



Training packages for health professionals to improve access and quality of health services for migrants and ethnic minorities, including the Roma

MODULE 4: KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION

Unit 1: Strategies and Procedures for People-Centered Health Care Services Oriented towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

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Outline of the Session

- Activity: Video Screening and Discussion.
- Presentation:
 - ✓ People-Centered Health Care: Concept and Principles.
 - ✓ People-Centered Approaches in Health Care Oriented Towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity.
 - ✓ People-Centered Health Care Oriented Towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity: Related Frameworks.

Activity 1: Health Care Focused on Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

- Please watch the following video:



“Two blue crocodiles and the gap in the system”

IGIV, Implementation Guidelines for Intersectional Peer Violence Preventive Work,
Education and Culture Lifelong Learning Programme, 2011.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byRjVKsM14Q>

Activity 1: Health Care Focused on Cultural and Ethnic Diversity



- Group discussion (in plenary), including the following aspects:
 - ✓ Do you think the situation described in the video could happen in your own country / regional context?
 - ✓ What advantages and limitations can you identify in culture- and ethnic-specific health care services, in self-organized health care services or in health care services oriented towards cultural and ethnic diversity and reduction of health inequalities?
 - ✓ Do you think it could be useful to work with a mixed model?
 - ✓ Which model do you think is most adequate in your country / regional context? Which adaptation would be necessary to implement it?

People-Centered Health Care: Concept

The overall vision for **people-centred health care** is one in which individuals, families and communities are **served by** and **are able to participate** in trusted health systems that respond to their needs in **humane and holistic ways**. The health system is designed around **stakeholder needs** and enables individuals, families and communities to **collaborate** with health practitioners and health care organizations in the public, private and not-for-profit health and related sectors in driving improvements in the quality and responsiveness of health care.

People-centred health care is rooted in universally held values and principles which are enshrined in international law, such as **human rights** and **dignity**, **nondiscrimination**, **participation** and **empowerment**, **access** and **equity**, and a **partnership of equals**.

(WHO-WPRO 2007: 7)

People-Centered Health Care: Terms

- Person-centered health care
- Patient-centered health care.
- People-centered health care.



