

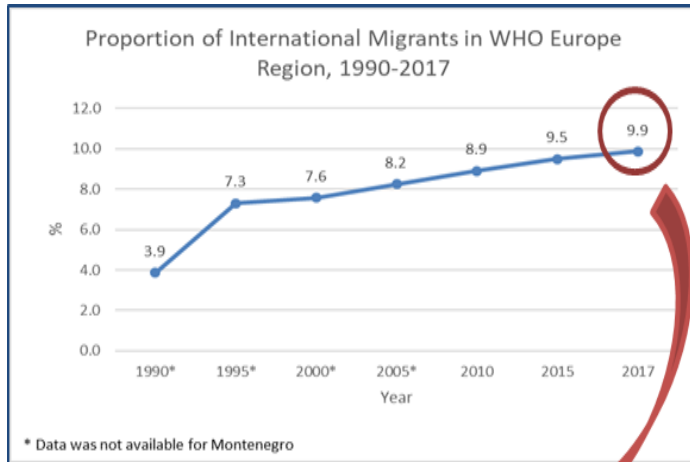
Migration health and medicine Conference
22nd November 2019

Public health implications of refugee and migrant movements in the WHO European Region

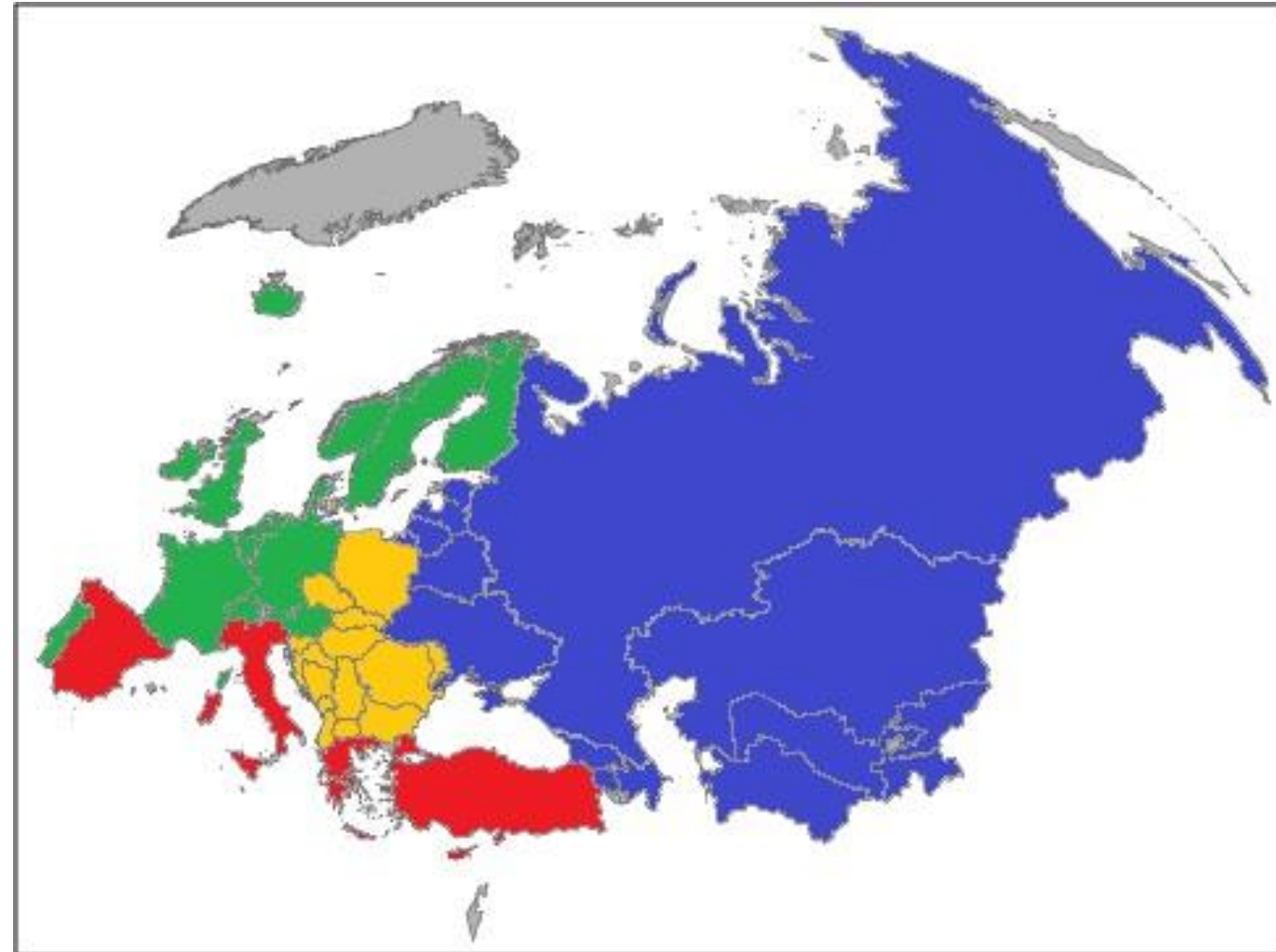
Dr. Elisabeth Waagensen

Migration and Health Programme
Office of the Regional Director





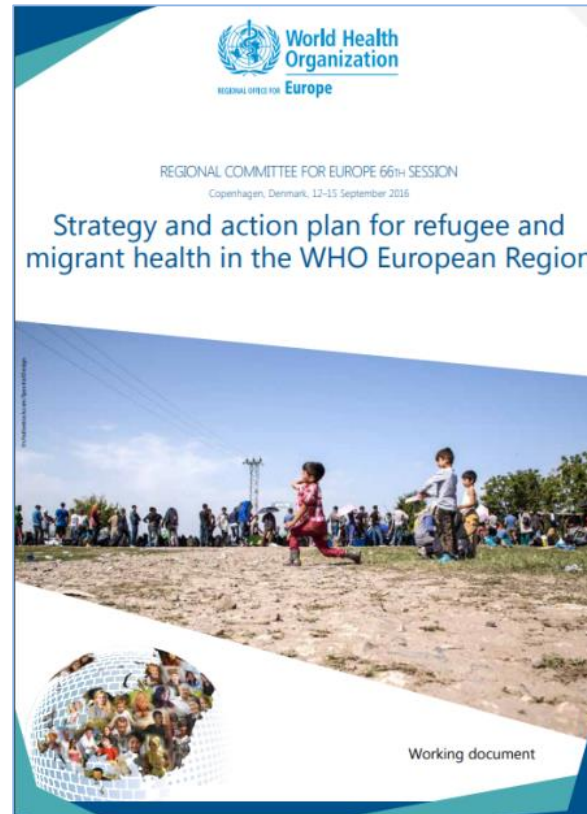
In 2017, more than 90 million international migrants in the Region, accounting almost 10% of the total population of the Region and 35% of the global international migrants



Shift in migrant demographics means new health challenges: maternal and child health, older migrants, noncommunicable diseases

Migration and health in the international and regional agenda

- **WHA 70.15**
- **WHO Global action plan to promote refugee and migrant health**



**United Nations
Global Compact**



**Global Compact
FOR Migration**



The Migration and Health Programme





Report on the
**health of refugees and
migrants** in the WHO
European Region

No PUBLIC HEALTH
without REFUGEE and MIGRANT HEALTH

- **Aim:** to create an **evidence base to support the Member States** to promote refugee and migrant health by **implementing the *Strategy and Action Plan***.

