

Workshop

Undocumented Migrants in Europe and Their Access to COVID-19 Vaccination

7 October 2022,
Brühler Str. 7 (2nd floor), 53119 Bonn

The existing Corona pandemic is a challenge on several levels, not only for the European states, but for each and every one of its citizens. For example, most states provide both Corona tests and vaccines free of charge to their populations in order to contain the pandemic. Many citizens, however, who have easy access to these measures, refuse them, believing, for example, in a global pharmaceutical industry conspiracy. Undocumented migrants, on the other hand, are partially or completely excluded from these measures for various reasons. While it is not clear how many undocumented migrants live in Europe, it should also be in the interest of states to let them participate in the protective measures to fight the pandemic more efficiently. However, besides a potential mistrust of these measures, the fear of deportation seems to prevail in the case of undocumented migrants. Thus, to date, an unknown number of them have not received COVID-19 vaccination, although they would like to have it.

Since March 2022, a pilot study at the University of Bonn has been investigating the situation of undocumented Bangladeshis in Germany during the Corona pandemic and in particular their attitudes towards and access to the COVID-19 vaccination. The first results of this study will be discussed in this workshop with researchers from different European countries as well as with representatives of civil society working on this issue. In addition to an academic discourse on the access of undocumented migrants to the health care system in European countries and the related legal as well as intercultural challenges, another goal is to develop guidelines for policy makers to better integrate undocumented migrants into pandemic protection measures. Thus, the workshop will focus on the following questions: To what extent does access to COVID-19 vaccination for undocumented migrants differ across European states? Are there governmental and non-governmental projects that specifically try to let undocumented migrants participate in Corona protection measures? Do origin and cultural/religious background pose a particular challenge to participation in these measures? To what extent does digitalisation represent an opportunity or a barrier? Which individual strategies have proven successful in reducing mistrust towards state and non-state institutions which provide COVID-19 vaccination?

If you would like to participate in this workshop, please send your binding registration to Carmen Brandt (cbrandt@uni-bonn.de) by 30 September 2022.

Programme

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9:30–9:45	“Welcome by the organiser” Carmen Brandt (University of Bonn, Germany)
9:45–10:30	“The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Syrian Refugees in Turkey” Seval Akgün (Başkent University School of Medicine, Turkey & University of North Carolina-Pembroke, USA)
10:30–10:45	Coffee Break
10:45–11:30	“Undocumented Migrants in Hungary and Their Access to COVID-19 Vaccination” Bernadett Varga (Health Policy Consultant)
11:30–12:15	“Access to Vaccine: A Case of Undocumented Migrants in Belgium” Krishna Kumar Saha (Comilla University, Bangladesh & Gent University, Belgium)
12:15–13:15	Lunch Break
13:15–14:00	“Including Undocumented Migrants into Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination: The Case of Austria and Vienna” Sonja Novak-Zezula (Center for Health and Migration, Austria)
14:00–14:45	“The Impact of the COVID Pandemic on Undocumented Bangladeshi Migrants in Germany” Eshita Binte Shirin Nazrul (University of Bonn, Germany)
14:45–15:00	Coffee Break
15:00–15:45	“Italy’s Health Policies Towards the Migrant Population During the Pandemic: One More Piece to Increase Inequalities and the Citizenship Gap” Stefania Spada (University of Bologna, Italy)
15:45–16:30	Final Discussion