



Tuberculosis Symposium – Eastern Europe and Central Asia

# Migration and its impact on health

WHO/Europe project 'Public Health Aspects of Migration  
in Europe' (PHAME)

Yerevan February 2015



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**Europe**



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**Европейское** региональное бюро

**Ms Sara Barragán Montes**

Consultant Public Health and Migration

Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being

WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development

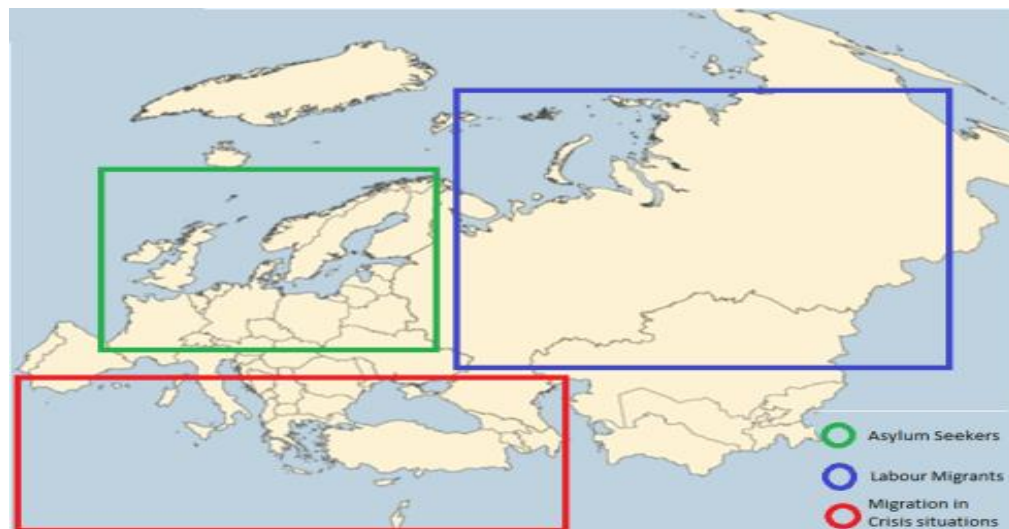
Venice, Italy

[sbm@ihd.euro.who.int](mailto:sbm@ihd.euro.who.int)



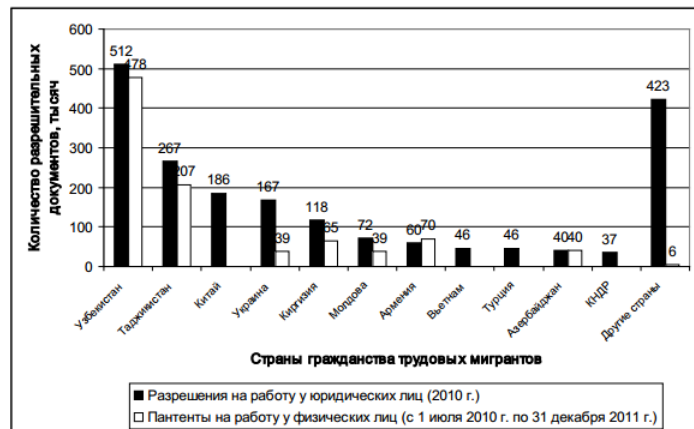
- Why is **migration** a relevant **public health** matter?
  - How can **public health** improve the well-being of **migrants** and **resident communities**?
1. Migration and health in the WHO European Region – setting the scene.
  2. Major challenges.
  3. WHO/Europe work on migrants' health.

- 214 mil. international migrants worldwide + **740 mil.** internal migrants (UNPD data).
- European Region undergoing important **demographic and epidemiological changes.**
- 53 Member States, 886 million people.
- 77 million are migrants = 8% of the WHO European Region's total population are migrants.



## Migration acts as a social determinant of migrants' health

Fig. 4.2 Number of permits issued to foreigners for the right to work in Russia in 2010-2011 by country of citizenship, thousands<sup>89</sup>



Translation of the legend:  
 Number of permits, thousands  
 Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Armenia, Vietnam, Turkey, Azerbaijan, DPRK, Other countries  
 Migrant workers' countries of citizenship  
 Permits to work for legal persons (2010)  
 Patents to work for physical persons (1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011)

Source: Regional Migration Report, Russian and Central Asia. European University Institute

