

REPORT TO DENOUNCE UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS' SOCIAL EXCLUSION!

The “**Self Description of Organisation**” and “**Reporting Template**” have been developed by PICUM with the support of two sociologists and its partners within the EU Project “Access to health care for undocumented migrants”. They aim at assisting local actors to advocate specific and clear actions at national level in the framework of the European Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process to address undocumented migrants’ social exclusion caused by lack or insufficient access to health care.

WHY?

The Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process is a European mechanism through which Member States have decided to coordinate their actions and achieve greater convergence in the field of social policy. They have accordingly committed themselves to translate agreed European common objectives into “National Strategies for Social Inclusion, Pensions and Health and Long Term Care” that are sent to the European Commission every two years. New plans, which should cover the period from 2008-2010, will be submitted to the European Commission by all Member States in 2008. More information about this process as well as about deadlines for the submission of “National Reports on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion” can be obtained at http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/.

Since the first set of national action plans on social inclusion in 2001, EU Member States have been constantly requested by the European Commission to adopt specific and effective measures to reach the objective of making “a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion” as it was agreed in the Lisbon Summit in 2000.

Even if undocumented migrants are among the most socially excluded groups in Europe today, almost no mention of their presence and marginalization has been made in the different national plans on social inclusion so far. Certainly, some countries continue to deny undocumented migrants the access to basic social services such as health care. Others, whilst partially allowing the enjoyment of some of undocumented migrants’ fundamental human rights, show great resistance to speak openly about their social policies towards undocumented migrants on the European level.

Given the fact that undocumented migrants remain invisible in the eyes of many policy makers, organisations working with undocumented migrants are encouraged to give visibility to the problems associated to the short entitlements and enormous obstacles found by them to access basic social services in Europe. These organisations also highlight the consequences in terms of social exclusion and the efforts made by local actors (NGOs, health care providers and local authorities) who often work with limited resources to ensure that the fundamental principles of social inclusion also apply to undocumented migrants.

The “Self Description of Organisation” and the “Reporting Template” serve precisely to this purpose.

HOW?

With the help of two instruments:

1. The “**Self Description of Organisation**” (SDO) seeks to help organisations to provide and systematize data about undocumented migrants’ profile and health needs; barriers encountered by undocumented migrants when trying to access health care; and pressure on organisations addressing undocumented migrants’ health care needs.
2. The “**Reporting Template**” (RT) intends to assist actors concerned to organise and frame collected information and send written submissions to the national authorities in charge of the “National Action Plan on Social Inclusion” and the “National Strategy on Health and Long Term Care” concerning the problems associated to the lack of or insufficient access to health care for undocumented migrants and the consequences for the general social cohesion.

These instruments could be used together or separately. Should they be used in a coordinated way, indications have been provided to link specific questions of the SDO to specific headings of the RT. Users are encouraged however to adapt the questions and headings proposed by the instruments to their particular needs as well as local or national contexts.

The SDO only helps to collect and systematize data for completing the RT or for other purposes. The report drafted using the RT is the only document to be submitted to the national authorities.

WHERE?

The reports should be submitted to the **competent authorities for drafting the “National Action Plan on Social Inclusion” and the “National Strategy on Health and Long Term Care”** every two years within the deadline set by the competent authorities.

Organisations interested in further involvement to raise undocumented migrants’ social exclusion concerns are also encouraged to participate in the **consultation processes and forums** set by these authorities to get civil society input for the preparation of the national strategies.

The contact details of the authorities in charge of both the “National Action Plan on Social Inclusion” and the “National Strategy on Health and Long Term Care” as well as **information** about the consultation bodies or procedures and the deadline to send written submissions can be obtained at:

- the social affairs and health departments or ministries of the country concerned;
 - the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission – Unit: Social Protection and Integration – Inclusion, Social Policy Aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/index_en.htm) ; and
 - the national delegation of the European Anti-Poverty Network (www.eapn.org).
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SOME HINTS

