

Improving mental health policies in the EU - Mental Health Europe's Manifesto



Mental Health Europe (MHE) is an organisation committed to the promotion of positive mental health, the prevention of mental distress, the improvement of care, advocacy for social inclusion and the protection of human rights for people with mental health problems, their families and carers.

Mental health problems can affect anyone. According to the World Health Organisation, one in four people experiences some form of mental health disorder during their lifetime.

The mental health and well-being of the population is recognised as a key policy issue by the European Parliament's Committee for Health and Environment. In February 2009, the resolution on Mental Health¹ was adopted unanimously. MHE welcomed the initiative of the European Parliament but since targeted policy measures are still to be implemented, MHE and their members would like to address all Members of European Parliament in a common Manifesto:

MANIFESTO OF MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE EU AGENDA

Mental Health Europe (MHE) and its members call for:

- 1 National and European policies to promote the mental health and well-being of all its citizens - No Health without Mental Health!
- 2 A focus on prevention of mental health problems through adequate social protection and inclusion policies in Europe - a minimum level of income for people suffering from mental health problems
- 3 The introduction of a number of measures / programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination against people with mental health problems
- 4 Access to good-quality standards of care and provision of adequate levels of resourcing for the care and treatment of people with mental health problems
- 5 Equal access to education
- 6 Equal access to employment
- 7 The right to housing
- 8 The right to self-determination of people with mental health problems to live independently in the community with proper support where necessary and to make their own choices in life
- 9 A swift ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
- 10 The right to vote and be a candidate in electoral campaigns
- 11 Mainstreaming mental health and well-being across all EU and national policies

For further information:
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(Endnotes)

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0063+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>