



KEEP IN MIND

 **THIRD EDITION** 

**A quick guide to
European institutions and EU policy-making
relevant to mental health and
people with mental health problems**



TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	3
1. THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES	4
European Council	4
Council of the European Union	5
European Commission	7
European Parliament	8
Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)	9
European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)	10
Committee of the Regions (CoR)	11
European Ombudsman	11
EU Agencies	12
2. THE EU DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES	14
How decisions are made?	14
EU Law	15
3. THE EU POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES	17
Health policy	17
Human rights policy	21
Social policy	24
4. INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS OF RELEVANCE TO MENTAL HEALTH	28
Council of Europe (CoE)	28
United Nations (UN)	31
World Health Organisation (WHO)	32
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	33
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	34
5. USEFUL WEBSITES	35

INTRODUCTION

Keep in Mind III is the third edition of the Mental Health Europe (MHE) guide to the Institutions of the European Union (EU). It gives a comprehensive overview of European Institutions and EU policy-making relevant to mental health and for people living with mental ill health. It also provides concrete guidance on how to interact with EU institutions and agencies which will hopefully encourage our members and other stakeholders to increase their participation in EU policy discussions. Ensuring a dialogue between people, national organisations and the European institutions is essential to guarantee that policies reflect the reality for people living in the EU and have a positive impact on their lives.



GET INVOLVED



IN BRIEF

1. THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

Who are they and what do they do?

In this chapter, you will find a brief description of the main EU institutions including their composition and main functions. The EU is made up of a number of institutions and agencies, and MHE has selected the most relevant for its work in this guide. You will find a list of all EU bodies at the end of this chapter.

This chapter also presents concrete recommendations on how you can get involved with the work of each of the EU institutions. To keep up with their activities, you can register for each EU institution's newsletter which provides most of the information you need to know about. At MHE, we also summarise the most important developments and post them in our monthly newsletter to keep you up to date with what is going on in the EU, so read it carefully!

EUROPEAN COUNCIL



Who: Heads of state or government of EU countries, European Commission President, High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy

Location: Brussels (Belgium)

Current president: Charles Michel (December 2019-2022)



IN BRIEF:

Defines the general political direction and priorities of the EU

The main purpose of the [European Council](#) is to set the political direction and priorities of the EU, traditionally by adopting 'conclusions' which reflect the main messages from their discussions. It represents the highest level of political cooperation between EU countries. As such, it can vote on changing EU Treaties, or accepting new countries as members.

Although it does not have power to pass laws, the European Council influences the setting of the EU agenda and it is sometimes worth lobbying at the national level to ensure relevant issues appear or direction and priorities of the EU remain in the focus of the EU.

GET INVOLVED!

You can follow the European Council via Twitter [@EUCouncil](#) & [@EUCouncilPress](#) (same accounts as the Council of the European Union)

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



*Who: Governments representatives.
There are 10 Council configurations,
each working on a specific policy field.
It was formerly known as the Council of
Ministers*

Location: Brussels (Belgium)



IN BRIEF:

*Legislative arm of the EU and
voice of EU member governments*

UPCOMING PRESIDENCIES

January – June 2020 Croatia
July – December 2020 Germany
January – June 2021 Portugal
July – December 2021 Slovenia
January – June 2022 France
July – December 2022 Czechia

In the [Council](#), government ministers from each EU country meet to discuss, amend and adopt laws, and coordinate policies. Together with the European Parliament, the Council negotiates and adopts EU law and the EU budget, while also developing the EU's common foreign and security policy, concluding international agreements and coordinating Member States' policies.

Each Member State, according to a predefined rotation, chairs the Council for six months. Along with the President of the Council, the country holding the Presidency organises and chairs meetings and draws up agreements. Three Presidencies together form a “Trio Presidency” which means that they cooperate with each other in drafting an overall program for an 18-month period.

Council of the European Union, which is an institution of the European Union, should not be confused with The Council of Europe, which is an intergovernmental institution that aims to protect human rights in the EU. The Council of Europe is explained in Chapter 4 “International bodies and policy frameworks of relevance to mental health” of the present document.

GET INVOLVED!

