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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.4.2020)

The Commission is committed to supporting Member States in meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 3.4¹.

The Commission's Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases² is the prime mechanism for dialogue with national health ministries on non-communicable diseases. Since the creation of this group, the Commission has taken a horizontal approach to addressing non-communicable diseases. The Member States representatives in the steering group select priority areas for cross-national learning and scaling-up best practices.

In November 2018, the Steering Group prioritised mental health. Since then, and building on a series of Commission activities^{3,4}, the steering group ranked best practices⁵ according to relevance for national implementation. The Commission will be supporting these best practices via the EU Health Programme's 2020 Work Programme⁶. The steering group has not prioritised specific neurological or brain health activities and the Commission will not be developing a dedicated strategy on this theme.

Horizon 2020 currently funds the European Brain Research Area⁷, aiming to provide recommendations to build an EU brain research strategy. The recommendations will be used to develop the brain health partnership in the Horizon Europe programme⁸. Key EU supported initiatives are the Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease Research⁹, Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research¹⁰ and the Human Brain Project¹¹.

The Commission is working on mental health across policies to maximise synergies. For example, adverse childhood experiences are addressed in the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme¹².

¹ Goal 3.4 aims at reducing the mortality from non-communicable diseases, see <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals>

² https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/steeringgroup_promotionprevention_en

³ EU Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-Being <http://www.mentalhealthandwellbeing.eu/the-joint-action/>

⁴ European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing, see

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

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/events/ev_20190514_en

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/funding/docs/wp2020_annex_en.pdf

⁷ www.ebra.eu/

⁸ ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme_en

⁹ www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/

¹⁰ www.neuron-eranet.eu/

¹¹ www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/

¹² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/rec-rdap-gbv-ag-2019>