

IPIKA Plus

Berlin has around 1 million residents with a migrant background.

The population of the city is characterized by a growing cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. Accordingly, patients visiting Berlin's Charité clinics on a daily basis have increasingly diverse backgrounds. In addition, the number of refugees currently accessing Charité health care has increased and will continue to do so in the future.

Communication barriers, cultural misunderstandings and a limited understanding of the link between migration and health often lead to misdiagnoses, wrong therapies, chronification, and longer hospitalization.

Also, insufficient inter-professional cooperation frequently results in inadequate medical treatment of refugees and migrant patients in comparison with medical standards provided for the local population.

Therefore, it is imperative to develop intercultural and inter-professional skills of the hospital staff. The project ***IPIKA Plus*** aims to institutionalize advanced professional training that has been developed in the context of "***IPIKA*** – inter-professional and intercultural cooperation in medicine, nursing and social work", a project funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung in 2016 and 2017. To this end, three measures will be implemented in cooperation with Charité Health Academy and the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences:

1.) ***IPIKA Plus*** will offer five training courses, building on the ***IPIKA*** curriculum of developing inter-professional and intercultural skills. The courses will be part of the official Charité Health Academy program for professional development in 2018 and 2019, being accessible for all Charité clinic professions. Following an initial test phase, the courses will be permanently integrated into the Charité Health Academy program.

2.) The Charité Nursing Director will appoint two coordinators at each Charité Center who will be responsible for the development of intercultural skills among staff. The coordinators will organize ongoing intercultural trainings and run some courses themselves. In order to ensure high quality content and inter-professional focus, ***IPIKA Plus*** will design several "Train-the-trainer" workshops in cooperation with Charité Health Academy.

3.) ***IPIKA Plus*** is planning a certified on-the-job training course in cooperation with Alice Salomon University Berlin of Applied Sciences (ASH). The course aims to develop intercultural and inter-professional competencies among nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists and social workers. The course will be offered at the ASH Center of Advanced Training in the winter semester of 2019.

By implementing the three measures, ***IPIKA Plus*** will be able to reach out to many Charité clinic employees as well as to professionals of other health care facilities and institutions.