

The aim for and possible realization of Migrant Health Data Task-Force in rural regions

Prof. Dr. Istvan Szilard – Csaba Jaksa - Dr. Zoltan Katz

University of Pécs Medical School, WHO Collaborating Centre on Migration Health
Training and Research

Background

Experts of the high level Consensus Conference (CC, Pécs, 7-8 October 2019) agreed that there is a need for greater harmonisation and international cooperation on migrant health information systems. In order to facilitate the realization of this goal the formation of a multi-stakeholder scientific task force (TF) was proposed. At the moment its focus field is Europe, but until now the shortage of relevant data on the health of migrants living/ working in rural regions has not been emphasised

Objectives

The CC TF is an informal, voluntary scientific body, aiming to assist and facilitate the realization of the Statement of the Conference.

Specifically:

- Calling the attention about the need
 - for reliable, migrants/migration related health, public health and occupational health data;
 - for the harmonisation of the related health information systems;
 - for the establishment of international cooperation;
- Facilitate the
 - design and work out unified definitions and technical guidance on taxonomy and methodologies of data collection;
 - facilitate and assist both individual researchers' and teams' endowers for the international harmonisation of target group variables and indicators in order to ensure comparability of data;
- Encourage and facilitate researches on until now neglected fields of migrant health data collection like rural regions;

Results until now

The WHO Collaborating Centre at University of Pécs Medical School (UPMS) has offered to coordinate this initiative, worked out the Terms of Reference (ToR) of this new body and asked the leading international organizations and individual experts to participate in the work of this innovative endower. WHO, IOM, ECDC and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights has appointed delegates and beside them twelve experts joint to the initiative. Now we do hope that the International Association of Rural Health and Medicine will agree with the initiative and with its scientific expertise will join to this initiative.

On 11 February an internet based conference was organized where with consensus Prof. Dr. Kayvan Bozorgmehr was elected for president. UPMS runs its secretariat under the coordination of Dr. Zoltan Katz.