- You can follow Council of the European Union via Twitter  @EUCouncil & @EUCouncilPress (same accounts as the European Council)
 - Each Presidency also has its own website.
 - If your country is holding the EU Presidency in the near future, please contact your ministries to put mental health on the agenda including by co-organising a conference/seminar. MHE will be happy to support and advice you during this process. MHE usually meets with EU Presidency's Permanent Representation offices in Brussels prior to the beginning of their mandate, and/or during it, to discuss mental health, EU policies and relevant activities.
 - Even if your country is not holding the Presidency, if a topic relevant to mental health is being discussed within the Council, please contact your ministries to ensure that the right approach is taken, i.e. one that is sensitive to the impact on mental health and is in line with human rights standards.
-

EPSCO COUNCIL (The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council Configuration)



GET INVOLVED! —

- You can use #EPSCO to have EPSCO news via  Twitter.
 - Check what is on the agenda of the upcoming meetings and bring your own proposals by addressing your competent national ministry. See the agenda for meetings [here](#).
-

The most important Council configuration for MHE is the [EPSCO Council](#) which usually convenes the National ministers responsible for health, employment, social protection, consumer protection and equal opportunities. It adopts European rules that harmonise national laws on topics such as employment, social, health and consumer affairs policy.

However, as employment and social protection policies are primarily the responsibility of the Member States themselves, the EU can mainly adopt non-binding recommendations and minimum standards (e.g. working and employment conditions) or set common objectives for Member States.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Who: *The Commission is composed of the College of Commissioners (coming from 27 EU countries). The College is the Commission's political leadership during a 5-year term. Commissioners are assigned responsibility for specific policy areas by the President. Commissioners must act independently, representing the European Union's general interests and not the specific interests of their Member State.*

Location: *Brussels (Belgium)*

Current president: *Ursula von der Leyen*



IN BRIEF:

Executive of the EU – promotes the general interests of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation as well as by implementing policies and the EU budget

The [European Commission](#) is the EU's politically independent executive body. It is responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. It manages EU policies and allocates EU funding.

The Commission is led by the Commission's President who nominates a responsible Commissioner from each Member State to deal with policy areas. Commissioners must act independently, representing the European Union's general interests and not the specific interests of their Member State.

The work of the Commission relies on administrative departments called DGs (Directorate Generals) which are responsible for specific policy areas. They draft laws which become official as proposals enter the legislative path. The College of Commissioners approves the proposals during its weekly meetings. MHE works most often with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion ([DG EMPL](#)), DG Health and Food Safety ([DG SANTE](#)), DG Justice and Consumers ([DG JUST](#)).

GET INVOLVED!

- You can follow the European Commission and relevant DGs on Twitter  @EU_Commission, @EU_Social (DG EMPL), @EU_Health (DG SANTE), @EU_Justice (DG JUST).
- You can write and send position papers/press releases to the competent [Commissioners](#), along with the relevant units in a specific DG. The Commission also regularly [holds open consultations](#) about legislative proposals and other policies to which you can contribute.
- You can follow the Commissioners who work on policies relevant to mental health on Twitter to keep updated 
- Nicolas Schmit – Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (@NicolasSchmitEU)
- Stella Kyriakides – Commissioner for Health (@SKyriakidesEU)
- Didier Reynders – Commissioner for Justice (@dreynders)
- Helena Dalli – Commissioner for Equality (@helenaDalli)
- Frans Timmermans – Executive Vice President (@TimmermansEU)
- You can also see who works where and see the different departments within a DG by checking the organigrammes ([DG EMPL](#), [DG JUST](#), [DG SANTE](#)) and the EU's who is who [website](#).

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Who: Directly elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) representing European citizens. There are 705 MEPs in 7+ political groups. The seats in the European Parliament are allocated among the Member States based on their share of the EU population.

Location: Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium) and Luxembourg

Current president: David Sassoli (July 2019 – December 2021)



IN BRIEF:


Legislative branch of the EU,
directly-elected EU body

The [European Parliament](#) is the EU's law-making body. It shares equal legislative and budgetary powers with the Council of the EU. The MEPs are directly elected by EU voters every 5 years. The next elections will be held in 2024. Some MEPs are known as non-attached Members, which means they do not belong to any political group, but most of MEPs are affiliated to one of the political groups:

- > [Group of the European People's Party](#)
- > [Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament](#)
- > [Renew Europe Group](#)
- > [Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance](#)
- > [Identity and Democracy Group](#)
- > [European Conservatives and Reformists Group](#)
- > [Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left](#)

Thematic work is carried out through 20 committees and several intergroups. The most relevant committees for MHE are the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE).

