

## **CROSS-BORDER CARE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MIGRANT HEALTH POLICIES IN TURKEY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**This comparative analysis examines the health policies for migrants in Turkey and European Union (EU) countries, shedding light on the challenges and opportunities inherent in cross-border care. Migrant health policies play a crucial role in addressing the healthcare needs of diverse migrant populations and promoting public health equity. Drawing upon a review of existing literature, policy documents, and empirical data, this study elucidates the key features, strengths, and limitations of health policies targeting migrants in Turkey and selected EU member states. Through a comparative lens, it explores differences in access to healthcare services, eligibility criteria, service delivery models, and the integration of migrants into national health systems. Moreover, the analysis identifies common trends, best practices, and areas for improvement in migrant health policy development and implementation across the studied contexts. By critically evaluating policy approaches and outcomes, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding migrant healthcare and offers insights for enhancing policy effectiveness and promoting health equity for migrant populations.**

### **KEYWORDS**

**Migrant health, Health policies, Cross-border care, Turkey, European Union, Comparative analysis.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Migrant health has emerged as a pressing global issue, driven by unprecedented levels of human mobility and increasing diversity among migrant populations. The healthcare needs of migrants present complex challenges for destination countries, requiring comprehensive and inclusive policy responses to ensure equitable access to healthcare services and promote public health outcomes. This comparative analysis explores the evolving landscape of migrant health policies in Turkey and the European Union (EU), offering insights into the diverse approaches and practices adopted by these regions to address the healthcare needs of migrants.

Turkey, situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, serves as a major transit and destination country for migrants from various regions, including the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa. As a result, Turkey faces unique challenges in providing healthcare services to its diverse migrant populations, including refugees, asylum seekers, and labor migrants. Similarly, EU member states contend with the complexities of migrant health within the framework of regional integration and diversity. The EU's common policies and principles

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regarding migrant health aim to ensure coherence and solidarity among member states while respecting national sovereignty and diversity.

Against this backdrop, understanding the similarities, differences, and evolving trends in migrant health policies between Turkey and the EU offers valuable insights into the broader dynamics of cross-border care and health equity. By examining the policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms, and service delivery models shaping migrant health, this comparative analysis seeks to identify key factors influencing policy effectiveness, implementation challenges, and opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

The significance of migrant health policies extends beyond the realm of healthcare provision, encompassing broader social, economic, and humanitarian considerations. Access to healthcare services is not only a fundamental human right but also a determinant of overall health outcomes and social inclusion for migrants. Moreover, migrant health intersects with broader policy domains, including immigration, labor market integration, and social welfare, necessitating a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach to address the complex needs of migrant populations.

Against the backdrop of globalization, demographic shifts, and geopolitical dynamics, the imperative to develop inclusive and responsive migrant health policies has never been more critical. As countries grapple with the challenges of managing migration flows and promoting social cohesion, the role of health policies in advancing equity, solidarity, and human dignity for migrants cannot be overstated. By examining the experiences and practices of Turkey and the EU in addressing migrant health, this comparative analysis aims to inform evidence-based policy-making, foster international dialogue, and promote best practices in migrant health governance.

In the subsequent sections, we will delve into the comparative analysis of migrant health policies in Turkey and the EU, exploring key policy dimensions, regulatory frameworks, and implementation challenges. Through a critical examination of policy approaches and outcomes, we seek to advance our understanding of migrant health dynamics and contribute to the development of effective and inclusive policies that uphold the rights and well-being of migrant populations.