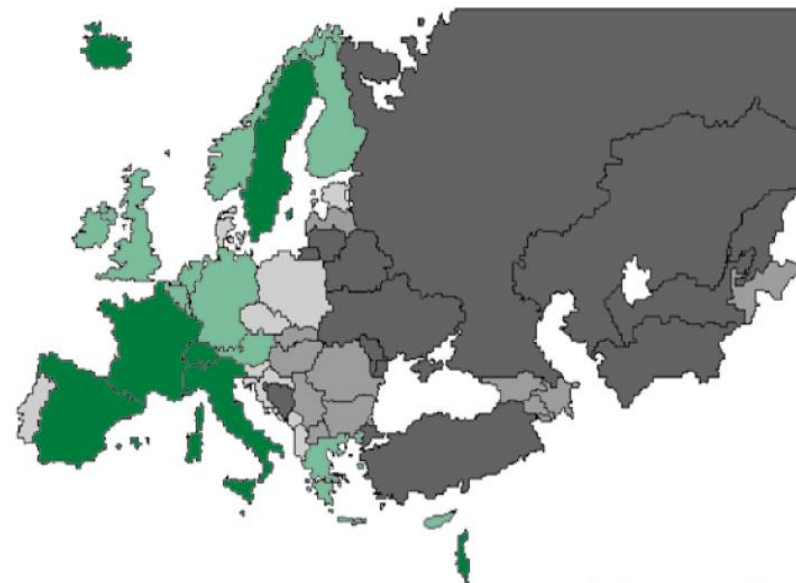
Fig. ES.1

Life expectancy in countries in the European Region, 2010 (or latest available)

Life expectancy – quintiles:

- Highest
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- Lowest

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe (3).



Source: WHO European Review of Social Determinants and the Health Divide

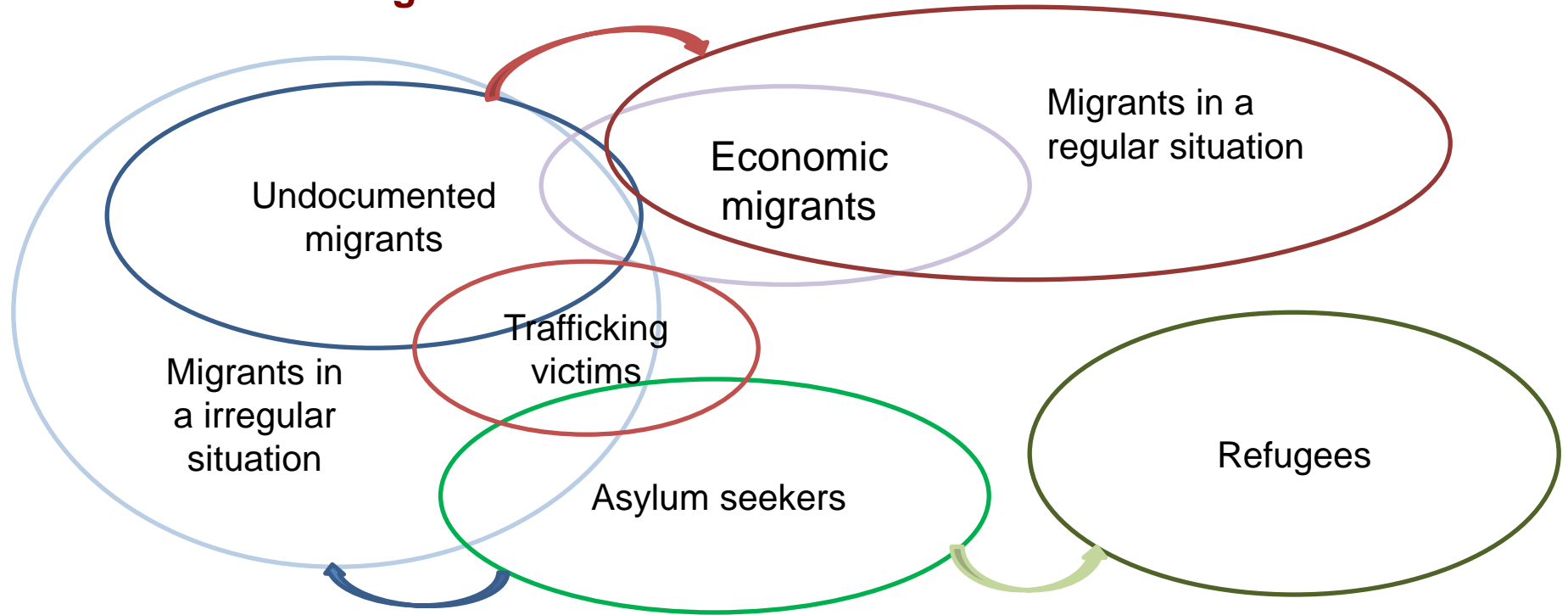
## Migration-related health issues:

- Public health implications of the migration process for migrants and resident community (exposure to hazards).
- Changing health profiles (CDs & NCDs).
- Challenging the health system capacity:
  - Overcoming health-system access barriers (cultural, social and linguistic).
  - Economic impact.
  - Public health data collection.
- Health as a key determinant for migrants' integration and economic, social, political contribution to societies.

## Inequities in health system access:

- Health systems have to be responsive to their respective populations.
- World's population is becoming increasingly diverse: health systems need to find ways to adapt to this diversity.
- Different health needs require different health services (migrant-friendly health services).