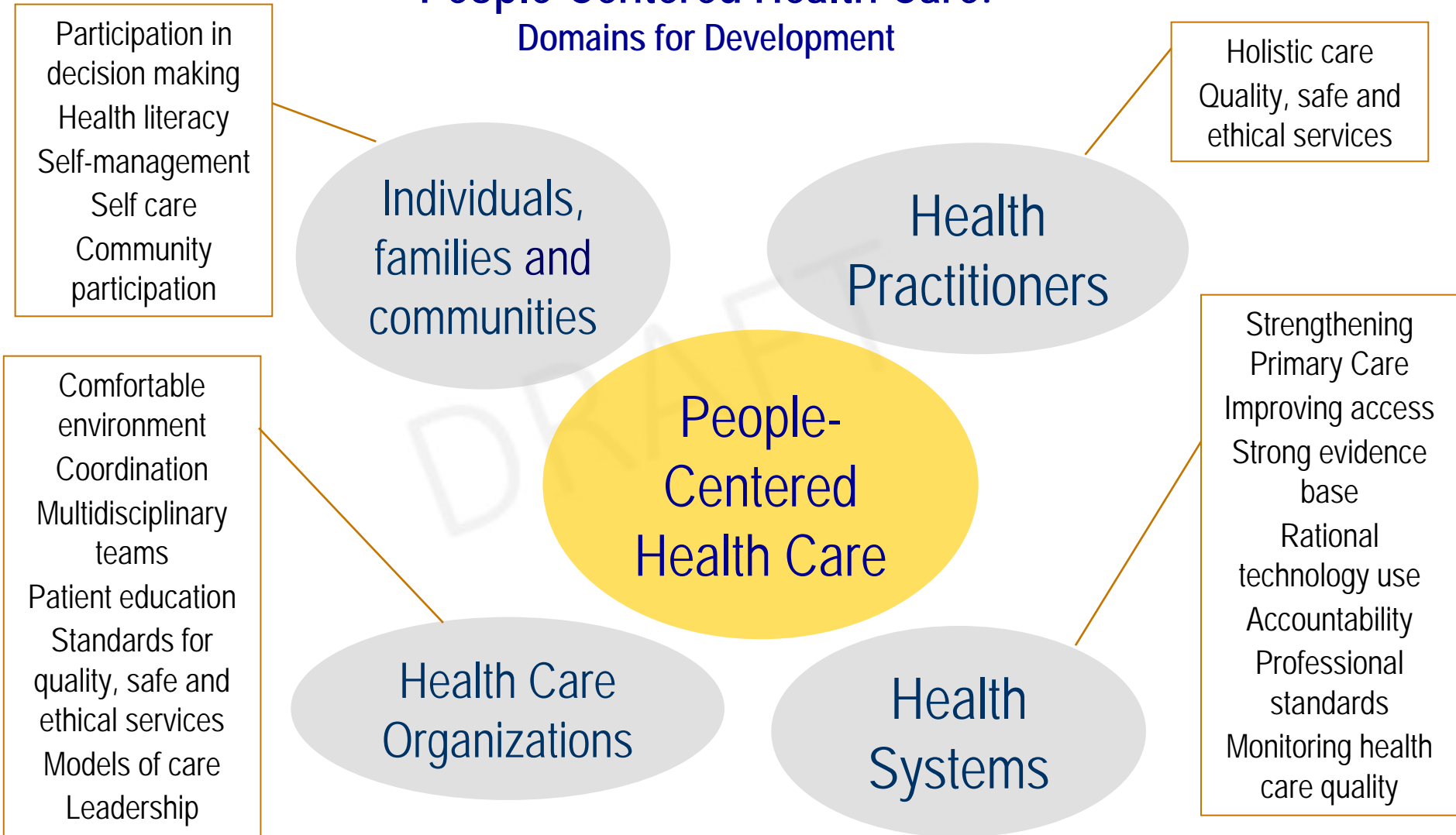
⇒ Preference for “people-centered health care” as the most inclusive term.

People-Centered Health Care: Principles

- **Culture of care and communication**
 - ✓ Informed Decision Making.
 - ✓ Respect for privacy and dignity.
 - ✓ Response to needs in a holistic manner.
- **Responsible, responsive and accountable services**
 - ✓ Accessibility.
 - ✓ Affordability.
 - ✓ Ethics.
- **Supportive health care environments**
 - ✓ Strong primary care services.
 - ✓ Stakeholders' involvement in health services planning, policy development and quality improvement.



People-Centered Health Care: Domains for Development



People-Centered Approaches in Health Care for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities

- Diversity of migration and ethnic experiences.
- Frequent situation of social vulnerability.
 - ⇒ Relevance of a people-centered approach in health care for migrants and ethnic minorities.



People-Centered Approaches in Health Care for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities



- Concepts: Patient-centeredness and cultural competence
- Effectiveness of cultural competence programmes in patient-centered health care for migrants and ethnic minorities

Conceptual Shifts: People-Centered Approaches in Health Care for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities

Cultural competence: Focus on culturally specific habits, belief and needs → Health policies focused on providing specialized health care services for migrants and ethnic minorities.



Intercultural competence: Focus on the dynamics of interaction between different cultures → Health policies focused on addressing health care needs in intercultural contexts.



Cultural diversity: Focus on the recognition of diversity as a positive social contribution → Health policies focused on addressing health care needs from a diversity perspective.



Cultural sensitivity / Difference sensitivity / Diversity sensitivity: Focus on the awareness of diversity and intersectional character of social inequalities → Health policies focused on reducing transversal and interconnected social inequalities.

