

## ***Outcomes of the Mutual Learning workshop to maximize opportunities***

# **Migration: turning challenges into opportunities**

Promoted by European Commission funded projects [DANDELION](#) and [InterHealth](#), in collaboration with [The Node for Opportunities, Development, Environment](#) and [OIS – Osservatorio Internazionale per la Salute](#) and under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the workshop took place 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 in Rome, hosted by the European Commission Representation in Italy at Spazio Europa.

The purpose of the event was to share ideas, experiences and solutions stimulating the discussion and mutual learn. 30 speakers, including researchers, practitioners, policy makers, NGOs, media, third countries nationals and business representatives, shared their insights, engaging the participants in a stimulating and productive debate aiming to provide recommendations for policy initiatives and best practices at both European and national level.

The morning session focused on the social challenges related to migration. International experts presented examples where *challenges* have been transformed into *opportunities* and the *role of media and social media* in framing the narrative on migration was discussed to understand the elements influencing public perception.

During the afternoon session national and international best practices for health care professionals training in a multicultural context were presented, while an open discussion on the actual and future challenges of Intercultural Healthcare followed. The objective was to exchange ideas on how to better train healthcare professionals to address these challenges.

The programme of the day with the links to speakers' presentations is available [here](#)



DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)



Erasmus+



InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



osservatorio  
internazionale  
per la salute  
onlus

## Morning session “Migration and societal challenges”

Organised by the [DANDELION](#) project in collaboration with [the Node for Opportunities, Development, Environment](#)

### Panel 1 - “Migration: Challenges and Opportunities”

Chair and rapporteur: Tomas Matraia – The Node for Opportunities, Development, Environment

### Panel 2 - “Public perception of migration in Europe: Media and social media narrative of migration”

Chair and rapporteur: Susanna Albertini – DANDELION Project

## Challenges

- The European Commission, national governments and local authorities have different long-term vision on migration and on how to manage its economic, social, and cultural impact.
- Migration is mainly dealt with as “constant emergency” rather than an issue to be systemically addressed within the EU, national and local agendas, policies and activities via regular cooperation mechanisms.
- There is a conceptual – and consecutively operational - mismatch between the need to consider migration as a multidisciplinary, interconnected and complex phenomenon and the actual “Silo Mentality” and modality used to deal with it: this impacts on the adequacy and effectiveness of how migration and its related policies and actions are conceived, designed and implemented.
- EU incentives and support to help moving from “migration as an emergency” to “regular theme of cooperation” are weak, not coordinated and inadequate to reach a critical mass for scaling up at regional/EU level.
- Overall coordination, cooperation and communication mechanism among EU institutions, national governments, local authorities and are not structured at systematic level.
- Synergies and complementarities with International organizations, business sector, NGOs and other relevant actors are affected by a lack of integrated, inclusive and representative policy-making process.



DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)



**Erasmus+**



InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



osservatorio  
internazionale  
per la salute  
onlus

- Existing national, European and international programmes/cooperation schemes (providing resources and knowledge applicable also for migration related issues) are geared towards third countries and do not always allow the use of valuable resources within EU countries.
- Fear and hate are more and more becoming the dominant sentiments among the citizens when migrants are concerned and these feelings are often magnified and conditioned by media and social media narratives, in many cases, based on wrong or incomplete data/information.
- The widespread public frustration for the economic crisis, fear of crime, terrorism and hate for diversity influences attitudes, behaviors and social stability.
- Negative and stereotyped narratives on migration (i.e. the ‘impact’ of migrants on the country’s unity, identity, stability and growth) have characterized to a large extent the recent elections in Europe and seem here to stay.
- The European Union response to the challenges migration poses was perceived by the citizens as inadequate and ineffective: This fuels negative stereotypes and distorted narrative, suggesting migration is at the origin of all socio-economic and cultural problems governments are not able to solve.
- Negative public perception, its impact on the policy-makers, the lack of evidence-based narrative and adequate and effective solutions to manage migration’s challenges represents a vicious circle, self-fuelled and self-perpetuating.
- While brain circulation and mobility within Europe are supported by EU policies as a positive opportunity to mutual learn and increase experience (e.g. by studying and working in other countries), the “forced” migration of youth (e.g. from Greece and Italy to UK due to economical crisis) portrays negatively intra-EU migration, thus reinforcing an anti-EU sentiment (“losing the best youth” and “foreigners taking our jobs”).
- Different cultures have diverse concept of time, views on life and health issues: Integration and social inclusion are complex, long-term processes and have not been adequately addressed by the current approaches that focus mainly on the “emergency” response/short-term dimension.



DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)



Erasmus+



InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



osservatorio  
internazionale  
per la salute  
onlus

- Third country nationals are seen as threat to hosting communities and societies and this attitude impedes the regular process of engaging in an open, constructive and unbiased social debate to define together how to coexist peacefully and respectfully.
- This lack of a regular process affects not only third country nationals but also the hosting communities: they are not able to relate in a normal and open way to third nationals and introduce them to the culture, history, languages and habits and customs of the hosting countries.

Based on these challenges, **to turn the migration challenges into an opportunity for social, economical and inclusive sustainable growth**, the following **recommendations** should be taken into considerations:

### Key policy recommendations:

#### 1. Strategies

- The European Union in cooperation with local and national authorities, NGOs, CSOs and other key-stakeholders should identify, support, test and replicate - in a coordinated fashion - programs/projects to promote openness, dialogue, contribution, exchange and participation to social life, debates, and inclusion - connecting the migrants with the hosting communities. This will facilitate an open civil dialogue and learning process on both sides, conducive to a mutually respectful and tolerant approach and dynamics for peaceful coexistence.
- Adopt a holistic, integrated and interconnected approach to migration, promoting global sustainable development – in line with the migration global compact - with inclusive and representative participation, coordination and communication processes.
- Bridge the emergency response dimension (food, shelter, health) with the development and cooperation support, structuring it systematically within agendas, policies and activities via regular cooperation mechanisms.
- Design (or revise) and implement new EU integrated policies, coordinated incentives and flexible financial support to advance the capacities needed in managing migration and focus on the opportunities it carries.



DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)



Erasmus+



InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



osservatorio  
internazionale  
per la salute  
onlus

- Promote a Europe open to multiculturalism, where identities and different cultures can peacefully coexist, cross-fertilize each others in a mutually respectful and prosperous way.

## 2. Multistakeholder engagement

- Provide support and incentives to multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholders initiatives, platforms and projects fostering holistic and integrated approach to migration and its opportunities via focusing on solutions and positive narrative.
- Develop EU-coordinated pilot initiatives to build capacities, provide actionable knowledge, share expertise, trainings and solutions to local and national authorities in need of support.
- Create a multidisciplinary task-force of experts and trainers able to be swiftly activated and deployed to offer strategic advisory, capacity building and technical assistance to key stakeholders for inclusive, participative and representative policy-making, in a coordinated, integrated and replicable way.
- Creative and engaging ways to promote openness, dialogue, contribution, exchange and participation to social life, debates, and inclusion should be found to connect the migrants with the hosting communities to allow for civil dialogue and learning process on both sides.
- Encourage ways to increase third countries nationals participation in society, being active part of it.
- Support co-creation and co-ownership of solutions involving migrants and local communities (including citizens).
- Support public-private actors able to foster voluntary multi-level partnerships, international cooperation, awareness raising, policy-making network of experts and key stakeholders boosting migration-related opportunities.
- Foster coordination and support with already existing key initiatives in the domain of big-data and innovative solutions for migration (such as the EC – IOM led “Big Data Alliance for Migration) , able to provide knowledge and valuable support for harnessing migration social and economic impact, evidence-based policy-making and unbiased narrative production.



DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)



**Erasmus+**



InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



osservatorio  
internazionale  
per la salute  
onlus

- Foster potential synergies and complementarities in raising awareness, engagement and outreach - between EC projects and open initiatives - aimed at turning migration challenges into opportunities (e.g. cooperation of DANDELION with InterHealth, OIS and the Node in promoting “A new vision for migration: Turning “costs” into opportunities”).

### 3. Communication

- Promote awareness and understanding of diversity:
  - > Stimulating curiosity towards different cultures
  - > Giving a voice to migrants (narratives by the 3<sup>rd</sup> countries nationals themselves are important)
  - > Using innovative ways to promote reciprocal knowledge
- Promote a positive narrative of migration, based real-life case studies (examples) and scientific data through public debates and conferences, media and social media to reach the general public and positively influence the public perception.
- Showcase the social and economical benefits and advantages of migration, providing data to promote evidence-based perception (and policies). Migrants should be also seen as resources (not only benefiting, but also providing / offering to the receiving society). This could be done:
  - > Increasing evidence-based awareness raising activities
  - > Promoting capacity building and training actions
- Use innovative tools and actions to address the different target audiences, (i.e. games like [GueSSH](#)<sup>1</sup>, produced in the context of the DANDELION project)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dandelion-europe.eu/en/servicesaction/social-media-games/social-games.html>

## Afternoon session - “Health and Migration: National and International Best Practices for Intercultural Health Care”

Organised by the [InterHealth](#) project in collaboration with [OIS – Osservatorio internazionale per la salute](#).

