



## Health care for migrants in Germany: a few remarks



## A few hints about multicultural Germany

- One in five Germans has family roots abroad
- **Immigrants started to arrive in 1955**, seeking work, refuge or a better life
- **Guestworkers**: since 1955 Germany has been recruiting foreign labour for industry from Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Morocco, South Korea, Portugal, Tunisia and Yugoslavia between 1960 and 1968. They changed Germany economically, politically and culturally
- **By 1973 more than 14 million** people have taken up the offer, some returning several times.
- **How will the expected 1.5 million people who have 2015/16 sought asylum become German?**
- Politicians hope for economic advantages and a stabilisation for the sending States.

*Multicultural Germany: a Country of Immigration*

*An exhibition of the Haus der Geschichte Deutschlands in Berlin (Mai 21st – October 16th)*



## Multicultural

### Germany, a country of immigration

The exponents (more than 800 objects) of this exhibition

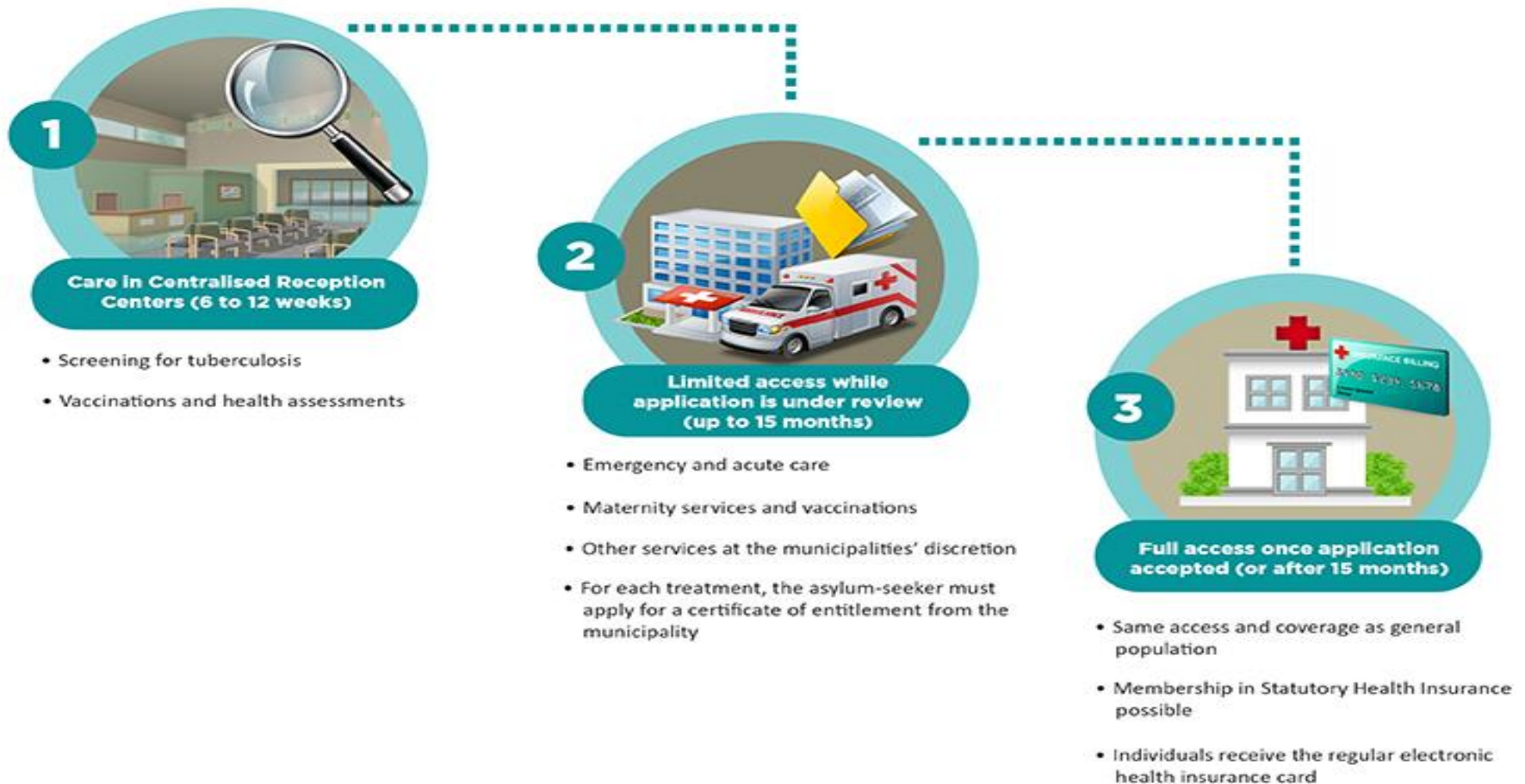
a) shed light on the different facets and stages of immigration and the story behind it, from the motorbike of the one-millionth “guest worker“ and the costume of the first black carnival prince. 😊😊

b) testify

- the variety of everyday culture and ideologies,
- the changes in dealing with migration,
- the conflicts and acts of violence,
- the interaction with foreign cultures and religions,
- the parallel societies and islamophobia and
- discussion about integration and assimilation



# Health Care for the refugees/migrants in Germany



1



**Care in Centralised Reception Centers (6 to 12 weeks)**

- Screening for tuberculosis
- Vaccinations and health assessments

2



**Limited access while application is under review (up to 15 months)**

- Emergency and acute care
- Maternity services and vaccinations
- Other services at the municipalities' discretion
- For each treatment, the asylum-seeker must apply for a certificate of entitlement from the municipality

3



**Full access once application accepted (or after 15 months)**

- Same access and coverage as general population
- Membership in Statutory Health Insurance possible
- Individuals receive the regular electronic health insurance card



# Care in Centralized Reception Centers

## Three approaches

### **6-12 weeks:**

Screening for tuberculosis

Vaccination and health assessments

### **Up to 15 months:**

Emergency and acute care

Maternity services and vaccination

Other services at the municipalities discretion

For each treatment a certificate of entitlement from the municipality is necessary

### **Full access once application accepted or after 15 months**

Access and coverage as general population

Member ship of the Statutura Health Insurance system

Regular electronic health insurance card



# Health Care for the refugees/migrants in Germany

## How is it financed?

A certificate of vaccination is given to all refugees/migrants at the very beginning of their stay

In addition they receive a health voucher which entitles them to visit a doctor or another professional person in the health care sector.

The treatment is for the patient free of charge (solidarity within the Bismarckian system)

For the **unemployed migrants**, the provision of medical services is paid for by federal tax money, which is transferred to the 16 states and thousands municipalities and from there to the provider of health care (office-based physician/hospital, pharmacy etc.)

**Employed migrants** belong automatically to the Statutory Health insurances which is financed through the employer and employee contribution (payroll tax).



# Health care for migrants in Germany

## Literature

Health Affairs Blog: The Public Dimension of Germany's Refugee Crisis by Dirk Göppfarth and Sebastian Bauhoff, October 22nd 2015

Flüchtlingskrise: Was tut die EU?, Europäische Kommission, Luxemburg 2015

Immer Bunter, Einwanderungsland Deutschland, Stiftung Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Hg.), Begleitbuch zur Ausstellung (exhibition) im Haus der Geschichte der BRD, Bonn.

Google: Health care for migrants/refugees in Germany, Give a Refugee a Future - Give a support system to a refugee, Healthcare For Refugees - Health Care for vulnerable people, voluntary helper, neighbourhood, churches etc.



