting an **innovative syndromic surveillance system** into Italian (Lampedusa and Trapani) and Greek hotspots (Kos and Leros) and will simulate it in Croatia, Slovenia, Malta and Portugal, in order to enhance preparedness. The goal of syndromic surveillance is to be able to identify illness clusters early on, before diagnoses are confirmed, allowing for timely and appropriate public health response. Secondly, the project is implementing a **comparative study on current vaccination policies targeting newly arrived migrants in Europe**. For this objective, national and subnational surveys have been launched, in order to document differences in the national immunization policies and how these are being applied in different types of migrant detention/accommodation centers. The aim is to be able to share best practices, while identifying critical aspects of immunization delivery and possible solutions. Thirdly, in order to provide **targeted information to frontline healthcare workers** conducting migrants'/refugees' health assessment, the project is piloting a travel medicine information service targeting epidemic prone diseases in countries part of recognized Mediterranean migration routes. Updated dispatches are being sent weekly to front line health-care workers in Italy, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, Malta and Portugal.



Moreover, socio-cultural parameters have a key effect on public health aspects and therefore the CARE project has developed a material, in order to **combat existing stereotypes of the general public** and to **inform migrants and refugees on their rights in accessing healthcare**.



participants.

At the same time, health and non-health personnel face challenges, in terms of addressing the health and psychosocial needs of migrants and refugees in Europe. To respond to these challenges, the CARE project has organised **training seminars/workshops** from October to December 2016, in Italy, Croatia, Malta, Slovenia and Greece with a high number of



Finally, taking into account that the CARE project seeks to inform policy makers, **a state of the art report** has been produced, concerning the public health aspects of migrants/refugees in Greece, Italy and Slovenia. Additionally, a **repository/database** of the civil society organisations present in Greece, Italy and Slovenia has been developed, indicating also the location of their deployment. The overall goal is to be able to identify and group good/best practices (i.e. effective and sustainable synergies between public bodies and civil society organizations) in Greece and Italy, which will be presented in a report.

In terms of the project's visibility, several representatives of organizations, part of the CARE consortium, **have attended external meetings and conferences, presenting the CARE project, its objectives and its achievements so far** (i.e. International congress on "Health and Health Care 2015 – 2030", International ESCAIDE Conference).

Overall, the one year CARE project reaches the final months of its implementation and the substantive work is still continuing.

## Thematic Session: We CARE on awareness raising and health literacy

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### Awareness raising to general public

Socio-cultural issues and most importantly **stereotypes and misconceptions of the general public concerning migrants'/refugees' health** needed to be addressed, in order to clarify and inform



### the general public on true and false facts.

Towards this direction, different approaches were compared between and within participating to the CARE project countries in order to produce a targeted and effective information and awareness raising material, reaching all involved audiences. The material has **three formats** and includes key and tested dissemination messages, shaped into three demystifying myth poles, which concern infectious diseases and their potential transmission.

“Do migrants bring infectious diseases in a country? Can migrants transmit infectious diseases, forgotten in Europe?”

To find out the answers: download the [poster](#), the [postcards](#) and the [pocket calendars](#).

### Migrants' / Refugees' Health Literacy



The right to healthcare is enshrined in several human rights instruments, but migrants/refugees, frequently in vulnerable position during their journey, find themselves not necessarily aware of their rights. The CARE project, studied the most effective practices for increasing health literacy of migrants, in order to prepare appropriate and easy to use material.

This **developed material has a common content across 5 EU member states**, varying only where the health systems of the participating countries vary. There are five different versions, one for each participating in the CARE project country – Italy, Malta, Greece, Croatia and Slovenia, **all produced in national languages and in English**. The material comes in the format of a leaflet and particularly for Croatia and Slovenia comes also in the format of a booklet, which provides more details for the migrants'/refugees' access to healthcare services. At this point, the health literacy informative material, is being translated in migrants' / refugees' languages (i.e. Arabic) and will be then widely disseminated into the migrants'/ refugees' centres and in relevant health access points.

If you want to download the leaflet produced, click the hyperlinks below:

- For Croatia, in [English](#) and in [Croatian](#).
- For Greece, in [English](#) and in [Greek](#).
- For Italy, in [English](#) and in [Italian](#).
- For Slovenia, in [English](#) and in [Slovenian](#).
- For Malta, in [English](#).

If you want to download the booklet produced, click:



- For Croatia, in [English](#) and in [Croatian](#).
- For Slovenia, in [English](#) and in [Slovenian](#).

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## Latest News & Events

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### ESCAIDE conference, November 2016

On November 29th 2016, the International ESCAIDE (European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology) conference took place in Stockholm, Sweden. ESCAIDE is the leading conference in Europe on infectious disease epidemiology.

[Learn more](#)

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### Training seminar in Athens – Greece, December 2016

The last training in the framework of WP7 in Greece, was carried out in Athens, on the 12th and the 13th of December 2016 at the National School of Public Health. The target group included mainly health professionals and law enforcement officers.

[Learn more](#)

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### Training seminar in Catania – Italy, November 2016

A training seminar under the title “Health and Migration: the transcultural approach” was held in Catania (Italy), on the 23rd and 24th of November 2016, within the framework of the WP7 of the European project “CARE – Common Approach for Refugees and other migrant’s health”. The training seminar was hosted and supported by the Cannizzaro Hospital.

[Learn more](#)

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## Training in Croatia, November 2016

As part of the CARE project and in particular Work Package 7 (Cross-cutting activities), the Croatian National Institute of Public Health organized in November three training seminars/workshops under the title "Health and Health Care of Migrants".

[Learn more](#)



## Training in Slovenia, November 2016

During November 2016, training sessions, which are part of WP7's objective to empower health and non-health professionals, were in full swing across most of the CARE partners' countries – including Slovenia.

[Learn more](#)

For more information visit the project website [careformigrants.eu](http://careformigrants.eu)



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