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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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In 2023 the Commission adopted the Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health¹. It supports Member States and stakeholders in addressing mental health issues through 20 flagship initiatives and almost EUR 1.3 million in funding opportunities. The Commission monitors the implementation of the Communication through a tracking framework².

Some of these flagship initiatives include a project with the World Health Organisation³ to provide Member States targeted support via policy dialogues and capacity building to improve their mental health systems, a multi-disciplinary training and exchange programme for health professionals⁴ and an EU support package on stigma and discrimination.

The focus of the Communication is on supporting vulnerable population groups, such as children, young people and older persons.

The 2024 EU4Health Work Programme^{5,6} includes a grant to Member States and a call for proposals to stakeholders to support a comprehensive, prevention-oriented approach to mental health of vulnerable groups. The 2025 EU4Health Work Programme⁷ includes a call for proposals on lifelong prevention for a healthy life with a focus on cardiovascular diseases, which will also address mental health.

Following the adoption of the Communication, the Commission launched a call for Member States and stakeholders to submit best and promising practices on mental health⁸. 29 initiatives were identified and uploaded to the EU Best Practice Portal on Public Health⁹. These proven and concrete practices are publicly available, and Member States may choose to transfer (elements of) them at national, regional or local level. The Commission consults with Member States via the Public Health Expert Group¹⁰ on public health priorities.

¹ https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/comprehensive-approach-mental-health_en.

² https://health.ec.europa.eu/latest-updates/updated-tracking-framework-implementation-commission-communication-comprehensive-approach-mental-2024-10-10_en.

³ [https://www.who.int/europe/activities/partnering-with-the-european-union-\(eu\)-to-tackle-mental-health-challenges#:~:text=WHO%20is%20partnering%20with%20the%20European%20Commission%20to,to%20take%20a%20comprehensive%20approach%20to%20mental%20health](https://www.who.int/europe/activities/partnering-with-the-european-union-(eu)-to-tackle-mental-health-challenges#:~:text=WHO%20is%20partnering%20with%20the%20European%20Commission%20to,to%20take%20a%20comprehensive%20approach%20to%20mental%20health).

⁴ <https://eu-promens.eu/eu-promens>.

⁵ https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4fb8f72b-eac7-484f-9bab-03c945f59032_en?filename=c2024_7871_annex_en.pdf.

⁶ https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en.

⁷ https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/2025-eu4health-work-programme_en.

⁸ https://health.ec.europa.eu/events/best-and-promising-practices-mental-health-2024-03-11_en.

⁹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal/submission/search?call=Mental%20Health>.

¹⁰ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/expert-group-public-health_en.