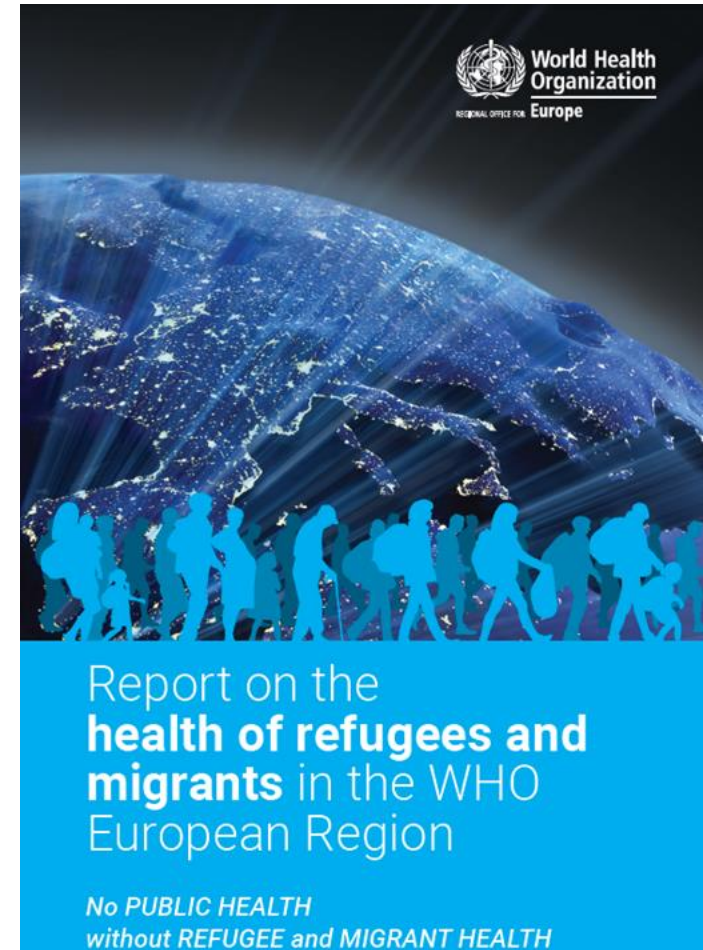
- **Results**

- Migratory trends in the region
- Health profile
- Healthcare organization and delivery
- Progress in the region

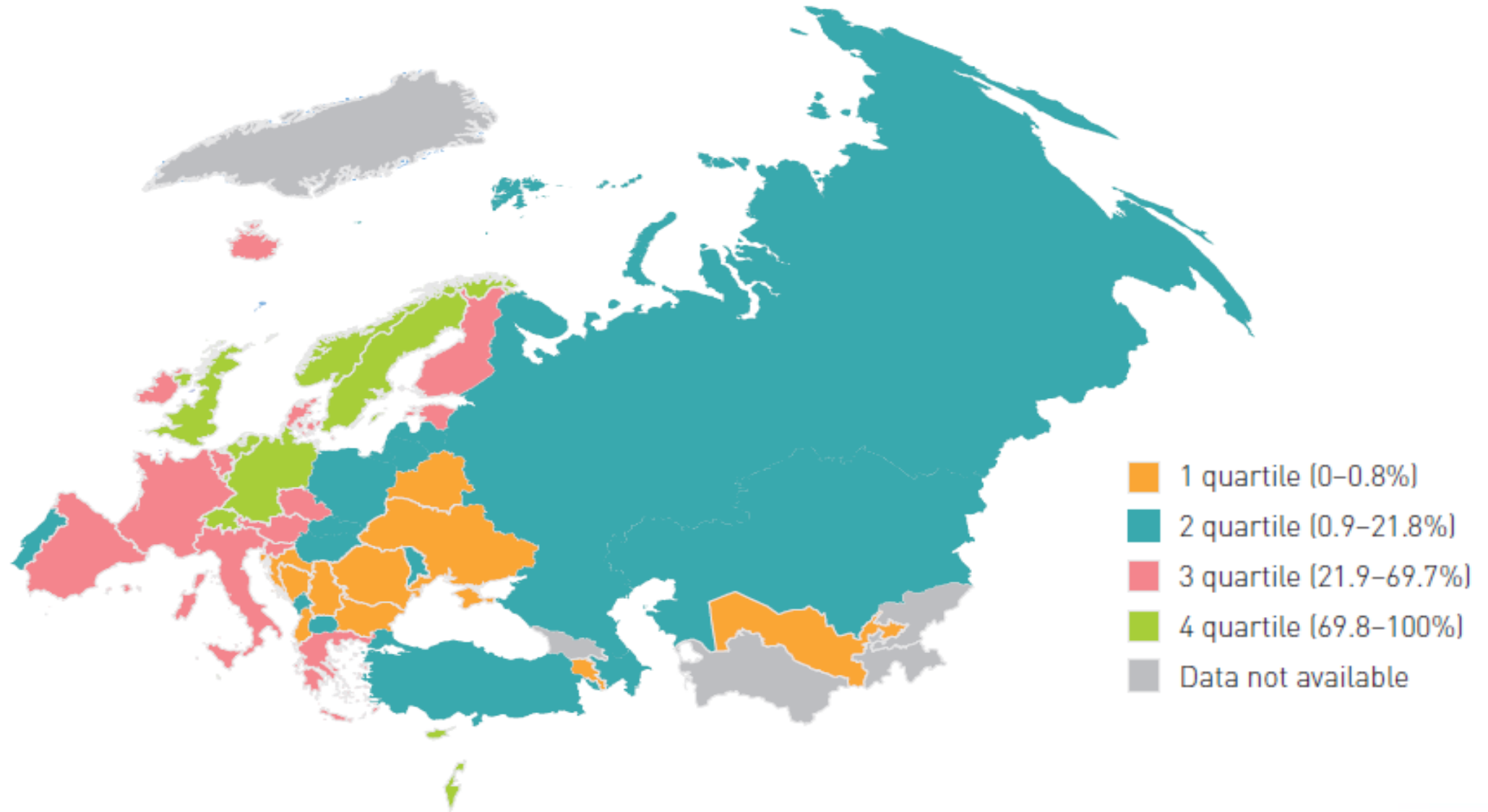
Baseline data on Migration in the WHO European Region