People-Centered Approaches in Health Care of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities

- Cultural competence → intercultural competence → cultural diversity → **cultural sensitivity / difference sensitivity / diversity sensitivity**
- Health care addressed to specific cultural and ethnic groups → **health care with focus on social inequalities, social determinants of health and intersectionalities**
- Patient-centered health care → **people-centered health care**
 - ⇒ People-centered health care oriented to cultural and ethnic diversity
 - ⇒ Diversity-sensitive people-centered health care

Health Care for Migrant and Ethnic Minorities: Policies Levels



People-Centered Health Care Oriented towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity: Related Frameworks



International and European Human Rights Framework: Migrants and Ethnic Minorities

- Large number of international and European strategic documents.
- Differences:
 - ✓ Geographic scope
 - ✓ Format
 - ✓ Legally binding status
 - ✓ Population group



International Human Rights Framework: Accessibility and Quality of Health Care

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ONU
1966 [1976]

Art. 12.1.: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the **enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.**



International Human Rights Framework: Accessibility and Quality of Health Care

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment N° 14, The right to the highest attainable standard of health

- Health as a fundamental human right, *“closely related to and interdependent upon the realization of other human rights”*.
- Essential elements:
 - ✓ Availability
 - ✓ Accessibility
 - ✓ Acceptability
 - ✓ Quality

International Human Rights Framework: Accessibility and Quality of Health Care

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment N° 14, The right to the highest attainable standard of health

- Awareness of the **constraints** to the full realization of the right to health, due to the limits of available resources.
- Principle of **progressive realization** of the right to health.
- **Retrogressive measures** are not permissible; in case of being taken, only *“after the most careful consideration of all alternatives”*.

In particular, States are under the obligation to respect the right to health by, inter alia, **refraining from denying or limiting equal access for all persons**, including prisoners or detainees, **minorities, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants**, to preventive, curative and palliative health services; abstaining from enforcing discriminatory practices as a State policy; and abstaining from imposing discriminatory practices relating to women’s health status and needs.
(CESCR 2000: 10)

International and European Human Rights Framework: Examples of Strategic Documents Focused on Migrants or Ethnic Minorities

- Examples of strategic documents focused on **migrant populations**
 - ✓ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990.
 - ✓ Resolution WHA 61.17 Health of Migrants, 2008.
- Examples of strategic documents focused on **ethnic minorities**
 - ✓ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965 [1969].
 - ✓ Council of the European Union. EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS), 2011.



International and European Human Rights Framework

Implementation in Health Policies oriented towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