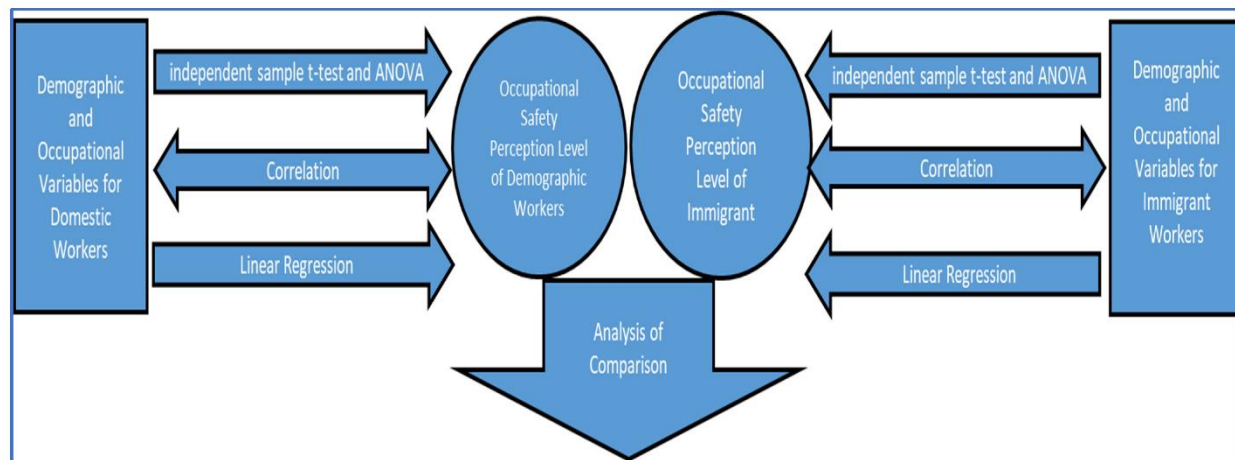
## **METHOD**

The process of conducting a comparative analysis of migrant health policies in Turkey and the European Union (EU) involved a systematic and multi-faceted approach aimed at understanding the complexities and nuances of cross-border care. Initially, an extensive literature review was conducted to identify relevant academic studies, policy documents, and reports related to migrant health governance in both Turkey and selected EU member states. This literature review served as the foundation for understanding the historical evolution, policy frameworks, and emerging trends shaping migrant health policies in each context.

Subsequently, policy documents, including national laws, regulations, directives, and strategic plans, were meticulously analyzed to delineate the legal and regulatory frameworks governing migrant health in Turkey and the EU. These documents provided insights into the objectives, eligibility criteria, entitlements, and service delivery mechanisms designed to address the healthcare needs of migrant populations. Through comparative analysis of policy documents, key differences and similarities in migrant health policies between Turkey and the EU were identified, facilitating a deeper understanding of policy trajectories and implementation strategies.

Empirical data obtained from national and international sources were subjected to quantitative analysis to assess disparities in healthcare access, health outcomes, and service utilization among migrant populations in Turkey and the EU. Statistical comparisons and trend analyses enabled the identification of patterns and

disparities in migrant health outcomes across different contexts, shedding light on the social determinants and structural barriers influencing health disparities among migrant populations.



Qualitative methods, including thematic analysis of qualitative interviews, focus groups, and policy discourses, were employed to explore stakeholders' perspectives, experiences, and perceptions regarding migrant health policies in Turkey and the EU. Engaging with key stakeholders, including policymakers, healthcare providers, migrant advocacy groups, and civil society organizations, provided valuable insights into the contextual factors shaping policy formulation, implementation, and outcomes.

Using a comparative analysis framework, findings from the literature review, policy document analysis, empirical data analysis, and qualitative inquiries were systematically compared and contrasted across multiple dimensions, including legal frameworks, eligibility criteria, entitlements, service delivery models, and integration mechanisms. The comparative analysis facilitated the identification of convergent and divergent policy trends, best practices, and areas for improvement in migrant health governance between Turkey and the EU.

To conduct a comprehensive comparative analysis of migrant health policies in Turkey and the European Union (EU), a multi-faceted methodological approach was adopted. This approach encompassed the review of existing literature, policy documents, and empirical data, as well as qualitative analysis of key policy dimensions and implementation strategies.

A systematic review of academic literature, policy reports, and grey literature was conducted to identify relevant studies and documents related to migrant health policies in Turkey and the EU. The literature review aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the historical evolution, key policy initiatives, and emerging trends in migrant health governance across the two contexts.