- ***Migrants and refugees are likely to be healthy in general*** and often even healthier than host populations in the early stages of migration and displacement.
- ***Refugees and migrants appear to have lower prevalence rates for many noncommunicable diseases on arrival compared with host populations,*** however, prevalence rates, especially for obesity, begin to converge with longer duration of stay.




cf. WHO EURO (2018) Report of the health of refugees and migrants in the WHO European Region

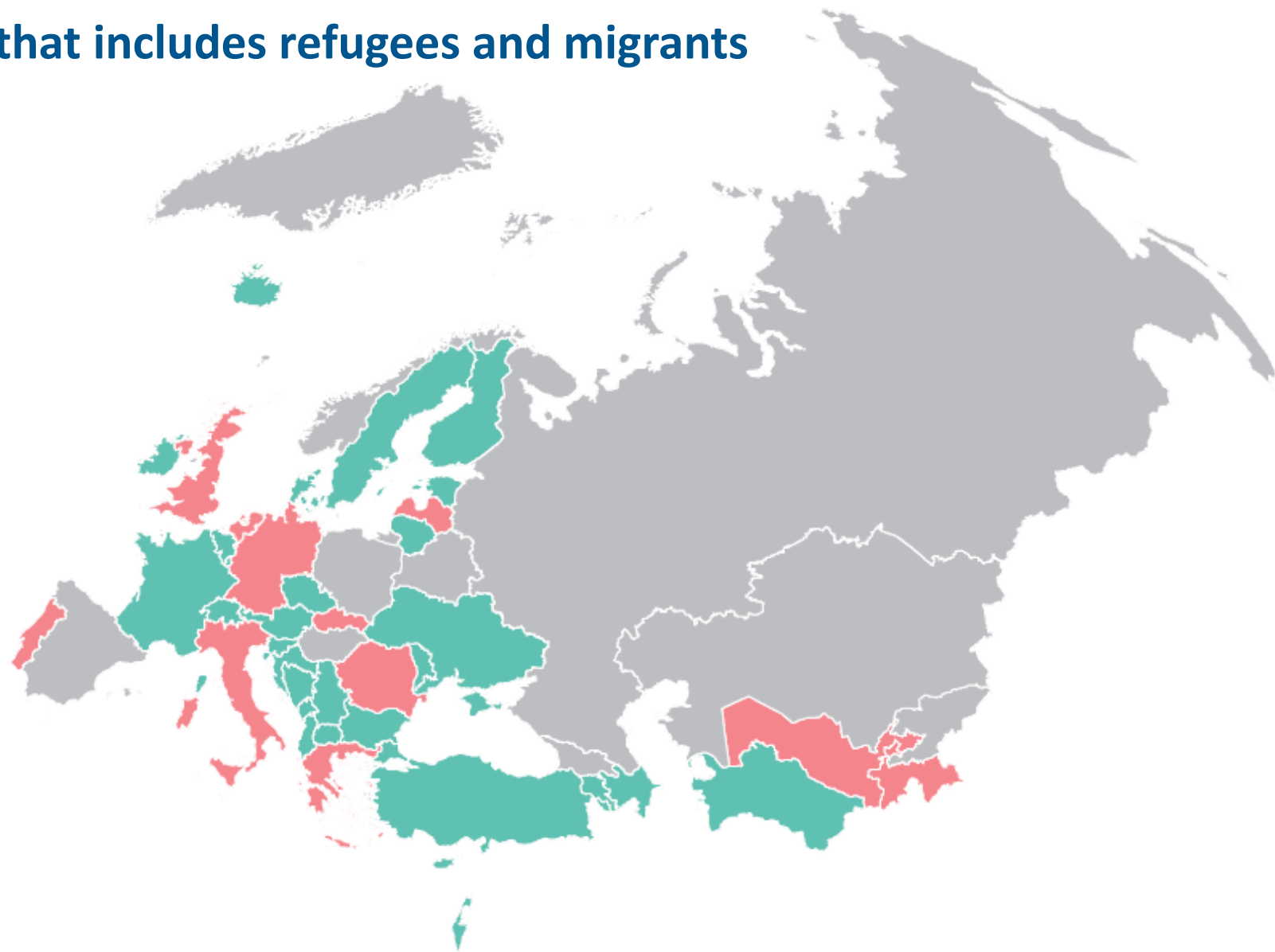