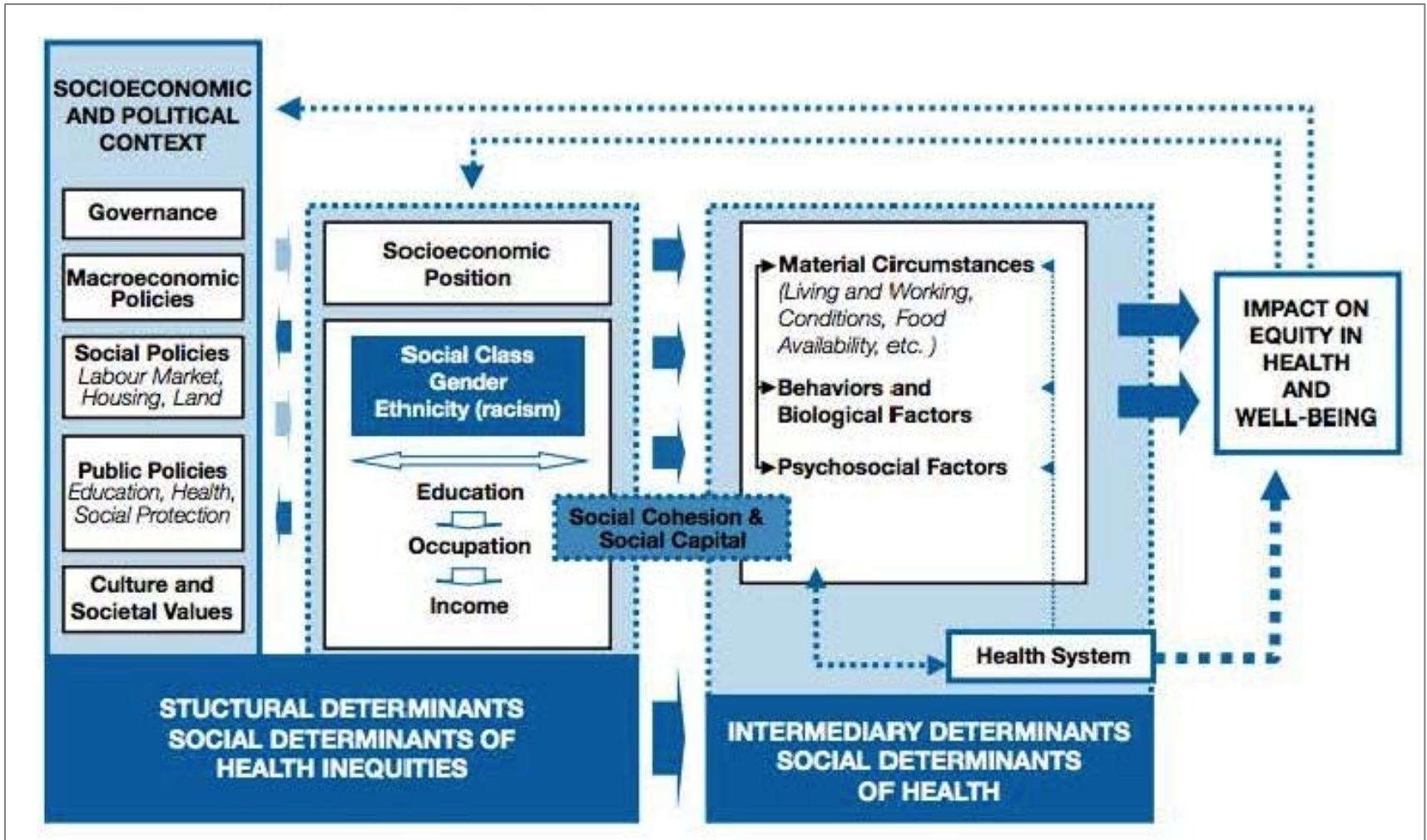
- Recent comparative studies in the European context:
 - ✓ Uneven fulfillment of the **right to health** and **right to health care** for **migrants in an 'irregular' situation** across Europe.
 - ✓ **Barriers** in accessing and utilizing health care services for **ethnic minorities**, including experiences of discrimination, denial or exclusion from health care.
 - ✓ Limitations due to the **frequent lack of legally binding character or ratification** of international treaties.

