

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002361/25
to the Commission
Victor Negrescu (S&D)
(11 June 2025)**

Subject: Urgent measures in respect of the mental health of young people

The recent shooting in Graz, Austria, in which 11 people died and two Romanian citizens were wounded, has highlighted a pressing issue — that of violence in educational establishments institutions and its impact on the mental health of children across Europe. This tragedy dictates that we act decisively to prevent such incidents. Although measures have been discussed, the lack of any concrete action is worrying. It is vital that we collect further data to help us understand mental health issues and the factors that generate them, that we improve access to mental healthcare, ensuring that young people have the resources they need both inside and outside educational establishments, and that we include them in debates on mental health and give them a voice in formulating solutions.

1. What urgent measures will the Commission take to ensure that mental health is treated with the same urgency as physical health and to develop a comprehensive mental health strategy in the EU?
2. How will the Commission support Member States in building inclusive and proactive mental health ecosystems, given the ever-increasing needs?
3. What specific measures will the Commission implement to ensure that counselling services and student support programmes are properly funded and made accessible to all young people?

Submitted: 11.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(23 July 2025)**

Member States are responsible for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care (Article 168(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).

Through the comprehensive approach to mental health ⁽¹⁾, the Commission supports Member States and stakeholders with 20 flagship initiatives and almost EUR 1.3 billion in funding opportunities.

Those flagships include support from the World Health Organisation to Member States to build mental health service capacity and to integrate mental health across policies.

Other examples are a multi-disciplinary training and exchange programme for mental health professionals (EU-PROMENS ⁽²⁾) and EU support on stigma and discrimination that surrounds mental health.

Special focus is placed on boosting the mental health of children and young people through four dedicated flagship initiatives, including the development of a prevention toolkit in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) ⁽³⁾.

In addition, the Commission supports collaborative work on mental health between Member States through joint actions, such as ImpleMENTAL ⁽⁴⁾ and MENTOR ⁽⁵⁾, funded with more than EUR 10 million. A new joint action on the mental health of vulnerable groups is currently being prepared (EUR 6 million in funding).

The Commission is also providing support in the collection and transfer of best and promising practices via the EU Best Practice Portal for Public Health ⁽⁶⁾. In 2023, a dedicated call for practices on mental health ⁽⁷⁾ resulted in 29 new proven practices that can inspire Member States.

The Commission regularly discusses the Member States' challenges and progress of mental health policies at the subgroup on mental health ⁽⁸⁾ of the Expert Group on Public Health ⁽⁹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/cef45b6d-a871-44d5-9d62-3cecc47eda89_en?filename=com_2023_298_1_act_en.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://eu-promens.eu/eu-promens>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.unicef.org/eca/press-releases/european-commission-and-unicef-announce-new-partnership-improve-health-outcomes>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://ja-imental.eu/>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://ja-mentor.eu/>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal/>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/latest-updates/call-best-and-promising-practices-mental-health-2023-07-12_en.

⁽⁸⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/events_en?f%5B0%5D=topic_topic%3A203.

⁽⁹⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/expert-group-public-health_en.