- **Only write from your experience** – this is the best way to ensure authenticity and to demonstrate your expertise. You are not expected to report on the status of undocumented migrants from a national perspective.
- **You may choose to work in coalition with other groups to submit a joint report** – some of these groups may work at the national level or you may choose to work with groups working at the community or local level. Work with those whose objectives you share, from whom you can learn and with whom you can maintain your own voice.
- **Keep it brief and to the point** – Be specific in describing the situation; try to present the information objectively; make sure you can back up your information if need be.
- If you have **documentary evidence** which would be useful to bring to the attention of the national authorities, submit this **separately**.
- Consider using **tables and charts as a means of presenting your data** – but only if it assists the presentation.
- Make yourself known to and develop a **relationship with the competent authorities** for writing your national reports on strategies for social inclusion and on health and long-term care.
- **Find out what mechanisms, structures** and supports are in place in your country for the drafting of the national strategies. It would help if you can attend meetings arranged by the national authority to consult civil society.
- **Find out if there is a specific format preferred** by your national authority.
- Find out **who is your independent social inclusion expert**, develop a relationship with her/him and **send her/him a copy** of your submission¹.
- Seek an opportunity to make a presentation on your submission. **Disseminate your submission** as widely and as appropriately as possible. Consider an event to mark the delivery of your submission and consider media involvement.

¹ The independent social inclusion experts (one per EU member state) independently evaluate, monitor and report to the European Commission on the national strategies. The list of experts can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/list_experts_en.htm.

Self Description of Organisation (SDO)

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

Date:

Contact information

Full name of contact person:

Postal address:

E-mail address:

Website address:

Phone (include country code):

Fax (include country code):

Information about Organisation/Institution

Name of Organisation/Institution:

- Type of Organisation/Institution:**
- NGO
 - Health care provider
 - Local authority
 - Other (Indicate):

Information submitted refers to the following geographical scope:

(If available, please indicate the total estimated population of the geographical area concerned)

- Country:**
- Region:**
- County:**
- City/town/municipality:**
- Other (Indicate):**

In this section please describe your organisation focusing on its work with undocumented migrants.

**1. Regarding HEALTH CARE:
Which services does your organisation provide for undocumented migrants?**

a) Provide assistance to undocumented migrants in accessing health care services (Please check any that apply):

- Information about rights and procedures
- Translation services
- Mediation with health care providers
- Other (please specify):

.....
.....
.....
.....

b) Provide health care for undocumented migrants including any of the following services (Please check any that apply):

- First aid care
- Medical consultations
- Medicines
- Other (please specify):
- Nursing
- Diagnose exams
- Screenings

.....
.....
.....
.....

2. For how long/since when has your organisation provided these services?

.....
.....
.....

3. How many undocumented migrants received services from your organisation within the last three months?

- a) Counted numbers:
- b) If not monitored, please estimate:
- c) Tendency of numbers:
 - increasing
 - steady
 - decreasing

4. Who is/ are the target groups of your organisation?

- Asylum seekers
- Documented migrants
- Other (please specify):
.....
.....
.....
- Refugees with recognized status
- Undocumented migrants

5. How much of your organisations overall work is related to undocumented migrants (including work of volunteers)?

- 20%
- 40%
- 60%
- 80%
- 100%

6. Are there particularly vulnerable groups of undocumented migrants who seek your assistance?

- No
- Yes, namely:
 - Pregnant women
 - Elderly
 - People with serious chronic diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS
 - Other (please specify):
.....
.....
.....
 - Children
 - Homeless People
 - Trafficked people

In this section, your knowledge as an expert in the field is required. Please make a general appraisal regarding undocumented migrants as a group and also regarding their general living and working conditions.

7. From your contact with undocumented migrants, please estimate the total population of undocumented migrants in the area of your work.

Estimated number:

Estimation impossible

8. Which aspect of undocumented migrants' general living conditions has the most impact on their health?

Difficult access to health care services

Difficult access to social services

Poor working conditions

Poor housing conditions

Isolation

Other (please specify):

.....
.....
.....

9. Can you identify any legal regulations and implementation of the law at the national, regional or local level which are hindering/supporting undocumented migrants' access to health care?

a) Hindering legal regulations and implementation:

.....
.....
.....

b) Supporting legal regulations and implementation:

.....
.....
.....

10. Can you suggest reasons why undocumented migrants [from their individual perception] do not seek to access health care (e.g., fear to be deported, no trust in health care system, etc.)?

11. From your experiences with your organisation, can you suggest benefits for public health if health care provision for undocumented migrants is improved?

12. Can you describe models of good practice on local/national/European level concerning health care for undocumented migrants?

a) Models of good practice concerning policies/legal regulations:

b) Models of good practice concerning organisations and/or services:

13. Should government act to address specific health care needs of undocumented migrants?

No, because:

Yes, because:

If yes, what kind of action?

