

EU-VET CARE project has completed its activities and makes its achievements available to all health care professionals working with migrant and refugee children

The central aim of the EU-VET CARE project funded by the ERASMUS+ Programme of the European Union was to develop an innovative training for health care professionals (physicians, social workers, psychologists, cultural mediators) for delivering appropriate health services to migrant and refugee children, including unaccompanied minors. Six partner organizations from Germany, Spain, Greece, Italy and Cyprus (<https://www.euvetcare.eu/partnership>), reflecting different conditions and integration stages migrant/refugee children face, worked for 3 years (1/9/2018-31/8/2021) towards achieving the project objectives and establishing cooperation across Southern and Northern Europe.

The concrete results of the project were diverse and plentiful.

- A conceptual framework for training health care professionals working with migrant/refugee children including unaccompanied minors. This was achieved through a report based on a thorough review and participatory research (including focus groups) and specifying the training and knowledge gaps and presenting perspectives of professionals about their needs when working with migrant/refugee children.
- A comprehensive guide for the development of the project's training curriculum.
- An interdisciplinary training package whose core courses are common for the different types of professionals working in children health care provision. The training includes modules such as burnout/stress prevention and management for professionals, interdisciplinary health care provision, legal rights of child migrants/refugees (especially rights to access health care in EU states), communication issues and cultural competence in care.
- A specialized training package whose courses provide specialized skills and more in-depth knowledge addressed to each specific professional target group: e.g., symptoms and stress signs to alert on specific vulnerabilities and risks (trauma and PTSD) faced by the examined migrant/refugee children (for social workers); addressing the health needs of migrant/refugee children (for physicians); specifics on communication with children, adolescents, and families (for cultural mediators); and managing the mental health of migrant/refugee children (for psychologists).

- The e-learning platform which hosts both the interdisciplinary and specialized training modules, as well as assessment tools to evaluate user performance. The platform enables remote learning and also facilitates didactic interaction between trainers and trainees.
- Vocational Education and Training activities. Two short-term joint staff events involved the implementation and evaluation of the delivery of the didactic elements of the training course. A final, longer event involved the implementation of both elements of the training course for health professionals.
- A guidance and recommendations document for trainers, providing guidelines for training professionals and other interested parties (e.g., public sector and civil society organizations) on how to implement the newly produced knowledge.

The achievements of the project were also extensive.

- Increased awareness regarding: the relevant training possibilities in EU countries, the specific vulnerabilities of migrant/ refugee children, the training needs of professionals who work with migrant/refugee children and the added value of an inter-disciplinary approach in care provision, for consortium and professional communities across the EU.
- Enhanced competences, knowledge, skills and attitudes of the participants of the trainings that lead to improved practices when working on health care provision to refugee and migrant children.
- Enhanced competences of users who make use of the e-learning platform and the materials.
- Increased awareness of the training possibilities of all participants who attended the national multiplier events and the EU information day.