

Outcome statement of the regional high-level conference on mental health in all policies: address challenges and design shared solutions

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We, the participants of the Regional High-level conference on mental health in all policies, convened to address challenges and design shared solutions, unequivocally recognize the necessity for inter-sectoral collaboration to protect and promote mental health and well-being.

We acknowledge that across the world, political and financial priorities are shifting in response to continuing and emerging crises and health determinants. Within this context, we remain committed to supporting mental health and well-being as critical elements of a well-functioning society.

We reiterate that health systems must be able to meet the needs of people requiring mental health support, providing age-specific, inclusive, accessible, and prevention-focused solutions, regardless of gender, religion, education, employment status, socioeconomic status or ability to pay, or place of origin, including in emergencies.

We reaffirm the need to operationalize the concept of mental health in all policies, which emerges as a consistent theme in dialogue with national authorities, partners and stakeholders.

Promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental health challenges are the responsibility of all sectors of government, including but not limited to agriculture, culture and arts, defence, education, employment, energy, environment, family, finance, housing, innovation, justice, law enforcement, migration, sports, transport and welfare. We recognize that mechanisms that enable coordination between all sectors are essential. These mechanisms act as key enablers to the implementation of mental health policies when they are in place, and as important barriers when they are not in place.

We underscore that each individual has unique capacities and life experience, which are significantly shaped by socioeconomic status, gender, disability, ethnicity and other determinants of health.

We recognize the proactive steps already taken by many governments to develop or strengthen mechanisms to ensure inter-sectoral action on mental health at the local, regional and national levels. It is in this spirit of cooperation that we put forward this outcome statement. Through coordinated efforts across all sectors of government, we commit to develop, implement and continuously monitor national and local policies and mechanisms that:

- Align funding streams across various sectors and levels of government towards a common purpose and ensuring collective accountability: improving well-being, preventing mental health challenges and promoting recovery, thereby contributing to a more resilient society;
- Foster social connections by promoting public spaces, services and educational initiatives that break down stigma and discrimination of people living with mental health conditions, such as inclusive housing, arts, sports and cultural and physical activities, age-friendly community spaces, information campaigns and more;
- Engage schools, higher education, research institutions, prisons, workplaces, media, non-governmental organizations, agricultural/farming, and health and social care settings to develop and implement mental health and well-being policies; prevent mental ill health, including through research into early markers; and promote psycho-social competencies including suicide prevention initiatives;
- Involve, from the outset and through a co-creative approach, people with lived experience, their families and care-givers in the design, implementation and monitoring of multi-sectoral public policies;
- Reshape community environments, in partnership with the scientific community, giving workplaces, health care providers, urban planners, law enforcement, housing associations and other sectors the knowledge and tools to achieve a positive impact on population mental health and wellbeing.
- Ensure equitable access to community-based services that protect mental health and well-being and enable recovery from mental health challenges, in all contexts and settings, including through integration of mental health in emergency preparedness, resilience and recovery plans;
- Ensure that online spaces and digital resources are safe, are informed by emerging evidence on mental health impacts and regulations are established, including through trusted public-private partnerships;

- Facilitate access to social rights for people living with mental health conditions, such as by adapting public transport for those with cognitive difficulties, ensuring communication tools are accessible or simplifying administrative formalities; and
- Ensure that adherence to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UN Charter on the Rights of the Child is embedded in all policies and across all sectors, ensuring a rights-based approach that includes the voices of people with lived experience, their families and communities.

To effectively implement these national and local policies, we commit to engage in or strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration by:

- Setting up multisectoral advisory committees, coordinating high-level policy dialogues and otherwise consolidating their work in the implementation of specific policies, especially those targeting marginalised groups, including people with severe mental health conditions;
- Setting up or strengthening national teams dedicated to the coordination and follow up of mental health policies in each country, including co-creation with people with lived experience, their family and caregivers, the non-governmental sector, the private sector and other non-state actors;
- Ensuring that all mental health national strategies are developed and implemented with all relevant ministries;
- Making best use of financial, human and technical resources – including pooling where appropriate and feasible – to facilitate the intersectoral coordination of national and local actions, including the establishment of intersectoral data monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, while prioritizing mental health in national and subnational agendas and enabling co-creation efforts at all levels and across all sectors to ensure accountability; and
- Mobilizing and building the capacity of local actors, such as municipalities and local government, in the implementation of inter-sectoral policy.

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This outcome statement acts as a concise guide, encapsulating the key priorities and actions outlined during the regional high-level conference on policy innovation for mental health in all policies in the WHO European Region held in Paris, France, on 16 and 17 June 2025. Endorsement of the statement does not imply commitment from Member States, entities or represented organizations participating in the conference. Its purpose is to provide a clear and succinct overview of the conference discussions and outcomes, contributing to the advancement of policy innovation for mental health in all policies. The creation of the outcome statement was a collaboration between the French Ministry of Health and Access to Care, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Training and Research in Mental Health in Lille (France) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, with valuable contributions from conference participants. The regional high-level conference was made possible through funding provided by contribution agreements between the European Commission and the WHO Regional Office for Europe (“Addressing mental health challenges in EU Member States, Iceland and Norway” and “Support for health resilience in the Eastern Partnership”).



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