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Table of Contents

I. Migration and the right to health care

- **UNIT 1.** Migration in the EU: introduction and terminology
- **UNIT 2.** Global and European migration trends
- **UNIT 3.** Migration and the right to health
- **UNIT 4.** Antidiscrimination and ethics

II. Well-being: public/individual health

- UNIT 5. First aid
- **UNIT 6.** Basic concepts in communicable diseases and epidemic and pandemic alert and response
- **UNIT 7.** Occupational mental health
- **UNIT 8.** Vulnerability factors and groups

III. Intercultural Competence

- **UNIT 9.** Intercultural Competence: concepts and principles
- **UNIT 10.** Communication skills
- **UNIT 11.** Intercultural mediation

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Partners

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Associate partners

University of Pécs, Hungary Andalusian School of Public Health, Spain

Government partners

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Note: Romania is a member of the Steering Committee and participated in the preliminary situation analysis and Regional training, with the aim of sharing information with future Schengen zone countries.

Project summary

The enlargement of the Schengen zone brings new migration-related health challenges to the Member States on the eastern external frontier and highlights the pre-existing gap in migration and health policies in Europe. Health systems and border services need to be prepared to address public health concerns, health needs and rights of migrants as well as ensure staff's occupational health. The PHBLM Project, responding to these conditions, is managed by the Brussels office of the International Organization for Migration in cooperation with IOM offices in Bratislava, Budapest, Warsaw and Bucharest.

Launched in June 2007, the Project aims to minimise public health risks, build capacity for border management and public health staff, and facilitate appropriate healthcare to migrants as a fundamental human right. Based on this comprehensive assessment, the Project is developing a template for a migrant health database, a set of evidence-based guidelines for public health in border management and detention procedures and recommendation for structural changes to health/public health services in the targeted border sectors, multidisciplinary training materials for health professionals and border guard staff, as well as a regional workshop to test these elements as part of a comprehensive and adaptable public health and border management module.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. To minimise the public health risks posed by migration along the borders of an enlarged European Union;
- To analyse and document the current public health situation regarding border management in the EU countries forming the new eastern Schengen border;
- 3. To promote the human-rights based provision of appropriate and adequate healthcare to migrants and occupational health assistance to border officials through training, guidelines for public health in border management and detention procedures and recommendation for structural changes to health/public health services in the targeted border sectors;
- 4. To disseminate the results of the project and experience gained, in order to facilitate increased public health safety along the entire external borders of the enlarged EU.

Project Components

The project included four main components:

- 1. Situation Analysis: In order to understand the magnitude and nature of the current health/public health hazards in border management and detention, the Team developed the research methodology and cooperated with partner governments and IOM field missions of the participating countries to perform the assessment. IOM prepared the Situation Analysis Report based on the findings from the assessment.
- 2. Training course development and regional testing: The needs for training that are identified in the Situation Analysis were developed into materials for border officials and for health professionals. EASP led the development of the training materials, while UP piloted these during a regional workshop for participants from Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania.
- 3. Development of guidelines for public health in border management and detention procedures and recommendation for structural changes to health/public health services in the targeted border sectors: Guidelines for public health in border management and detention procedures were developed to address gaps in conditions and protocols that were identified by the Situation Analysis. EASP was responsible for the guidelines and recommendations for structural changes (including changes to hygiene construction regulations, detainment conditions, communication channels, and capacity of health/public health services in the border region).
- 4. Dissemination of results: The developed module and experience gained during the implementation of this IOM project were disseminated within the participating countries and at the European level.