Percentage of cases of foreign origin among total number of diagnoses of TB in Member States of the WHO European Region



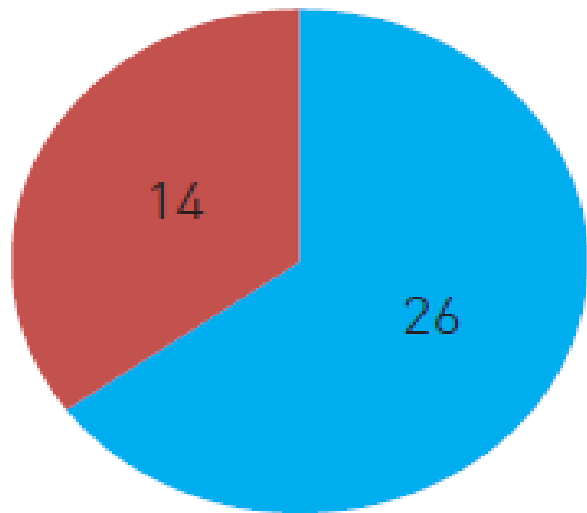
Member States of the WHO European Region with a national immunization programme that includes refugees and migrants

-  Countries that have national immunization programme
-  Countries that have national immunization programme considering migrants and refugees
-  Data not available



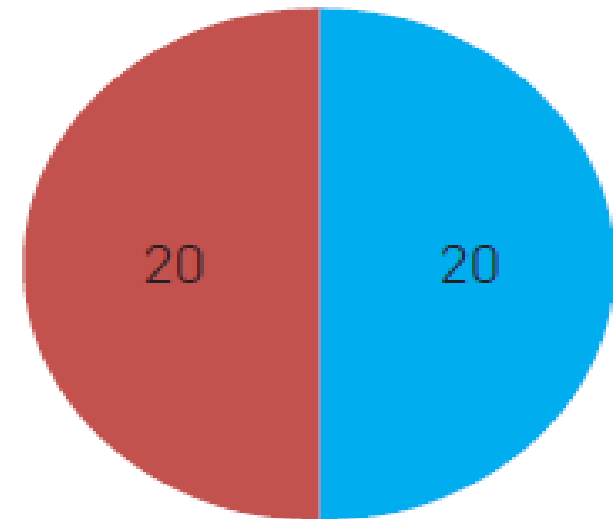
Progress made by the Member States

Has the Member State developed a regional or national contingency plan for large arrivals of refugees and migrants?