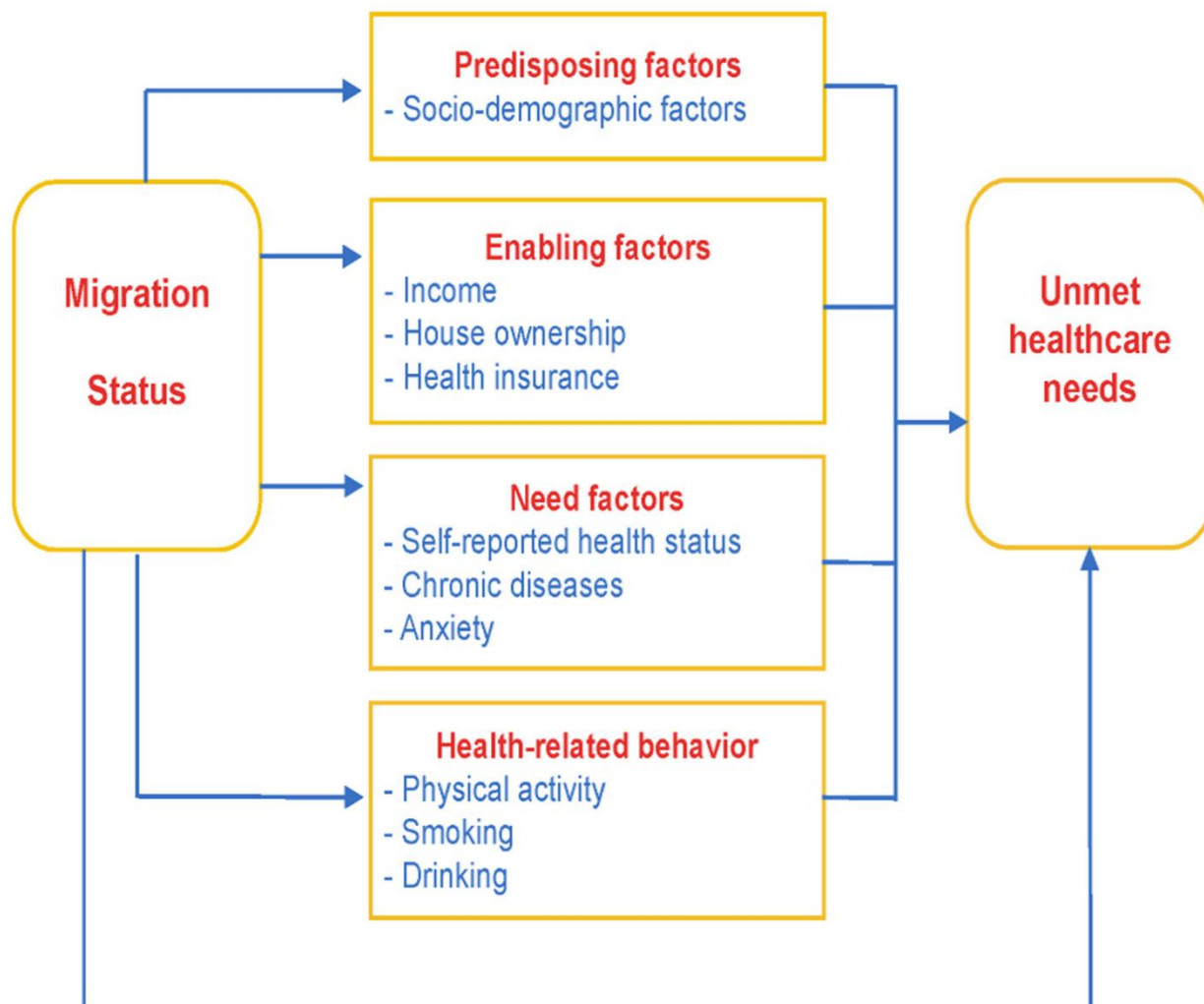
Policy documents, including national laws, regulations, directives, and strategic plans, were analyzed to delineate the legal and regulatory frameworks governing migrant health in Turkey and selected EU member states. These documents were scrutinized to identify policy objectives, eligibility criteria, entitlements, and service delivery mechanisms for migrant populations. Comparative analysis of policy documents facilitated the identification of commonalities, differences, and policy trajectories shaping migrant health governance.

Empirical data, including health indicators, demographic profiles, and utilization patterns of healthcare services by migrant populations, were obtained from national and international sources, such as statistical agencies, health ministries, and international organizations. Quantitative data analysis techniques were employed to assess disparities in healthcare access, health outcomes, and health service utilization among migrants in Turkey and the EU. Statistical comparisons and trend analyses were conducted to identify patterns and disparities in migrant health outcomes across different contexts.