## Definition of the migrant



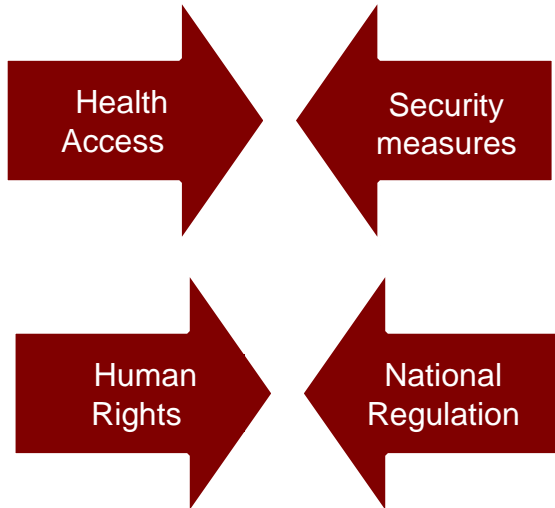
### Health and migration: a multisectoral agenda



- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education

**Synergy between sectors is needed to foster joint actions that improve migrants' health and wellbeing.**

**Health** is influenced by many **policies** run by institutions **out of the health sector** that **do not always take into account the health impact of their actions.**



**Synergy between sectors** is needed to foster joint actions that improve migrants' health and wellbeing.

There is an increasing attention to immigration issues but the **dominant emphasis** is still on **restriction, control** and **expulsion.**



# From an emergency focus to a comprehensive and systematic approach



## Migration and health: increasing political and technical attention

**2008:** WHA adopts the Resolution WHA61.17 on the Health of Migrants:

- Migrant-sensitive health policies;
- Equitable access to services;
- Information systems to assess migrant health;
- Sharing information on best practices;
- Raising cultural and gender sensitivity and specific training of health service providers; and professionals;
- Bi/multilateral cooperation among countries; and
- Reducing the global deficit of health professional.

**2010:** 'Global Consultation on Migrants' Health', Madrid, Spain.

**2011:** High-level Ministerial meeting in Rome, Italy. Start of the project 'Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe' (PHAME), operating under the Health 2020 umbrella.



## Technical support to Member States

- Developing and piloting the **Toolkit for assessing health system capacity to manage large influxes of migrants**.
- Conducted **joint technical assessments with MoH** in Italy, Portugal, Malta, Spain, Greece and Cyprus; upcoming in Bulgaria and Turkey.
- Assessment reports: Looking at **best practices** and **potential gaps** for future collaboration, strengthening **know-how transfer** throughout the region:
  - Scenario, stakeholders involved.
  - Health risk assessment.
  - Chain of command, communication flows.
- Outcome examples: **Regional Health Contingency Plan to manage large influxes of migrants in Sicily, Italy**.



## Creating evidence on migrants' health

- Producing HEN reports on asylum seekers, undocumented and labour migrants.

## Advocating for migration and public health

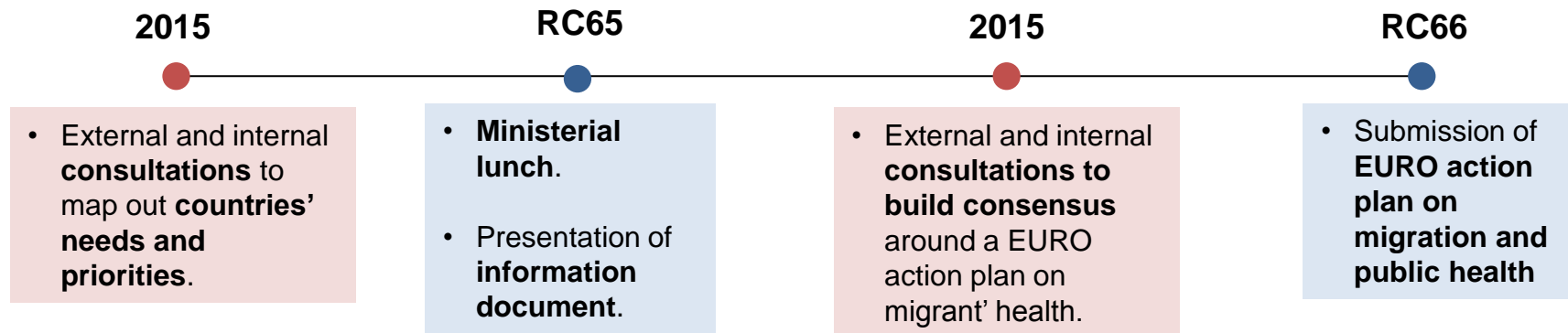
- Quarterly newsletter on public health and migration.
- Multisectoral brief on health and migration.

The screenshot shows the WHO Europe website interface. At the top, there is the WHO logo and 'World Health Organization REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe'. A search bar and language options (English, Français, Deutsch, Πύξιν) are visible. A navigation menu includes Home, Health topics, Countries, Publications, Data and evidence, Media centre, and About us. The main content area is titled 'Migration and health' and features a news article with a photo of people in a shelter. Below this, there are sections for 'Top story' (Irish Foreign Affairs Committee discussion), 'News' (intersectoral collaboration between Italian Ministries), and 'Publications' (Portugal assessing health-system capacity). A 'Newsletter' section at the bottom right mentions the PHAME project's quarterly newsletter.

## What's next?

**September 2014:** Technical briefing on Public Health and Migration at the WHO Regional Committee for Europe.

**December 2014:** Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe approves the following two-year process:



**Thank you for your attention**

**Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe**

Website:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/migration-and-health>