



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

SANTE B4: Disease prevention and health promotion

Flash Report
**Second meeting of the drafting group on stigma and discrimination on mental health,
under the Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)**

28 February 2024

Welcome

The second meeting of the drafting group on stigma and discrimination was co-chaired by the European Commission and Finland, and was attended by the representatives of 9 Member States. The objective of the group is to develop EU guidance on stigma and discrimination following the Commission Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health.

Update on the Lancet Commission work

A presentation was given on the Lancet Commission on 'Ending Stigma and Discrimination in Mental Health', the main purpose of which was to define stigma and discrimination, and their impact, and to review the effectiveness of related interventions and large-scale programmes, followed by developing recommendations. To this end, a global survey of people with lived experience of interventions was undertaken in 45 countries.

Presentation of mapping of Member States' actions

An overview was given of the current status of ongoing and planned initiatives (policies, campaigns, etc.) at Member State level aimed at addressing stigma and discrimination on mental health.

Tour de table

The European Commission explained that under the Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health, concrete and practical EU guidance on stigma and discrimination should be developed. The proposal by the European Commission to base such work on the outcomes of the Lancet Commission, the mapping of national initiatives (activities but also gaps and obstacles), and the transfer of best/promising practices, was accepted by the participants. The EU guidance on stigma and discrimination should be reflected in a paper to be developed by the members of the drafting group. The immediate next step will be to support the development of the paper (concept, purpose) in an online workshop to be organised, to which stakeholders and other Commission services will be invited.

AOB

The Commission also reminded the participants on the online marketplace for best and promising practices (11-13 March) that also include practices on stigma.

The co-chairs closed the meeting thanking the participants for the active participation and valuable discussions.