



BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

**Actions of Popular
Education for Health**

**Awareness Raising about
Environmental Health**

JULY 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

Actions of Popular Education for Health

– Awareness Raising about Environmental Health

Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	Actions of popular education for health (Migrations, Health, Alsace)
Geographical scope	Local, in Alsace
Sources of funding	Fondation de France, FONJEP, Assurance maladie, Agence régionale de santé, Région Grand Est
Duration of the initiative	Not specified
Target audience	Newcomer immigrants
Social justice focus area	Immigrants' rights, access to health
Goals of the initiative	Acquire personal skills and increase awareness about health promotion issues to empower immigrants to take a more active role in determining their own health and the factors influencing it. This includes an environmental health section that examines how a patient's everyday surroundings affect their health. This aspect draws attention to the necessity of taking environmental responsibility in order to preserve the quality of the air, water, soil, and food.

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

- The pilot committee, made up of several associations (Planning Familial 67, Migrations Santé Alsace, the Regional Health Agency, the Information Centre for Women's and Family Rights (CIDFF)), defines the main lines and the annual budget allowed to actions.
- **Migrations santé Alsace** will contact structures that directly host migrant people.
- **These structures** will identify the intervention context, the public's needs, in order to determinate actions and mobilization modalities.
- The **actors of education in the associative sector** will be in charge of the accompaniment of immigrant people in their care delivery

Methodology used (if available)

This program seeks to adhere to the Ottawa Charter's (1986) definition of a health promotion approach, which includes:

- An ethical precept: each person is in charge of their own health;
- A definition of health would be as follows: it is an asset in day-to-day living and is the outcome of numerous complex factors (social, cultural, economic, environmental, etc.);
- Define intervention strategies, which include developing personal skills as well as bolstering community action and fostering favorable surroundings.
- The benefits of organic nutrition, which is centered on locally grown and in-season produce, the use of soft mobility (especially when it permits physical exercise), and the hygienic and sustainable management of waste are the main areas of focus for the environmental health component.

Teaching approaches (if available)

- The planning of numerous workshops covering a range of subjects, such as STIs, diabetes, cancer prevention and screening, domestic incident prevention, and understanding the legal framework for improved access to fundamental rights.
- “Go to” workshops, which are held in the areas where the population is concentrated (schools, districts, etc.). An example of this would be a 2015 Strasbourg market animation titled “spokesperson” that discussed healthcare access and renunciation.
- Animators should receive specialized training on health, education, and the unique needs of immigrant communities in order to prevent ethnocentrism and culturalism:
 - o A “scientific” instruction on the subject matter given by professionals (doctor, associations of specialists, etc.);
 - o An in-house or in partnership with training organizations course on the role of a health education facilitator, covering topics such as the setting, purpose, role, theoretical understanding of health promotion and health education, appropriation of teaching resources, evaluation, etc.

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

- A demonstration of accompaniment and prevention in the mother tongue of those who will benefit from this initiative to prevent any language barrier, especially when it comes to health-related issues.
- Effective training of healthcare professionals, educators, and animators regarding the structural and local peculiarities of immigrants (e.g., exile-related traumas, particular health issues).
- A strong sense of trust among migrant populations, healthcare providers, and advocates to encourage people to talk about the problems they face.

Encountered difficulties and challenges

The potential unavailability of animators speaking the mother tongue of all communities passing through/being hosted/living in the Alsatian territory (in particular regarding Albanese, Russian, Arab, Turkish).

Recommendations

Macro level:

- Make the recognition of discrimination in the healthcare field an issue for public action (reporting on situations, production of knowledge, and involvement of ethics committees).
- Integrate institutional anti-discrimination commitments into healthcare establishments (reporting protocols, professional training, consideration of the potentially discriminatory effects of work organization, etc.).
- Integrating the use of professional interpreters into the healthcare relationship under common law.

Meso level:

- Integrate the issue of discrimination into the curricula of healthcare professionals (legal aspects, sociology of systemic elements, impact of prejudice on healthcare relationships, etc.).

Impact

- In 2022, workshops of raise of awareness reached around 468 people in Alsace, with a majority of women (67% or 330 women). Most of these beneficiaries were less than 40 y-o (71%).
- 76 of people who benefited from these workshops are newcomers (arrived within French territory since less than 5 years).

(Source: https://www.migrationssante.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Rapport-dactivit%C3%A9-version-Finale-MSA_-003_compressed.pdf)