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Inequalities in Health - the issue of migration (KA06)

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Migration is an age-old global phenomenon but has seen increased attention in recent years with over 214 million migrants worldwide. European societies are increasingly more ethnically and culturally diverse. Regardless of the reasons people leave their countries of birth, migration affects the health of migrants. European health systems, primarily designed to cater to the needs of the majority population are often challenged when responding to newcomers and ethnic minorities.

Global predictions did not foresee that the exodus out of Syria would reach such enormous proportions in 2015. Europe's handling of the migrant situation has been fragmented, chaotic and hopelessly inadequate. The situation is complicated further by differences in formal entitlement to health care and even where migrants are entitled, they may not have equitable access as they face many barriers. Services they can access may not be 'diversity-sensitive' or 'culturally competent', in turn dissuading them from seeking care. Better health outcomes for all segments of the population warrant the need for adapting health care and addressing gaps.

This talk will address the following:

- Equity and Migration – Concepts, Terminology, Relevance and Context
- Framework for Migration and Health in Europe – Policies
- Migration and Health – Determinants and understanding of differences
- Ethnic Differences in Health – Cases from General Practice
- Adapting Health Care to Diversity – Challenges and Opportunities