

EN
E-000547/2019
Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.3.2019)

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Members that mental health problems can have devastating consequences on the lives of people experiencing mental ill-health, their friends, relatives and caregivers.

The main achievement of the Joint Action on 'Mental Health and Wellbeing' was the 'European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing'¹, agreed by partners of 25 Member States, Norway and Iceland in 2016. The framework emphasises the need for a cross-sectoral approach focused on prevention and supported by evidence and good practices. The Joint Action 'EU Compass for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing'² was a means of communicating information on the 'European Framework', as well as monitoring the mental health and well-being policies and activities of EU countries and non-governmental stakeholders. Main activities under the Compass included the identification and dissemination of good practices in mental health, collection of information on activities in mental health, and holding mental health workshops in each EU country and in Iceland and Norway.

In November 2018 the new Steering Group on 'Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non Communicable Diseases' decided that mental health would be the priority area for best practice selection in 2019³. The Commission will also help Member States and stakeholders to support the implementation of the best practices at national level through potential EU funding opportunities. The Commission's approach is therefore to support and encourage the scaling up of best practices and ensuring their transferability across the EU.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-SC1-BHC-22-2019-framework-for-action_en.pdf

² https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/mental_health/eu_compass_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/non_communicable_diseases/docs/ev_20181106_note_en.pdf