

## Health System Responses to Migration:

From crisis mode to diversity-sensitive inclusive systems

European Public Health Conference, Berlin | 09.11.2022

Organised by

**Section for Health Equity Studies & Migration** (Heidelberg University Hospital) and  
**Dept. for Population Medicine & Health Services Research** (Bielefeld University)

*in cooperation with EUPHA Migrant Health Section and Lancet Migration European Hub*

### Abstract

Many health systems in Europe are poorly prepared to respond to the health needs of migrant populations, including labour migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, undocumented migrants, or mixed-migration flows. In a globalizing world, characterized by uncertainties, international mobility has become the rule rather than the exception. Patterns of migration in the last decades have ranged from continuous flows to large-scale displacements, caused by multifactorial and syndemic causes, such as war, financial crises, natural disasters and climate change. Despite these global and transformative forces, health systems are stuck in national silos, and have not kept pace with the increasing human mobility in terms of normative, structural, or systemic perspectives.

Agnostic tactics, political ignorance, and overt racism have contributed to exclusionary and securitized health policies, and to societal responses which treat migration as a nuisance, a threat, or a transient. As such, health system responses to migration are often haphazard, fragmented, normatively loaded, and based on exceptionalism. In order to strengthen health systems and be prepared for 'a world on the move', a radical shift is required from *ad hoc* and crisis responses to diversity-sensitive inclusive health systems.

The workshop brings together experts from across Europe to take stock based on experiences from the summer of migration 2015, the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently the war in Ukraine to discuss the role of data, governance, and policy in facilitating such a shift. The event further aims to bring together researchers, civil society, policy makers, and migrant advocacy groups to foster sustainable networks that collaborate across European countries towards diversity-sensitive inclusive health systems. To this end, we aim to produce policy-oriented outputs with all participants, summarising conclusions from each panel including calls for action.

The event is (co-)funded by the German Ministry for Education and Research in the scope of the project RESPOND ([www.respond-study.org](http://www.respond-study.org)).

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## Programme

<b>09.00 – 09.05</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <i>Kayvan Bozorgmehr (Bielefeld University / Heidelberg University Hospital)</i></p>
<b>09.05 – 09.15</b>	<p><b>Keynote:</b> <b>The World Health Report on Migration: looking back moving forward</b> <i>Bernadette Kumar (University of Oslo / EUPHA Migrant Health Section)</i></p>
<b>09.15 – 10.30</b>	<p><b>Session I - Health information systems and migrant health data: strategies to overcome blind spots</b></p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> <i>Dominik Zenner (Queen Mary University) and Claudia Hövener (Robert Koch-Institute)</i></p> <p>Migrant health data in the WHO European Region – <i>Louise Biddle (Bielefeld University / Heidelberg University Hospital)</i></p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic: Data gaps and policy consequences – <i>Kolitha Wickramage (IOM Migrant Health Division)</i></p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic: Data initiatives and lessons learnt – <i>Charles Agyemang (Amsterdam University / EUPHA Migrant Health Section)</i></p> <p><u>Plenary discussion:</u> Moderated panel discussion with all speakers and input from the audience / Closing Remarks from Young Professionals of the Lancet Migration Regional Hub Europe</p>
<b>10.30 – 11.00</b>	<p>Coffee Break / Networking</p>

<p><b>11.00 – 12.30</b></p>	<p><b>Session II – Health system resilience and migration: understanding decision-making under uncertainties</b> (<i>Rapid Communications</i>)</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> <i>Karl Blanchet (Geneva University / Lancet Migration EUR)</i> <i>and Kayvan Bozorgmehr (Bielefeld University / Lancet Migration EUR)</i></p> <p>From the 2015-migration crisis to COVID-19 pandemic in Germany: qualitative evidence on lessons (not) learnt – <i>Rosa Jahn (Heidelberg University Hospital)</i></p> <p>Intersectoral action during the COVID-19 pandemic: network analysis of the role of public health services in Germany – <i>Andreas Gold (Heidelberg University Hospital / Bielefeld University)</i></p> <p>Othering and Health System Resilience – <i>Sandra Ziegler (Heidelberg University Hospital)</i></p> <p>Climate change, resilience, and migration – <i>Patricia Schwerdtle (Heidelberg University)</i></p> <p><u>Plenary discussion:</u> Moderated panel discussion with all speakers and input from the audience / Closing Remarks from Young Professionals of the Lancet Migration Regional Hub Europe</p>
<p><b>12.30 – 13.30</b></p>	<p>Lunch (funded)</p>
<p><b>13.30 – 15.00</b></p>	<p><b>Session III – Border Policies, Conflicts and Health (Care) of Displaced Populations</b></p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> <i>Reem Mussa (MSF / Lancet Migration EUR)</i> <i>and Johanna Offe (Médecins du Monde)</i></p> <p>Mental health of internally displaced populations in Ukraine – <i>Bayard Roberts (London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine)</i></p> <p>Infectious diseases in mobile populations and access to health and vaccination systems – <i>Sally Hargreaves (St. George’s University / Lancet Migration EUR)</i></p> <p>Displacement and encampment: overlooked, forgotten, and neglected crises – <i>Apostolos Veizis (INTERSOS)</i></p> <p><u>Plenary discussion:</u> Moderated panel discussion with all speakers and input from the audience / Closing Remarks from Young Professionals of the Lancet Migration Regional Hub Europe</p>

15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break / Networking
15.30 – 16.45	<p><b>Session IV: Diversity-sensitive and inclusive health systems: what role for economic arguments?</b></p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> <i>Ursula Trummer (Center for Health and Migration, Vienna) and Allan Krasnik (MESU Copenhagen)</i></p> <p>The economic argument – helpful or harmful? – <i>Nora Gottlieb (Bielefeld University)</i></p> <p>What we can learn from natural experiment studies in migrant health – <i>Maren Hintermeier (Heidelberg University Hospital / Bielefeld University)</i></p> <p>Looking back moving forward: Research Agenda on Economic Arguments &amp; challenges and opportunities for international action and collaboration – <i>Nadav Davidovitch (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)</i></p> <p><u>Plenary discussion:</u> Moderated panel discussion with all speakers and input from the audience / Closing Remarks from Young Professionals of the Lancet Migration Regional Hub Europe</p>
16.45 – 17.00	<p><b>Summing up and closing</b> <i>Bernadette Kumar (University of Oslo / EUPHA Migrant Health Section) and Kayvan Bozorgmehr (Bielefeld University / University Hospital Heidelberg)</i></p>