International and European Human Rights Framework

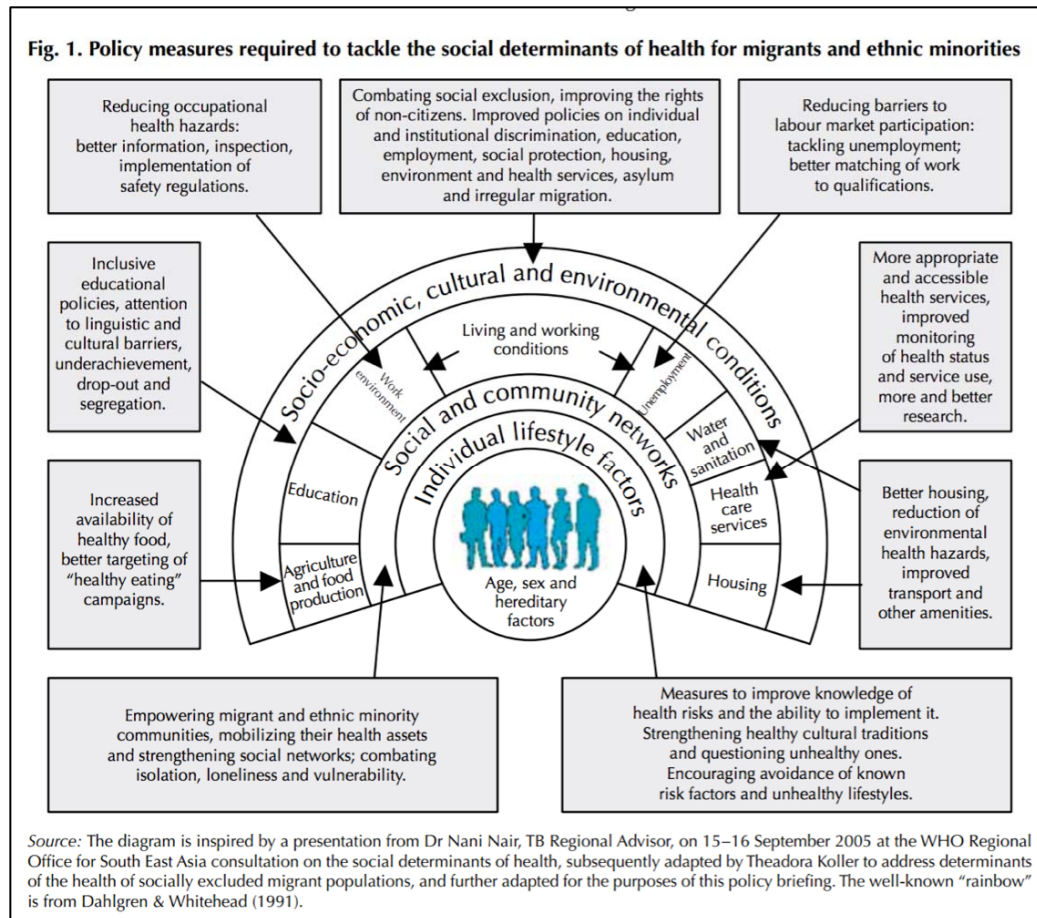
Implementation in Health Policies oriented towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

- Recent comparative studies in the European context:
 - ✓ Identification of the **Human Rights perspective** as an important framework for improving access to health care for migrants and ethnic minorities.
 - ✓ Recommendation of implementing policies and interventions addressed to **providing access** to health care for all people living in Europe, regardless of nationality, administrative status and ethnicity, as well as **eliminating barriers** to effective access to health care.

Social Determinants of Health



Policy Measures to Tackle Social Determinants of Health: Migrants and Ethnic Minorities



Social Determinants of Health Framework

Applied to Health Care Oriented towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

- Analysis of an impact of **social determinants of health** on the health of migrants and ethnic minorities.
- Observation of a tendency to **reduce social determinants of health to socioeconomic factors**, without taking into account migration background or ethnicity, or viceversa, to **reduce social inequalities to cultural and ethnic aspects**.



Social Determinants of Health Framework

Applied to Health Care Oriented towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

