Overview: CHANCE – MSc Curriculum in Migrant Health: 
Addressing New Challenges

István Szilárd, Chief Scientific Adviser and coordinator of the ERASMUS Lifelong Learning Program co-financed
CHANCE project, University of Pécs Medical School

The influx of migrants to the European Union (EU) is continuously increasing, creating challenges for all the
health, public health, social and economic sectors of Europe. The CHANCE programme aims to address this
complex issue from the health angle, focusing on the alarming lack of human resource capacity. In spite of
this, at present there is a significant shortage of formal higher education programmes in Europe
aiming to provide professionals with the training, knowledge and skills to address this new challenge.

The main objective of the CHANCE programme is in synergy with the WHO Public Health Aspects of
Migration in Europe (PHAME) project, aiming to strengthen countries’ capacity to manage large and
sudden influxes of migrants. The CHANCE consortium of 6 EU academic institutions is coordinated by the
University of Pécs, with co-financing from the EU ERASMUS Lifelong Learning Program in order to
address this human resources need.

The curriculum provides motivation and orientation, knowledge and skills to postgraduate students,
health, public health and social care professionals. These are all individuals who (aim to): assist, treat,
and provide care and referral services to migrating individuals; and/or design, plan and implement health
and social care programmes for migrating populations (including addressing their integration needs); and/or
participate in health-related research for migrants. The academic content is built around 6 core
competencies (C):

- C1: epidemiology and research methodology
  (University of East Anglia, United Kingdom)

- C2: environmental medicine and occupational
  health (University of Pécs, Hungary)

- C3: economic/health economic impact of migration
  (University of Pécs, Hungary)

- C4: organization and systems management
  (University of Krems, Austria)

- C5: clinical and public health assessment (University
  of Kosice, Slovakia)

- C6: social and behavioral aspects of migration
  including multicultural, multireligious aspects and
  their health/mental health impact (University
  of Greifswald, Germany).

The curriculum will start at the beginning of the next academic year (second half of 2014). The University of
Pécs Migrant Health Programs (http://www.mighealth-unipecs.eu/) and the CHANCE (http://www.migranthealthmsc.eu/) websites provide
more detailed information about the programme. Interested people can register in order to receive up-to-date information.

The University of Pécs is proud to contribute its experience and scientific capacity to the WHO PHAME
project. Its training and research profile is in synergy with the project objectives and this newsletter is an
opportunity to assist in strengthening the response capability via advocacy, information sharing and
training provision.