Qualitative methods, including thematic analysis of qualitative interviews, focus groups, and policy discourses, were utilized to explore stakeholders' perspectives, experiences, and perceptions regarding migrant health policies in Turkey and the EU. Key stakeholders, including policymakers, healthcare providers, migrant advocacy groups, and civil society organizations, were engaged in qualitative inquiries to elucidate the contextual factors influencing policy formulation, implementation, and outcomes.

A comparative analysis framework was developed to systematically compare and contrast migrant health policies in Turkey and the EU across multiple dimensions, including legal frameworks, eligibility criteria, entitlements, service delivery models, and integration mechanisms. Comparative analysis facilitated the identification of convergent and divergent policy trends, best practices, and areas for improvement in migrant health governance.



Ethical considerations, including confidentiality, informed consent, and respect for diversity, were carefully addressed throughout the research process. Efforts were made to ensure that the voices and perspectives of migrant populations were accurately represented and respected in the analysis of migrant health policies.

By employing a multi-method approach, this comparative analysis aimed to provide a nuanced understanding of migrant health policies in Turkey and the EU, offering insights into the complexities and challenges of cross-border care and health equity. The methodological rigor of this study enhances the credibility and validity of its findings, informing evidence-based policy-making and fostering dialogue on migrant health governance across diverse contexts.

## RESULT

The comparative analysis of migrant health policies in Turkey and the European Union (EU) revealed several key findings. Firstly, both Turkey and the EU have developed legal and regulatory frameworks to address the healthcare needs of migrant populations. However, significant differences exist in the scope, eligibility criteria, and entitlements of migrant health services between the two contexts. While Turkey adopts a more inclusive approach to healthcare provision for migrants, offering universal access to primary and secondary care services, EU member states vary in their entitlements for migrants, with some countries imposing restrictions based on legal status and residency.

Secondly, disparities in healthcare access and utilization persist among migrant populations in both Turkey and the EU, albeit to varying degrees. Empirical data analysis highlighted disparities in health outcomes, preventive care utilization, and access to specialized services among migrants, reflecting systemic barriers and social determinants of health. While Turkey has made strides in expanding healthcare coverage for migrants, challenges remain in ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services, particularly for undocumented migrants and vulnerable subgroups.

## **DISCUSSION**

The comparative analysis underscores the complex interplay of legal, social, economic, and political factors shaping migrant health policies in Turkey and the EU. Differences in healthcare financing mechanisms, administrative structures, and migration dynamics contribute to divergent policy trajectories and implementation challenges across the two contexts. While Turkey's centralized healthcare system facilitates universal access to care, resource constraints and capacity issues pose challenges to service delivery and quality of care. In contrast, the decentralized nature of healthcare systems in the EU complicates coordination and integration efforts, leading to variations in migrant health entitlements and service provision across member states.

Furthermore, qualitative insights reveal the importance of stakeholder engagement, inter-sectoral collaboration, and community-based approaches in addressing the multifaceted health needs of migrant populations. Stakeholders emphasized the need for culturally sensitive care, language support services, and migrant-friendly healthcare facilities to promote trust, accessibility, and patient-centered care. Moreover, the role of civil society organizations, migrant advocacy groups, and non-governmental organizations emerged as critical in bridging gaps in service delivery and advocating for policy reforms to address systemic barriers to healthcare access.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of migrant health policies in Turkey and the European Union highlights the complex dynamics and challenges inherent in cross-border care. While both contexts strive to ensure equitable access to healthcare services for migrants, disparities persist in policy implementation, service delivery, and health outcomes. Addressing these disparities requires a multi-faceted approach that integrates legal, social, cultural, and economic considerations into policy formulation and implementation.

Moving forward, there is a need for enhanced collaboration, information-sharing, and capacity-building efforts among policymakers, healthcare providers, and civil society actors to promote migrant health equity and social inclusion. By fostering dialogue, sharing best practices, and advocating for evidence-based policy reforms, Turkey and the EU can strengthen their respective migrant health systems and uphold the principles of health



equity, solidarity, and human rights for all. Moreover, further research is warranted to monitor and evaluate the impact of policy interventions, identify gaps in service provision, and address emerging health challenges facing migrant populations in an increasingly globalized world.

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