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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.8.2025)

While Member States remain responsible for the teaching content and the organisation of their education systems¹, the EU plays a prominent and active role supporting, coordinating and supplementing the actions of Member States. The Commission monitors and supports Member States' education policies under the European Education Area (EEA) framework, the European Semester and through EU funds.

The EEA promotes mental health and wellbeing at school², essential to ensure quality education for all. For example, the European School Education Platform³ provides resources to help schools respond appropriately to trauma.

The European Regional Development Fund funds the PEACE PLUS⁴ programme that supports young people and community-based initiatives to address the trauma as a legacy of the troubles; operating in Northern Ireland and the border counties in Ireland.

Ireland, through Tusla⁵, was a key partner in the 'Side by Side'⁶ project under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, contributing to the development of integrated, trauma-informed child protection services across Europe. Ireland is also currently implementing Phase II of the Barnahus model – a child-centred, multi-agency response to child sexual abuse—co-funded under the Technical Support Instrument⁷ project.

Under the current Erasmus+ programme⁸, Irish organisations coordinate more than 80 projects addressing 'physical and mental health, well-being' in school education. Erasmus+ projects can entail exchanging best practices, which may improve understanding of mental health issues, including trauma. The Erasmus+ teacher academies create European partnerships of teacher institutions, which can also inform teachers on trauma-related issues.

¹ Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union sets out the role of the EU in relation to education and how it works with Member States in achieving its objectives.

² <https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/school-education/wellbeing-at-school>.

³ <https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en/etwinning/projects/trauma-informed-classroom>.

⁴ <https://www.seupb.eu/>.

⁵ <https://www.tusla.ie/>.

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43251589/101096969>.

⁷ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/barnahus-ireland>.

⁸ Details of the Irish Erasmus+ National Agencies: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/contacts/national-agencies>.