GET INVOLVED!

- You can follow the European Parliament and the relevant committees on Twitter  (@Europarl_EN, @EPSocialAffairs (EMPL committee), @EP_Environment (ENVI committee), @EP_Justice (LIBE committee))
- Check MHE's [Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) which brings together MEPs with a particular interest for mental health.
- To identify MEPs who have an interest for mental health and MEPs from your country, see list of MEPs per country [here](#). Keep regular contacts with them especially those involved in committees that have a link to mental health. You can also, for instance, organise meetings, propose amendments to draft proposals or raise a specific issue. You should also maintain regular contacts with your national MEPs and their assistants as they may be consulted on certain legislative drafts.

- MHE also encourage its members to invite MEPs who might be interested to join the Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing. MHE has template letters for approaching them and can support as needed for getting in touch with the MEPs. Contact MHE's Advocacy and Policy Officer for more details.
- Other ways of getting in touch with Parliament include contacting your local MEP or the [European Parliament Information Office](#) in your country.
- You can also follow [MEPs from MHE's Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing 2019-2024](#) on Twitter (@alexagiussaliba, @alviinaalametsa, @brandobenifei, @simonabonafe, @MCampomenosi, @sara_saracerdas, @Miriamdalli, @pdsutter, @ladyonorato, @estrella_dura, @tfajon, @giannagancia, @juozas_olekas, @SeanKellyMEP, @Konecna_K, @k_langensiepen, @MetzTilly, @spietikainen, @susanasolisp, @SylviaSpurek, @WeissPernille, @MariaWalshEU) or via #MHEPCoalition hashtag
- If you want to monitor the legislative work of the European Parliament, you can also have a look at [On Our Watch's](#) website, which provides a list of tools to monitor its political decisions and activities.

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CJEU)



Who: The CJEU is composed of 2 courts. The first one is the Court of Justice composed of 1 judge from each EU country, plus a defined number of Advocates General. The second one is the General Court composed of 2 judges from each EU country.

Location: Luxembourg



IN BRIEF:

Ensures respect for EU law and correct application of the treaties

The [Court of Justice of the European Union \(CJEU\)](#) interprets EU law to make sure it is applied in the same way in all EU countries, and settles legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions. It can also, in certain circumstances, be used by individuals, companies or organisations to take action against an institution of the European Union, if they feel it has somehow infringed their rights under EU law.

GET INVOLVED!

- You can follow the CJEU on Twitter [@EUCourtPress](#)
- If you feel that the authorities in any country have infringed EU law, you must follow the [official complaints procedure](#).
- If you – as a private individual or as a company – have suffered damage as a result of action or inaction by an EU institution or its staff, you can take action against them in one of [two ways](#). For more information, you can also visit the page [Your EU Rights](#).

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (EESC)



European Economic and Social Committee

Who: 350 members from all EU countries representing three groups: employers, workers and “various interests”.

This last group brings together a wide range of social, occupational, economic and cultural organisations that make up civil society in the Member States.

They are nominated by national governments and appointed by the Council of the EU for renewable 5-year terms.

Location: Brussels (Belgium)

Current president: Luca Jahier



IN BRIEF:

Represents civil society, employers and employees

The [European Economic and Social Committee \(EESC\)](#) is an EU advisory body. It issues opinions to the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, thus acting as a bridge between the EU’s decision-making institutions and EU citizens. Within the EU decision-making process, the EESC is consulted prior to any decision regarding social and economic policies. It can also issue opinions on its own initiative.

GET INVOLVED!

- You can follow the European Economic and Social Committee on Twitter [@EU_EESC](#)
- The EESC also has a [Permanent Study group on Disability rights](#) and has set up a liaison group which gathers representatives of civil society and networks to enable dialogue around policies and important matters through which organisations can make their voice heard.
- Don’t hesitate to inform the [members of the EESC from your country](#) about issues on the ground, which they can bring up in their work, hearings and reports.

INFLUENCE EU POLICIES THROUGH MHE

At MHE, we keep track of all the EU policy developments which are relevant for mental health and we make it our mission to influence the EU institutions; raise awareness and make sure mental health is part of all discussions -all in consultation with our members!

Our members are our strength and together we influence policies as a strong collective voice. If you have a question or would like to get more involved, feel free to [contact us](#).

