

Recognizing the needs of migrants:

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**Interprofessional and practical training courses on the intercultural handling of health and disease in the field of conflict between flight, migration and integration.**

More and more people with migration backgrounds are being treated in our health care system. Since the refugee crisis of 2015/16, there have been many migrants with traumatic experiences who suffer from secondary disorders. Successful communication is always essential for good medical care, not only for them. However, this is often a problem: language and cultural barriers and a different understanding of illness complicate diagnosis and therapy and in the end cost more money.

Doctors, nurses and other health care professionals are faced with the challenges of working and communicating in an intercultural context. Two large groups of supporters are indispensable in the treatment of patients due to their skills and their commitment: translators and volunteers. Often the interpreter is not only a linguist but also a cultural mediator. Volunteers know how the system works, accompany refugees and support them and this is often the only way to make help possible.

### Desired changes

The project aims to contribute to the improvement of health care for people with migration backgrounds by providing further training and to make processes smoother for the caregivers.




Doctors, nurses, other health care professionals, volunteers and interpreters will gain a better understanding of the health and illness perceptions in different cultures, which will enable them to understand and treat people with migration backgrounds better and with dignity. Thus treatment can be adapted to the patients' needs and ensures their compliance which makes therapy successful.

The project also promotes recognition of diseases, particularly in the field of mental health.

The aim is to use an integrative approach to train multi-professional practice teams and other caregivers together, to create small units with intercultural competence in our primary health care system which makes a smoother and more targeted treatment of migrants possible.

### Organization

Three project partners have joined forces for this project:

	<p>The main sponsor is the German Institute for Medical Mission (Deutsches Institut für Ärztliche Mission e. V., DIFAEM). It runs the Academy for Health in the One World and has a lot of intercultural experience which allows access to a pool of trainers.</p>
<p>The Tropical Clinic Paul-Lechler-Krankenhaus gGmbH will participate with its specialized doctors in the thematic block of medical topics.</p>	
	<p>The Institute of General Medicine and Inter-Professional Care of the University Hospital of Tübingen, with its competence in primary care research, will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation. The network of research practices is also used to recruit participants.</p>

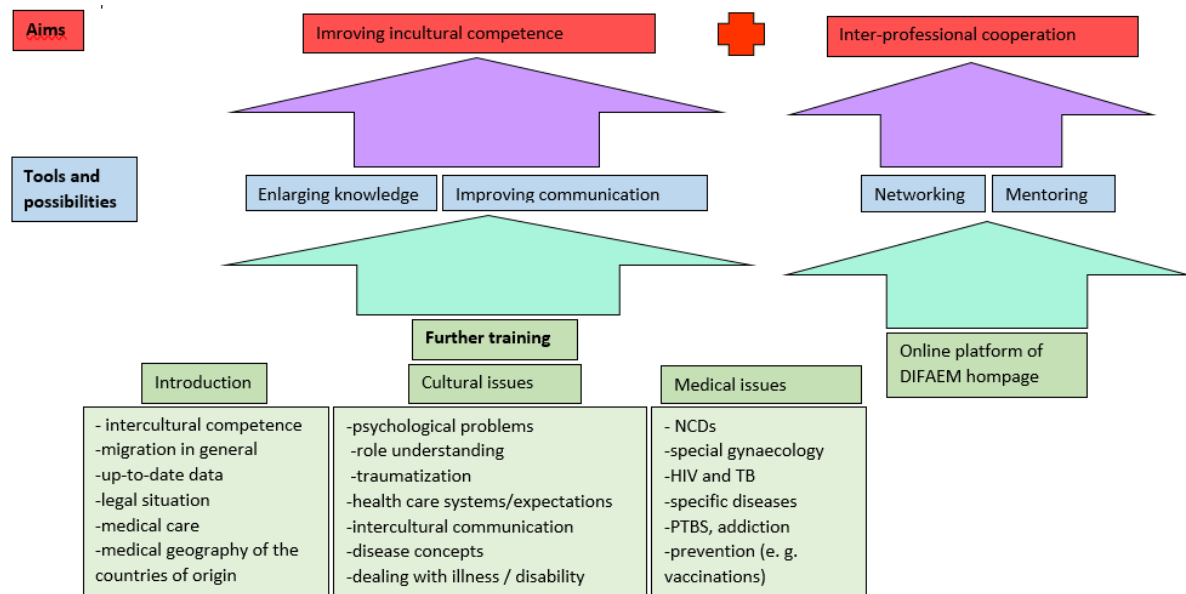
All three institutions are interlinked with many actors in civil society who are involved in the work with refugees and particularly vulnerable groups. These include the Asylum Centre Tübingen, the AIDS-Care Tübingen/Reutlingen, the German Red Cross, the Martin-Bonhoeffer-Haus Tübingen, Refugio Stuttgart e. V. Women help Women, the Round Table on Health, the pool of interpreters at the Tübingen University Children's Hospital and the Institute for Islamic Studies.

## Contents

An inter-professional training program is being created, which leads to measurable results with manageable effort.

Four training blocks of four hours each are planned. It focuses on introductory topics such as the current legal situation regarding health care in Germany or the medical geography of the countries of origin. Cultural topics, e. g. understanding of roles or diseases in other cultures, form the core of the training and are supplemented by the medical know-how about relevant diseases (see diagram).

## Graphics



## Multipliers and cross-linking

Graduates can act as multipliers of intercultural care in their field of work. The project also aims at strengthening the network of medical staff, interpreters and other professionals in this field in Tübingen in order to make health care more effective and efficient.

After the training courses, graduates are given access to an online platform on the DIFAEM homepage, which simplifies and strengthens further communication and networking. Mentors will also continue to be contact persons for questions that arise.

## Prospect

The project is scheduled for a period of two years from October 2017 to September 2019 and is funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation. This means that it can initially be offered free of charge for participants.

At the end of the project the training courses will be part of the training program of the Academy for Health in the One World.

Translated with [www.DeepL.com/Translator](http://www.DeepL.com/Translator)

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