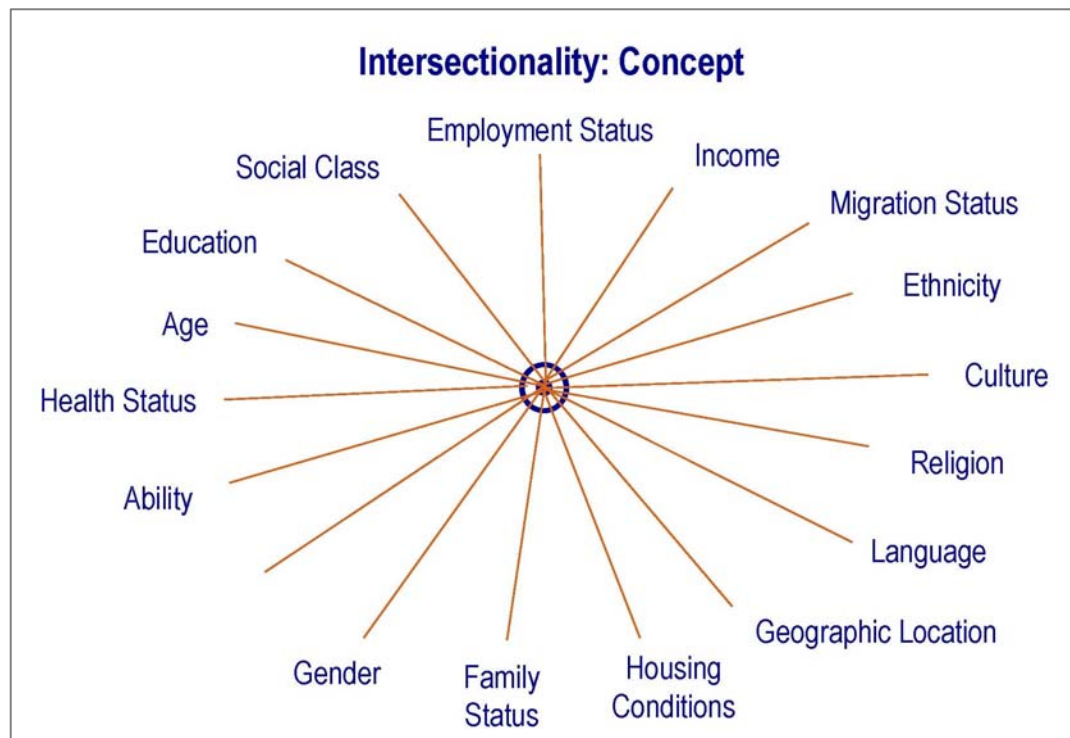
- Proposed policies:
 - ✓ Relevance of **action on the social determinants of health** to achieve greater health equity.
 - ✓ Importance of **addressing processes of exclusion** rather than focusing on the characteristics of excluded groups, including migrants or ethnic minorities.
 - ✓ Relevance of **aligning health policies** focused on reducing health inequalities with **education, economic, labour, housing and environmental policies**.
 - ✓ Relevance of **integrated, intersectional, multivariate and multilevel approaches** to tackle health inequities.



Intersectionality

in People-Centered Health Care Oriented towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