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (CoR)



European Committee of the Regions

Who: 350 members representing local or regional authorities. Each country nominates members to represent regions who are appointed for a renewable five-year term by the Council of the EU.

Location: Brussels (Belgium)

Current president: Apostolos Tzitzikostas



IN BRIEF:

Represents regional and local authorities

The [Committee of the Regions \(CoR\)](#) is an EU advisory body composed of locally and regionally elected representatives coming from all Member States. Through the CoR they can share their opinion on EU legislation that directly impact regions and cities.



GET INVOLVED!

- You can follow the Committee of the Regions on Twitter [@EU_CoR](#)
 - You can take part into online surveys, consultations and events which the CoR post about on its website regularly. The CoR also invites citizens to organise a local and regional public event to talk about Europe, [check here](#).
 - You can also stay in touch with the representatives of your region to ensure they bring up issues of concern. You can find out who are your representatives with [this tool](#).
-

EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN



Who: The Ombudsman is elected by the European Parliament for a renewable 5-year term

Location: Strasbourg (France)

Current ombudsman: Emily O'Reilly



IN BRIEF:

Investigates complaints against EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies

Citizens or residents of the EU as well as European associations or businesses may lodge complaints with the [European Ombudsman](#) about poor administration by EU institutions or other EU bodies. The European Ombudsman's role is to launch investigations either in response to complaints or on his/her own initiative. Examples of poor administration are: unfair conduct, discrimination, abuse of power, lack of information or refusal to provide it, unnecessary delays and incorrect procedures.



GET INVOLVED!

If you want to learn more about how the Ombudsman and the complaints process work, see [here](#).

EU AGENCIES

[EU agencies](#) are distinct from the EU institutions. They are separate legal entities whose main mission is to support the work of the EU institutions. There are more than 40 EU agencies.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)



Location: Vienna (Austria)

Director: Michael O'Flaherty



IN BRIEF:

EU centre for fundamental rights which helps to ensure that the rights of people living in the EU are protected

[FRA](#) was established in 2007 as an EU Agency with the specific task of providing independent, evidence-based advice on fundamental rights. It collects and analyses information and data; provides assistance and expertise; communicates and raises awareness on human rights.



GET INVOLVED!

To learn more about FRA and its impact on MHE's, see the 'Human Rights Policy' section of [Chapter 3](#).

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA)



Location: Bilbao (Spain)

Director: Dr. Christa Sedlatschek



IN BRIEF:

European Union information agency for occupational safety and health

[EU-OSHA](#) is the EU information agency for occupational safety and health. They develop, gather and provide reliable and relevant information, analysis and tools to advance knowledge, raise awareness and exchange on occupational safety and health (OSH).

Their work contributes to the European Commission's [Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014 – 2020](#) and other relevant EU strategies and programmes, such as the Europe 2020 Strategy. Considering that

we are approaching the end of the mentioned strategies and programmes, MHE recommends the future EC Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work to adequately cover and address psychosocial risks factors in the workplace.

GET INVOLVED!

- Read about EU-OSHA [campaigns](#) and [what you can do](#).
 - You can also have a look at the “[Psychosocial risks and stress at work](#)” section of EU-OSHA’s website. They have many [publications](#) about this topic, including the “[E-guide to manage stress and psychosocial risks](#)”.
 - Watch the EU-OSHA’s campaign [video](#) on stress and their [short movie](#) on stress.
-

Eurofound (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions)



Location: Dublin (Ireland)
Director: Juan Menéndez-Valdés



IN BRIEF:

Provides information, advice and expertise on living and working conditions, industrial relations and managing change in Europe

[Eurofound](#) is a tripartite Agency whose role is to provide knowledge to assist in the development of better social, employment and work-related policies. Eurofound was established in 1975 to contribute to the planning and design of better living and working conditions in Europe.

CHAFEA (Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency)



Location: Luxembourg
Director: Véronique Wasbauer

The [CHAFEA](#) was created in 2005. In 2013, the Agency’s mandate was prolonged until 2024 and expanded to include actions in the field of health, consumer protection and food safety. The CHAFEA implements, among others, the [EU Health Programme](#). The Agency provides a professional service in performing the tasks and activities entrusted to it by the European Commission and works closely with the [DG](#)

[Health and Food Safety](#), [DG Justice and Consumers](#) and [DG Agriculture and Rural Development](#). Unlike the three above-mentioned agencies, it is an executive agency, which means that it is set up for a limited period of time by the European Commission to manage specific tasks related to EU programmes. This agency was responsible for the implementation of the EU Compass for Action on Mental Health and Well-being, which is explained in [Chapter 3](#).

