



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

SANTE B4: Disease prevention and health promotion

Flash Report

Stakeholder webinar on mental health, 21 September 2023

DG SANTE hosted a webinar with the mental health stakeholder community, chaired by the Adviser for Stakeholder Relations. There were around 150 participants, including Commission services and agencies. The main goal was to hear from stakeholders how they could contribute to the implementation of the Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health.

Opening Commissioner Kyriakides

In a video message, Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, outlined that the Communication puts EU citizens and their health central. As with all EU health policymaking, the focus is on addressing vulnerable and socioeconomically disadvantaged population groups and ensuring that people have timely access to prevention, treatment and care. She thanked stakeholders for their active involvement in developing the mental health initiative and asked for their support in the implementation phase as governments and public health organisations alone cannot address the current mental health crisis.

Update on the Communication on mental health

DG SANTE presented the Communication and the 20 flagship initiatives as developed by the different Commission services. Participants were informed of the next steps, such as support in the implementation via a new stakeholder network, and via the mental health sub-group on mental health of the Public Health Expert Group. DG Sante invited participants to join the high-level event on 10 October to mark World Mental Health Day.

Discussion on stakeholder support in implementation

Stakeholders were invited to discuss and share actions that they could possibly contribute. A majority felt that they could best support the promotion of good mental health, prevention and early intervention, followed by boosting mental health of children and young people, integrating mental health across policies, and reinforcing mental health systems and improving access to treatment and care. The need for better data collection and evidence-based research to inform mental health policies, particularly in relation to minority groups, was highlighted, as well as the need for wider dissemination of best practices. Stakeholders identified a number of mental health challenges that need to be addressed, such as loneliness, digital mental health, vulnerable groups, rare diseases, migrants, young people, stigma and discrimination, neurodiversity, stress in the workplace and training standards for mental health personnel.

New stakeholder network at EU Health Policy Platform

Mental Health Europe gave a brief presentation on the new online stakeholder network. This will support the implementation of the Communication as well as elaborating more long-term actions and initiatives on mental health. Participants were invited to join the network.

Next steps

The Chair thanked all participants for their valuable input which will be carefully considered in the implementation of the Communication's flagship initiatives.