

Flash Report

Stakeholders' webinar on mental health

21 April 2023

DG SANTE hosted a webinar with the mental health stakeholder community, chaired by the Adviser for Stakeholder Relations. More than 180 participants attended the webinar, including NGOs, associations and research institutions as well as Member State representatives and Commission services (JRC, DG RTD, DG EMPL, DG EAC, DG RTD, DG ENV, DG REFORM, DG JUST, DG CNECT, DG HOME, HADEA).

The objective of the meeting was to provide an update on the forthcoming Commission Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health and to hear and discuss proposals ('posters') from stakeholders on actions with EU added value that they propose to develop and implement.

Opening video message from Commissioner

Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, highlighted the important role and contributions so far from civil society organisations in the consultation process. She welcomed today's proposals as a contribution to the drafting of the Communication on mental health. The recording of the speech is available at https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/preview/https:%2F%2Fec-vod.fl.freecaster.net%2F01%2F239401%2FLR_I239401EN1W.mp4

Update on the mental health initiative by the Commission

DG SANTE presented an update of the preparations of the Communication and of the related consultations with Member States, stakeholders and citizens. A report on the consultation process will be published and it will include contributions from past and upcoming stakeholder events.

Poster session with proposals for action

Stakeholders proposed a broad range of actions and innovative approaches to support the Communication on mental health, mostly focusing on disease prevention, health promotion and cross-cutting issues. A total of 22 posters covered topics such as children and young people, vulnerable groups, workplace interventions, moving from a medical approach towards an integrated and social approach, and knowledge/data sharing and further research. Some proposals described actions which are already up and running and which could be considered for implementation in other countries or regions as well. Other posters focused on actions or projects that could support the improvement of mental health in the EU. Details on the posters are available at https://health.ec.europa.eu/events/stakeholder-event-comprehensive-approach-mental-health-2023-04-21_en.

Next steps

The Chair thanked all poster owners and participants for their contribution and encouraged stakeholders to contact each other and start working together to implement the ideas.