

HOPE Contribution to the European Commission Call for Evidence “A comprehensive approach to mental health”

HOPE welcomes the initiative of the European Commission and its overall aim of a comprehensive EU approach to mental health. It makes sense to improve mental health by integrating mental health into all relevant EU policies and to maximise the added value of EU policies in national and local efforts.

Mental health is indeed a determining factor in the effectiveness of EU policies as well as in the health, stability and prosperity of our societies. It is therefore essential to ensure that the EU adds maximum value to the coordinated efforts undertaken by Member States and others to help promote mental health, prevent poor mental health, treat mental health problems and deal effectively with the consequences. This is clearly rightly in line with the Council conclusions on the Economy of Well-being adopted in 2019 stating the importance to make “greater efforts to promote good mental health and to advance [...] prevention”.

HOPE particularly welcomes that the initiative seeks to promote a comprehensive, prevention-oriented approach to mental health as a public health issue and to mainstream mental health into EU policies. It is important to set out possible future workstreams, focusing on clearly defined EU added value to facilitate the work of Member States and those on the frontline.

Mental health has always been on HOPE agenda. In 1999 HOPE started to organise annual seminars bringing together professionals, patients and institutions prior to the publication of the Green Paper on Mental Health . The last one of the series was the 2005 seminar in Dublin was dealing with “Quality and Choice in Mental Health”. In 2005 the European Commission published a Green Paper on Mental Health to which HOPE reacted by releasing a Position Paper welcoming the Commission initiative on this topics.

HOPE was then a partner in the Joint Action on Mental health and Well-being, which ran from 2013 to 2016. The objective of the Joint Action was to contribute to the promotion of mental health and wellbeing, the prevention of mental disorders and the improvement of care and social inclusion of people with mental disorders in Europe. Moreover, its main purpose was to build a framework for action in mental health policy at the European level. The final conference represented the opportunity set of policy recommendations, summarised in a report “European Framework for Action on Mental

health and Wellbeing” which supports EU-countries to review their policies and share experiences in improving policy efficiency and effectiveness.

Its conclusions are still valid as it aimed to:

- Develop mental health promotion and prevention and early intervention programmes;
- Ensure the transition to comprehensive mental health treatment and quality care;
- Strengthen knowledge, evidence and best practice sharing in mental health.

HOPE, the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation, is a European non-profit organisation, created in 1966. HOPE represents national public and private hospitals associations and hospitals owners either federations of local and regional authorities or national health services. Today, HOPE is made up of 36 organisations coming from the 27 Member States of the European Union, as well as from the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Serbia as observer members. HOPE mission is to promote improvements in the health of citizens throughout Europe, high standard of hospital care and to foster efficiency with humanity in the organisation and operation of hospital and healthcare services.