■ Yes ■ No

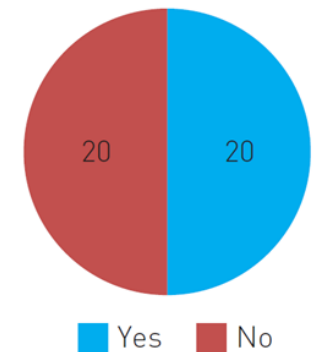
Does the Member State routinely collect and include data on migration-related variables in the existing local/regional/national datasets?



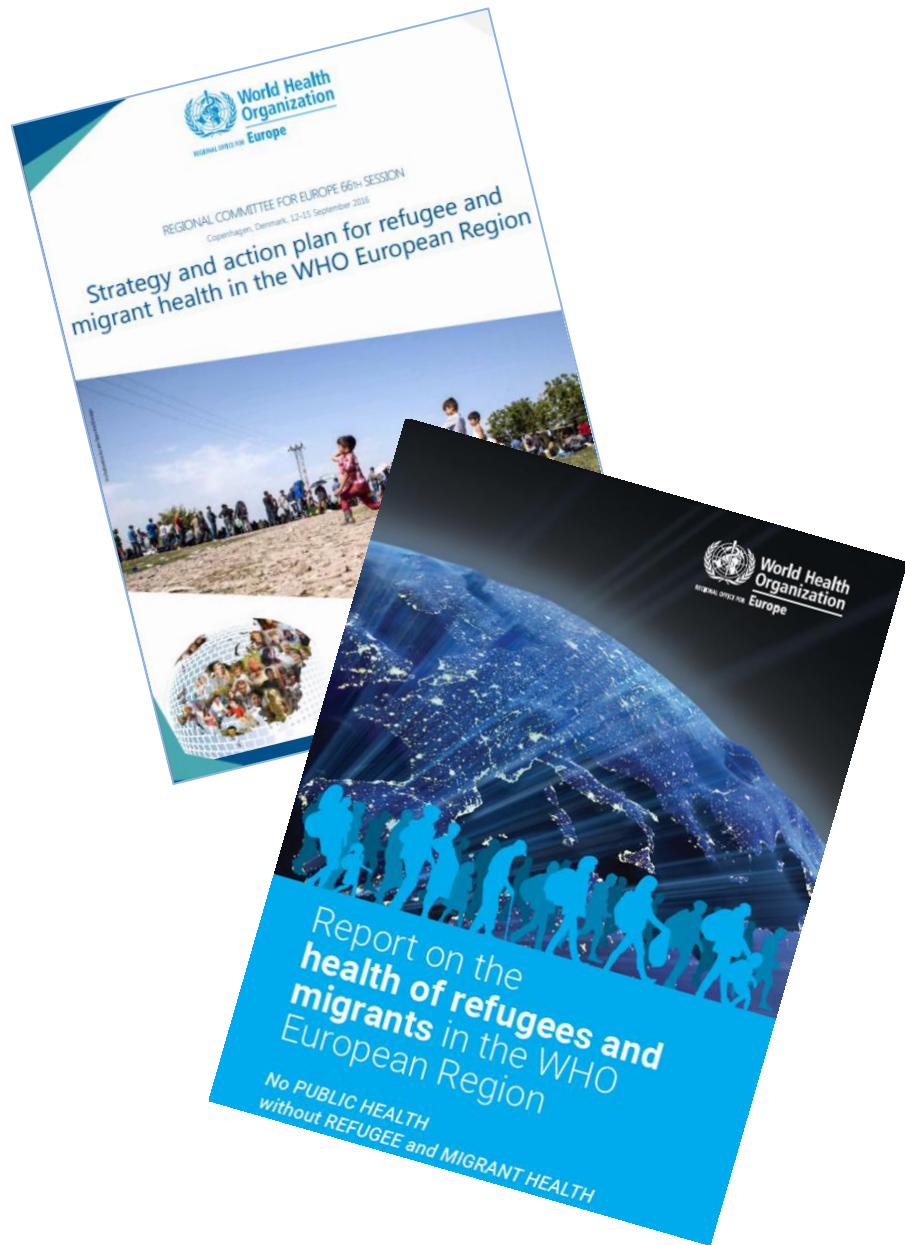
Current gaps in migrant health data in the European Region (Strategic Priority Area 9)

- Lack of **scientifically valid & comparable migrant health data** throughout the European Region
- Lack of **data on vulnerable groups** such as irregular migrants
- Lack of **data disaggregated by sex, migration status and age**
- Lack of **data on overall health status** (often only specific diseases)

Does the Member State routinely collect and include data on migration-related variables in the existing local/regional/national datasets?



cf. WHO EURO (2018) Progress report on the implementation of the Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region.