**SUBMISSION TO [...]²
ON PREPARATION OF THE
NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL
INCLUSION 2008-2010**

Strand: **National Action Plan for Social Inclusion
[or National Strategy for Health and Long Term Care]**

**« SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS DUE TO A LACK OF/INSUFFICIENT
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE »**

Date:

Report submitted by:

Information submitted refers to the following geographical scope:

- Country:**
- Region:**
- County:**
- City/town/municipality:**
- Other (Indicate):**

Full name of contact person:

Postal address:

E-mail address:

Phone and Fax:

² Insert here the name of the office or government department that is responsible for drafting the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion or the National Strategy for Health and Long-Term Care.

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

YOUR ORGANIZATION

[Insert a short paragraph describing your organization, focusing in particular on your work with undocumented migrants] [Include information given in SDO questions 1-6]

THE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION PROCESSES

We welcome the opportunity to bring the healthcare needs of undocumented migrants to the attention of policy makers through the process of *[insert your country's name]*'s National Action Plan for Social Inclusion *[or National Strategy for Health and Long-Term Care]*.

This submission is consistent with the following objectives of the Open Method of Coordination for social inclusion and social protection³:

I. Overarching objectives:

"Promote **social cohesion and equal opportunities for all** through adequate, accessible, financially sustainable, adaptable and efficient social protection systems and social inclusion policies". [...]

"Strengthen governance, transparency and **the involvement of stakeholders** in the design, implementation and monitoring of policy.

II. Strand of work: Eradication of poverty and social exclusion

Ensure the active social inclusion of all by promoting participation in the labour market and by **fighting poverty and exclusion among the most marginalized people and groups**.

Guarantee access for all to the basic resources, rights and social services needed for participation in society, while **addressing extreme forms of exclusion and fighting all forms of discrimination** leading to exclusion.

Ensure that social inclusion policies are well coordinated and **involve** all levels of government and **relevant actors, including people experiencing poverty** (...).

III. Strand of work: Health and long-term care

Guarantee access for all to adequate health and long-term care and ensure that the need for care does not lead to poverty and financial dependency. Address inequities in access to care and in health outcomes.]

[Insert a short paragraph stating why you think it is time to include undocumented migrants in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion [or for National Strategy for Health and Long-Term Care] and mentioning the impact that insufficient access to health care has in the social exclusion of undocumented migrants]

³ These objectives were adopted by the European Council in March 2006. See Communication from the Commission, *Working together, working better: A new framework for the open coordination of social protection and inclusion policies in the European Union* [COM(2005) 706 final]; See also Presidency Conclusions of the Brussels European Council 23/24 March 2006 [Nr: 7775/1/06 REV1].

THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SUBMISSION

[Write one sentence outlining the structure of your submission]

SECTION II: SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS DUE TO AN INSUFFICIENT ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

THE POPULATION OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS (PROFILE AND FIGURES)

[Describe the population bearing in mind that there is strong resistance to the inclusion of undocumented migrants in this policy process. Use information given in SDO questions 3, 6, 7]

RISK OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

[Explain how the situation of undocumented migrants means they are at greater risk of poverty and social exclusion. Use information given in SDO question 8]

HEALTH CONDITIONS AND BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HEALTH CARE

[Describe health conditions and basic health needs of this population in general or of particularly vulnerable groups. Describe the barriers (in law and in practice) that undocumented migrants face when trying to gain access to health care. Include information given in SDO questions 9 and 10]

THE COST OF NOT PROVIDING SUFFICIENT HEALTH CARE

[Refer to consequences of not providing sufficient health care, i.e. human rights violations, the risk to public health, social exclusion, public order, economic costs, burden on charity, etc. Include information given in SDO question 11]

SECTION III: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

IN RELATION TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH/IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

*[In this section you should focus on the policy and legislative developments (or the most urgent ones) needed to improve the situation for undocumented migrants. Use information given in **SDO questions 9 and 12**]*

IN RELATION TO THE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION PROCESSES

Taking into account that the involvement of relevant actors is an "overarching challenge" for the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social protection and social inclusion as well as a "specific objective" of the Social Inclusion strand of work:

[Explain why you think it is time to include this population in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion [or National Strategy for Health and Long-Term Care]

[Explain how the relevant actors should be consulted and involved in the development of policies for this target group. In some countries, people working with undocumented migrants have to be consulted in this process or involved in any way, because undocumented migrants have not been included in this strategy].