

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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Promoting good mental health, in particular of children and young people, is a priority for the Commission. Its Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health¹ from 2023 has been instrumental in this respect. The Communication has 20 flagship initiatives and almost EUR 1.3 billion in funding opportunities. The Commission currently focuses on the implementation of the Communication and related actions under the EU4Health programme, such as the joint actions MENTOR² and PRISM³. To promote the mental health of young people online, the Commission adopted in February 2026 an action plan against cyberbullying⁴.

Moving forward, the Commission will focus on the impact of the use of social media and screens on youth mental and physical health. In her Political Guidelines⁵, the President of the Commission committed to launch an EU-wide inquiry on the topic which is in preparation. It will take into account the work and outcomes of the panel of experts to address online safety for children announced by the Commission's President in her State of the Union 2025 speech⁶ and kicked off in March 2026⁷.

The Commission's proposal for the next multiannual financial framework provides funding opportunities for mental health, e.g. in line with the specific activities listed in Article 37(1) of the proposed European Competitiveness Fund. The Commission's proposal on national and regional partnership plans (NRPPs) envisions that Member States could use their NRPPs to address health system challenges identified in the European Semester and in line with the objectives in Article 3(1), point (c)(iv) of the proposal for NRPPs.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0298>.

² <https://ja-mentor.eu/>.

³ <https://japrism.eu/>.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cyberbullying>.

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/ov/SPEECH_25_2053.

⁷ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/panel-child-safety-online>.