

Report from the rapporteurs (Papakonstantinou Sotiris, Samartzi Christina) of Workshop 5 entitled:  
“Human resource capacity and training”

Prof Szilard from the University of Pecs underlined that during the last 20 years there is a growing need for development of migration health professionals. This need has been mentioned in high level meetings as well as in documents and action plans adopted by Member States, but it has not yet been implemented. The University of Pecs has developed several programs in the fields of humanitarian assistance, travel medicine, migration health and occupational health aspects of migration including ethnic minorities. During the last years, a course on migration health has been developed and this is the outcome of the collaboration among 6 Universities through the CHANCE consortium.

Moreover, Dr Burgos from the Wageningen University and Research spoke about the importance of evidence – based cultural competence interventions for healthcare professionals. She described the barriers at various levels including language, medical communication, bias and prejudices.

She emphasized on the need of creating a patient – centered healthcare system through the promotion of empathy and trainings about cultural awareness. She also highlighted the importance of evidence – based cultural competency interventions, including the measurement of cultural competences of health professionals.

Dr Suurmond spoke about the principles and structures of trainings in diversity responsive research. She described the barriers of language and effective communication as well as of research such as in the fields of recruitment, informed consent, data collection, analysis and reporting. She highlighted the need for knowledge and skills of qualitative and quantitative research and trainings for the implementation of preventive policies and healthcare services. Trainings, toolkits and novel tools should be developed and we need to seek inter sectoral partnerships and act as agents of change.

During the discussions, we emphasized on the importance of teamwork in the context of the provision of services to migrants and the inclusion of cultural competency courses in the education of professionals at all levels.