



Flash Report
Third meeting of the drafting group on stigma and discrimination on mental health,
under Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)
06 June 2024

Today, the third meeting of the drafting group on stigma took place, co-chaired by DG Sante and Finland, which was attended by 7 Member States, WHO, Mental Health Europe, coordinators of the JA PreventNCD and JA MENTOR and HaDEA.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and agree on a set of actions to support the development of EU guidance on addressing stigma.

WHO toolkit on stigma

The WHO presented their draft toolkit to reduce stigma and address discrimination in mental health. It was explained how it can support EU Member States in taking action. The final version of the toolkit, which will include a dedicated spotlight section on the EU, will be made available on World Mental Health Day.

Perspectives on stigma

Mental Health Europe provided their insights on the impact of stigma and discrimination related to mental health, and how to best incorporate the perspectives of people with lived experience into policies and actions on stigma. It was agreed that their views would be taken on board in the development of the EU guidance on stigma.

Synergies with EU funded actions

Representatives of the Joint Action on PreventNCD and planned Joint Action MENTOR were invited to ensure synergies and presented their planned work on stigma.

Draft proposal for EU guidance on stigma

Based on ongoing Commission work on stigma and discussions in the stigma drafting group, DG Sante proposed that the EU guidance on stigma would consist of the following package of practical actions and tools: 1) a background document on stigma under the leadership of the Czech Republic; 2) the spotlight section on the EU in the WHO toolkit on stigma; 3) an awareness campaign; 4) best and promising practices on stigma, as available in the EU Best Practice Portal; 5) a webinar around World Mental Health Day, that takes the previous points into account including the views of people with lived experience; and 6) close exchanges with collaborative joint actions between Member States that address stigma.

Tour de table

Member States expressed support for the proposed approach for EU guidance on stigma.

Conclusion

The Chair thanked all participants and mentioned that the progress of the drafting group and today's outcome will be reported to the PHEG meeting on 19-20 June.