



Health for All

Description of the project including the project's goal

"Health for All, IMCC" works with and for undocumented migrants' rights to public health in Denmark. In Denmark it is estimated that 1.000-10.000 people are undocumented migrants. Undocumented migrants do not have the rights to public health care - except when it becomes acute, and this is not clearly defined. The lack of rights to public health care means undocumented migrants don't have the rights to pregnancy examination, diabetes treatment and treatment for other chronic and non-acute diseases. This is contrary to the health professionals' ethical obligations and the FN-resolutions on the subject that Denmark has signed. Through information, workshops, lectures, etc., Health for All reach out health care professionals in Denmark to make them aware of the problem and give them tools to meet an undocumented migrant.

Our goal is that undocumented migrants will have the same rights to public health in Denmark on equal terms with the rest of the population that have the yellow health insurance card.

Project's objectives, activities and achievements

To reach the goal we have from January 2013 made a two year plan, where the main goal is to get one hospital in the Capital Region of Denmark to start treating the undocumented migrants. To do this we will have workshops for the health care professionals at the hospital and have a dialogue with the leaders of the administration of the hospital. We know it is long way, but on the other hand some health care professionals and hospital departments already treat undocumented migrants. This is not known in public and we want them to go out and tell that it is necessary to treat this vulnerable group. Furthermore we organize lectures and workshops for those interested and educate ourselves in the subject.

In November 2012 we had a big conference at the University of Copenhagen on the subject. The conference was made in cooperation with other Danish organizations working with the subject, including the different health care professionals unions, Médecins Sans Frontières, etc. We had invited both national and international speakers and around 150 health care professionals participated in the conference. It was a very successful day and we got a lot of positive feedback both from speakers and participants. We have made a short movie from the conference and now have a good dialogue with the cooperative organizations which we can use in our further work.

How young people were involved

IMCC is a student organization and therefore we are all students in the group. In our group we are both public health students, medical students and nurses. We recruit new members through student magazines at the faculties, Facebook and from our homepage.

Project funding

For our daily activities we don't need funding since everything is based on voluntariness. For the conference we got money from small Danish funds. The funds did not require a project report, but some of the people from the funds participated in the conference.

Project's connections to national or international environment processes

In Denmark undocumented migrants only have right to acute public health care. Health for All considers this a very big problem. Undocumented migrants are already a very vulnerable group and if they do not have access to their basic needs, for instance basic health care, they get even more vulnerable. Therefore Health for All works for undocumented migrants rights to public health in Denmark on equal terms with the rest of the population that have the yellow health insurance card.

Project's connections to national or international health processes

Undocumented migrants are a vulnerable group all over the world. In most countries they cannot get professional health care. Our group is inspired by a Swedish sister group. There are similar groups in other countries, including Norway and Canada, whom Health for All have met in connection with international meetings and discussed the issue with them.

Follow up, outcomes and future plans

The project is ongoing. As described above we have a two year plan that started January 2013, where our goal is to get one hospital in the Capital Region of Denmark to start treating undocumented migrants. This is an ambitious goal and will lead to a lot of activities for the group the next two years.

In Health for All we are divided in two different groups, where we work with different parts of the two year plan. In the groups we meet 2-3 times each month. Furthermore we have a joint meeting once a month where we introduce new interested people to the issue and the different groups update each other.