### Panel 3 - “Health and Migration: National and International Best Practices for Health Care Training”

Chair and rapporteur: Francesco Aureli – Osservatorio Italiano per la Salute

**Challenge 1:** Migration is challenging the actual healthcare system. In parallel with the response to emergencies (landing of refugees), there is the need to build a political and legal framework to address the intercultural issues in the European healthcare systems.

#### Key policy recommendations:

- Approach health in a holistic manner, make sure to include also social and mental health.
- Understand, analyze and promote best practices of health promotion for migrants.
- Enhance data collection and sharing and evidence-based recommendations.
- Reinforce the collaboration with policy makers, the organizations working in the field (NGOs).
- Improve the knowledge and understanding of needs, especially in a intercultural competent way.
- Engage migrants and third countries communities in the debate and the design of participative innovative solutions.
- Explore unconventional ways to deliver tailored healthcare services (mobile vans clinics, assess the most vulnerable people in marginalized areas).

**Challenge 2:** There is a lack of professional competences and skills in intercultural healthcare (source: OIS – Osservatorio Internazionale per la Salute [survey 2018](#), InterHealth [research 2017](#)) preventing the implementation of equal and inclusive medical assistance.

**Key policy recommendations:**

- Support awareness and training of intercultural competences for healthcare professionals. (78% of the doctors believe that they need specific skills 75% have never received specific training and would consider it useful to take courses to increase their capacity to provide assistance to migrants – source OIS [survey 2018](#))
- The interventions should incorporate the awareness of the patient’s culture, that sometimes is totally incomprehensible for western countries (i.e. the FGM experience of AMREF)
- It is essential that the public sector maintain a central role in the definition of the policy and operational paths to be followed by all operators of health sector, among which a great cooperation shall be ensured.

 DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)

 **Erasmus+**

 InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



**CREDITS:**

Contributors (speakers of the workshop):

Ejaz Ahmad - Journalist and Intercultural mediator  
Susanna Albertini - FVA new media research  
Francesco Aureli - OIS Osservatorio Internazionale per la Salute  
Andrea Carapellese - UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
Emanuela Chiang - VIS Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo  
Iakovos Delioglani - Q-PLAN International  
Michela Diodato - OIS Osservatorio Internazionale per la Salute  
Patrick Doelle - European Commission - Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs  
Valentina Fabbri - Programma Integra  
Louis Ferrini - FVA new media research  
Elena Imberti - IOM International Organization for Migration  
Kristjan Kaldur – Migrascope  
Glenn Laverack - University of Southern Denmark  
Paola Magni - AMREF  
Tomas Matraia - The Node for Opportunities, Development and Environment  
Marianna Occhiuto - Oasi Sociale, Cooperativa Kairos, Casa Scalabrini 634  
Mariarita Peca - MEDU MEDici per i Diritti Umani  
Ilias Rafail - IASIS  
Antonio Ricci - IDOS Study and Research Centre  
Alessandra Sannella - University of Cassino  
Sabika Shah Povia - Carta di Roma  
Marcella Schiavone - Doctors with Africa – CUAMM  
Marco Simonelli - OIS Osservatorio Internazionale per la Salute  
Thomas Siomos - Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Media and Mass Communication  
Mehret Tewolde Weldemicael - Voci di confine  
Maria Elena Tosti - ISS Italian National Institute of Health  
Frédéric Vallier - CEMR Council of European Municipalities and Regions

See the speakers' bio [here](#)

 DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)

 **Erasmus+**

 InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



**Under the auspices**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International  
Cooperation



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

**In the context of the projects**



**DANDELION** [www.dandelion-europe.eu](http://www.dandelion-europe.eu)



DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)



**InterHealth**  
Intercultural Competences  
for Healthcare Professionals  
[www.interhealth.eu](http://www.interhealth.eu)



**Erasmus+**  
InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)



**In collaboration with**

THE NODE for Opportunities, Development, Environment  
OIS - Osservatorio internazionale per la salute



**Participating organizations**



**Organized by**

FVA New Media Research - [www.fvaweb.eu](http://www.fvaweb.eu)  
contact: Susanna Albertini  
[albertini@fvaweb.it](mailto:albertini@fvaweb.it) +39066536958 +393406810652




DANDELION project receives funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 693796)



**Erasmus+**



InterHealth Project receives funding from IKY the National Agency in Greece for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Program areas. (Project No. 2016-1-EL01-KA202-023538)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