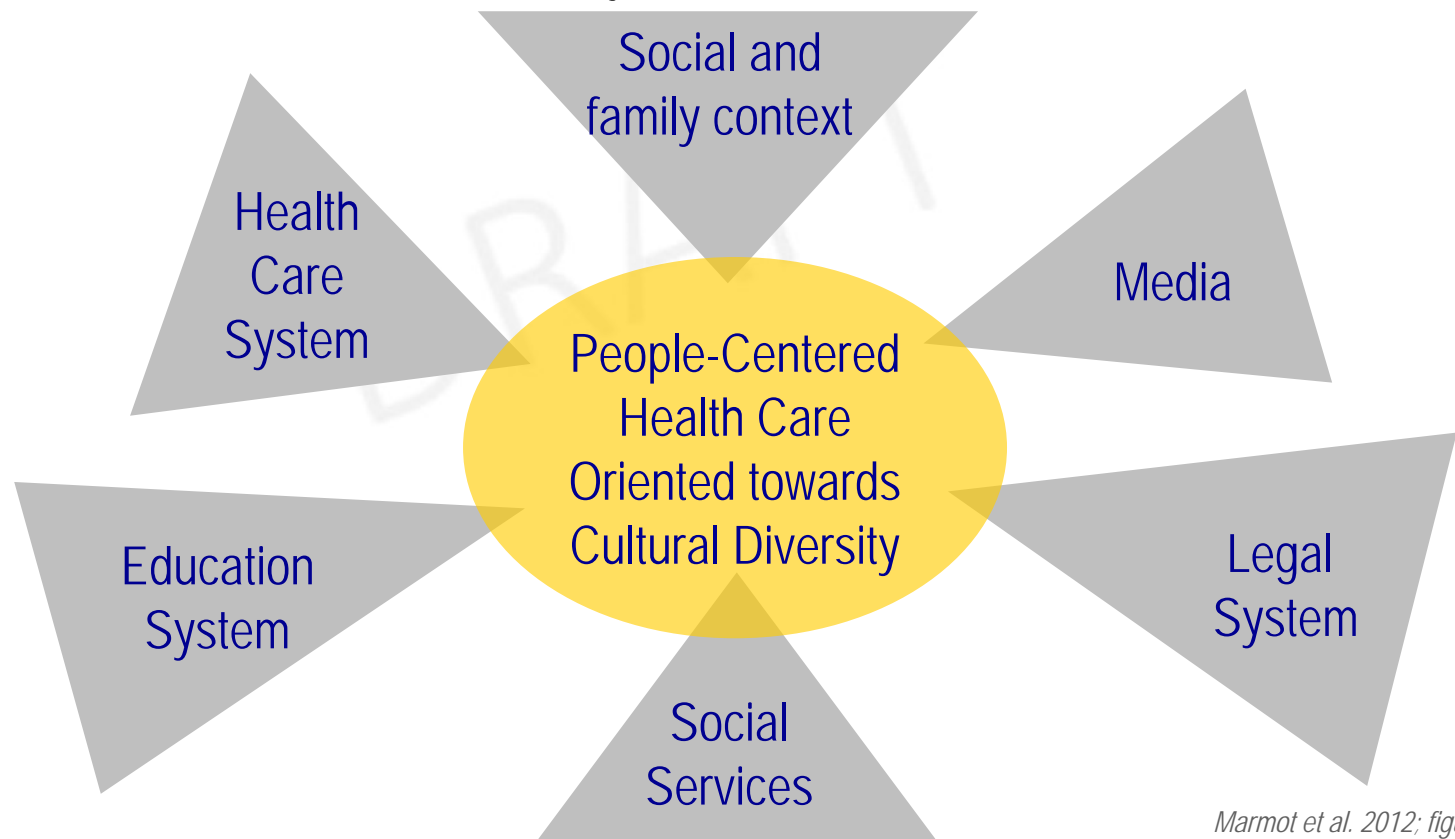
- Relevance of **intersectional approaches** for people-centered health care oriented towards cultural and ethnic diversity.



Intersectorality

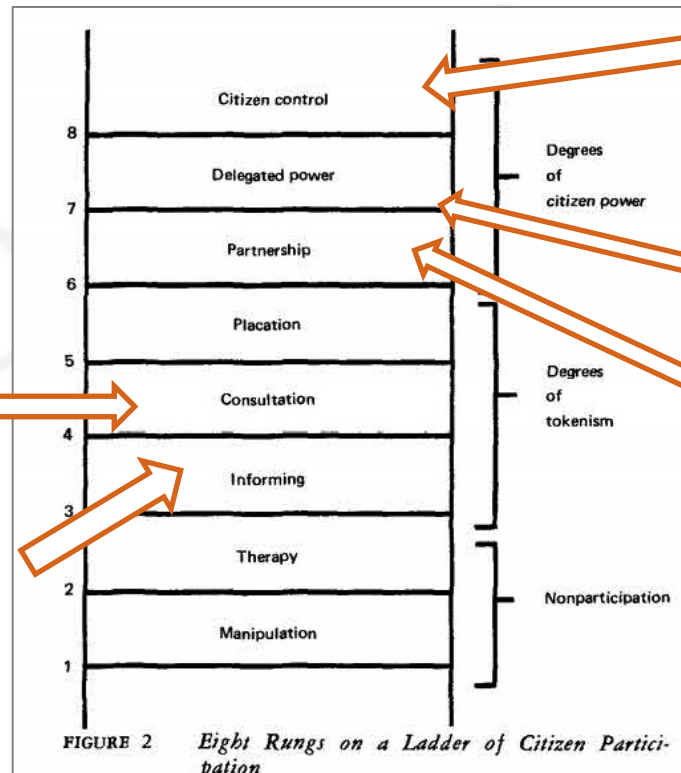
in People-Centered Health Care Oriented towards Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

- Relevance of **intersectoral collaboration** for people-centered health care oriented towards cultural and ethnic diversity.



