

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002847/26
to the Commission
Geadis Geadis (ECR)
(9 July 2026)**

Subject: Crisis in mental health services in Cyprus and possibilities for European support

Cyprus is experiencing serious and persistent mental health shortages. According to the Pan-Cyprian Association for Mental Health Organisations, the number of psychiatric beds is exceedingly low — 18 beds per 100 000 inhabitants — compared to the European average of 73. Athalassa Hospital is experiencing overcrowding, understaffing, a shortage in medicines and a lack of adequate treatment programmes and psychosocial programmes. Specifically, it has been reported that wards with sufficient staff for and designed to accommodate 60 patients are currently hosting around 120 patients, with some sleeping on mattresses on the floor.

Despite the preparation of a three-year national strategy for the period 2025-2028, community care remains inadequate, with shortages in sheltered accommodation facilities, day centres, support for families/carers, etc.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What funding and technical support options are available to the Republic of Cyprus for the completion of the new Athalassa Hospital, the development of community mental health infrastructure and, in general, the implementation of actions proposed in the National Action Plan?
2. Is there a European institution that could follow the content of the treatment programme that is in place in voluntary and involuntary hospitalisation facilities and advise/complement/provide training in therapeutic approaches other than medication, e.g. psychosocial support programmes or other approaches recommended by modern psychiatry?

Submitted: 9.7.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(7 September 2026)**

Under its Recovery and Resilience Plan, Cyprus is implementing a broad package of reforms and investments to strengthen the resilience, quality and accessibility of its healthcare system.

This includes Investment C1.1I5, which finances construction works and new equipment for Cyprus State Hospitals, including the Mental Health Hospital.

The broader healthcare package also includes reforms and investments supporting evidence-based clinical practice, quality assurance, digital health and value-based healthcare.

The target related to the Mental Health Hospital has already been positively assessed by the Commission in the context of Cyprus' previous payment requests under the Recovery and Resilience Facility ⁽¹⁾. All milestones and targets need to be implemented by 31 August 2026.

Furthermore, the Commission is currently focusing on the implementation of the 2023 Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health ⁽²⁾, that supports Member States in reinforcing mental health systems through 20 flagship initiatives and almost EUR 1.3 billion in funding opportunities.

Examples of flagships are the EUR 11 million support to the World Health Organisation to provide tailored support to Member States through policy dialogues and capacity building, and the multidisciplinary capacity building programme for health professionals EU-PROMENS ⁽³⁾ (EUR 9 million).

Cyprus was partner in the former joint action ImpleMENTAL ⁽⁴⁾, that finished in autumn 2024, which supported Member States with EUR 4,5 million in transferring the Belgian best practice on community mental health reform.

⁽¹⁾ Further information on the already positively assessed milestones and targets is available on the Commission's country page dedicated to Cyprus' Recovery and Resilience Plan: https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility-1/country-pages/cyprus-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en#documents.

⁽²⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/cef45b6d-a871-44d5-9d62-3cecc47eda89_en?filename=com_2023_298_1_act_en.pdf.

⁽³⁾ <https://eu-promens.eu/eu-promens>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://implemental.org/>.

Cyprus is partner in the ongoing joint action MENTOR ⁽⁵⁾ (EUR 6 million) that supports Member States in taking a comprehensive approach towards mental health.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://ja-mentor.eu/>.