WHO report on the health of refugees and migrants

- Need for more systematic research (Strategic Priority area 9)
- Limited access to health system (Strategic priority area 2)

Obstacles to accessing healthcare

Structural obstacles Language, financial hurdle, legal framework, entitlements

Providers Capacity, language, understanding/culturally sensitive

The report showed that today MS are divided (in terms of health system access) into 3 groups:

1. Only emergency
2. Emergency plus
3. Full access

Migrant-Specific Risk Factors

- Pre-migration stage

Conflict, persecution, violence, discrimination, poverty

- During the journey

Violence, trafficking, smuggling, exploitation, slavery, death

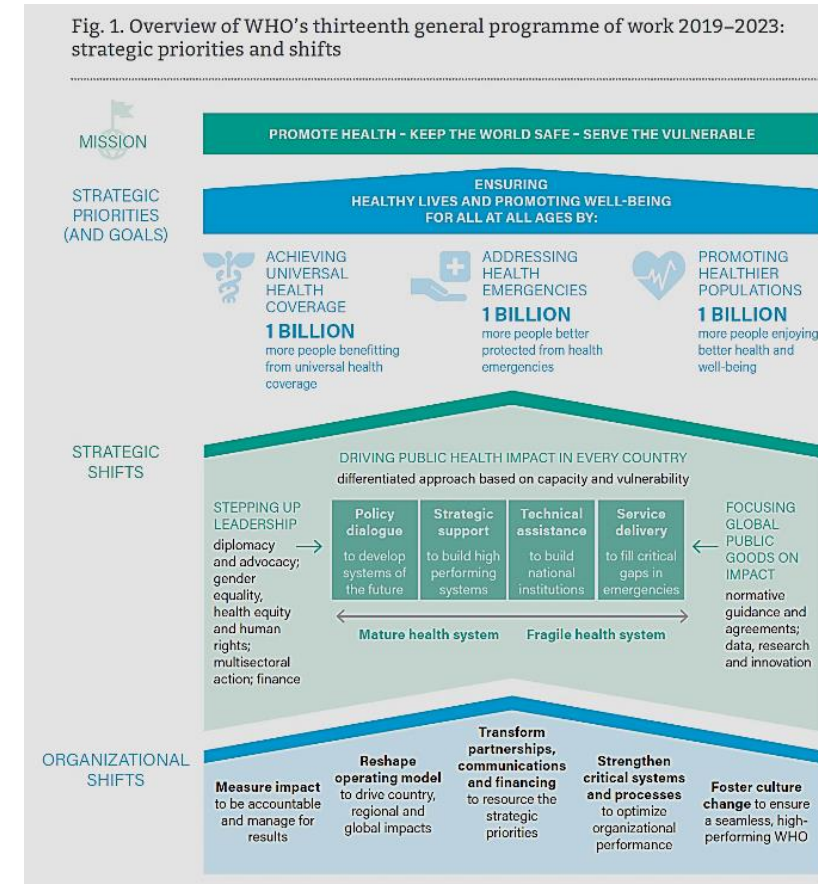
- Arrival

Detention, discrimination, family separation, limited access to health care, poor housing, lack of access to other services, lack of access to justice, low-levels of integration, and disadvantaged socioeconomic positions in country of destination



GPW 13 and the Three Billion Goal

- WHO General Programme of Work 2019-2023
- Three strategic priorities
 - Achieving universal health coverage
 - Addressing health emergencies
 - Promoting healthier populations
- Three billion goal



“There is no public health without refugee and migrant health

There is no UHC without refugee and migrant health”

Thank you