Community Participation

- Relevance of **community participation** for diversity sensitive people-centered health care.
- Experiences of migrants' and ethnic minorities' participation in health policies on **different levels**.



Surveys on health related issues; participation forums; research projects

Health promotion and prevention campaigns; information on legal changes

Participation in health policies decision making

Participation in project design, development and assessment

Participatory Action Research; participation in health related projects

Intercultural and Diversity-Sensitive Ethics

- Relevance of a specific reflection on **ethical aspects** and **deontological principles** in people-centered health care and research oriented towards cultural and ethnic diversity.
- Intercultural and diversity-sensitive ethics
 - ✓ Health care organization
 - ✓ Health care practice
 - ✓ Health research



Intercultural and Diversity-Sensitive Ethics in Health Care Organization

- Within the **four main bioethical principles** developed by Beauchamp and Childress (2012 [1979]): specific focus on the **principle of justice**.
 - ✓ **Migrants:** Limitation of health care entitlements as a contradiction with the principle of non discrimination and social responsibility.
 - ✓ **Ethnic minorities:** Fulfilment of the principle of non discrimination and cultural acceptability.



Intercultural and Diversity-Sensitive Ethics in Health Care Practice

- Ethical aspects in **health care for migrants**
 - ✓ Importance of reducing legal, structural, linguistic and cultural barriers in the access to health care.
 - ✓ Relevance of an adequate intercultural competence.
 - ✓ Ethical conflicts in age assessment procedures and in relation to legal regulations.
- Ethical aspects in **health care for ethnic minorities**
 - ✓ Ethical responsibility of reducing health care disparities and addressing the needs and preferences of ethnic minorities.
 - ✓ Importance of applying medical ethical codes of conduct.
 - ✓ Relevance of increasing the ethnic diversity within the professional field.



Intercultural and Diversity-Sensitive Ethics in Research



- Research with migrants
 - ✓ Limitation of **informed consent procedures** in multilingual contexts.
 - ✓ Contradiction between an analysis of **cultural differences** and the **duty of non-discrimination**.
 - ✓ **Risk of abuse** due to a specific situation of vulnerability.
 - ✓ Importance of guaranteeing **confidentiality and privacy**.
 - ✓ Relevance of **intercultural communication** and **ethical sensitivity**.
 - ✓ Need for taking into account the potential impact of a **re-narration of traumatic experiences**.
 - ✓ Potential ethical conflicts in **research with migrants in an 'irregular' situation**.
 - ✓ Relevance of **participatory approaches**.
 - ✓ Reflections on the **social position, cultural background, identity and role of the researcher**, insider/outsider role and power relationships.

Intercultural and Diversity-Sensitive Ethics in Research



- Research with ethnic minorities

- ✓ Relevance of **understanding the culture and needs** of the ethnic minority community.
- ✓ Importance of using appropriate and **culturally sensitive methodologies**.
- ✓ Relevance of guaranteeing **confidentiality and privacy**.
- ✓ Critical review of **terminologies and categorization processes**.
- ✓ Consideration of the **potential impact of sensitive topics** on the community.
- ✓ **Active involvement** of the ethnic minority community in the research design and process.
- ✓ Importance of facilitating a **dissemination of the results** in the involved **communities**.



Thank you and questions ...

*Pictures: Andalusian Childhood Observatory (OIA, Observatorio de la Infancia de Andalucía) 2014;
Josefa Marín Vega 2014; Redlsir 2014; Morguefile 2014.*

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