2. THE EU DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE?

Three EU institutions are involved in the EU legislative process to produce the policies and laws that apply throughout the EU:

1. The European Commission

The European Commission represents the interests of the Union, which usually proposes new laws;

2. The European Parliament

The European Parliament represents the EU's citizens, which adopts the laws proposed by the Commission jointly with the Council of the EU;

3. The Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union represents the governments of the individual Member States, which adopts the laws proposed by the Commission jointly with the European Parliament.

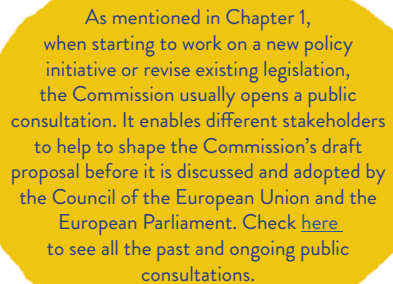
This whole process is what called the '[Ordinary Legislative Procedure](#)' (formerly known as 'co-decision'), which gives the same weight to the Parliament and the Council. It is the main legislative procedure of the EU's decision-making system.

Another legislative process, the 'Special Legislative Procedures' only applies in certain scenarios (e.g. taxation) where the European Parliament has only a consultative role while the Council is the main legislator.

Once a law is adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, the Commission's role is to ensure that it is properly applied and implemented by Member States.

GET INVOLVED!

- To follow legislative proposals currently discussed within the institutions, check out the tool developed by the Commission “[the legislative train schedule](#)” which presents an overview of all proposals and their state of play.
 - You can also use the [Legislative Observatory](#) to follow EU’s decision-making process through the European Parliament. There is a useful personalised area on the website called [My Observatory](#) which allows you to save your searches and request notifications when changes occur in files that you are interested in.
 - If you are interested in the EU decision-making process, you can learn more about [how EU decisions are made](#) and the [Ordinary Legislative Procedure](#).
-



As mentioned in Chapter 1, when starting to work on a new policy initiative or revise existing legislation, the Commission usually opens a public consultation. It enables different stakeholders to help to shape the Commission’s draft proposal before it is discussed and adopted by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. Check [here](#) to see all the past and ongoing public consultations.

EU LAW

EU law is divided into ‘primary’ and ‘secondary’ legislation. The primary legislation consists of [EU Treaties](#) that have been democratically approved by all EU Member States and on which every action taken by the European Union is based. Treaties set out EU objectives, rules for EU institutions, how decisions are made and the relationship between the EU and its member countries. If a policy area is not cited in a treaty, the Commission cannot propose a law in that area. The aims set out in the EU treaties are achieved by several types of legal acts, which consist of secondary legislation.



What are the different types of EU legal acts (secondary legislation)?

Regulation

A regulation is a legislation that is directly applicable and binding in all Member States. It does not need to be passed into national law by the Member States although national laws may need to be changed to avoid conflicting with the regulation.

Directive

A directive is a legislation that is binding on Member States. However, it usually specifies the result to be achieved but the Member States still have the power to decide how this is done. Usually, directives must be transposed into national law to become effective.

Decision

A decision is a legislation that can be addressed to Member States, groups of people, or even individuals. It is binding in its entirety. Decisions are used, for example, to rule on proposed mergers between companies.

Recommendation

A recommendation is not binding. It allows the institutions to make their views known and to suggest a line of action without imposing any legal obligation on those to whom it is addressed.

Opinion

An opinion is not binding. It is an instrument that allows the institutions to make a statement without imposing any legal obligation on those to whom it is addressed.

It can be issued by the main EU institutions (Commission, Council, Parliament), the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. While laws are being made, the committees give opinions from their specific regional or economic and social viewpoint.

All these types of legal acts are officially adopted when the Council of the European Union and the Parliament have jointly agreed to the provisions. It enters into force upon its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.



3. THE EU POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES

The third chapter lists and describes EU policy tools which are relevant to mental health. There have been multiple new policies developed over the years. Given MHE's approach of mainstreaming mental health in all policies, we are at the forefront of monitoring all fields to ensure that mental health is reflected. In this chapter, you will find tips on how to use the specific policy/tool and how to contribute to policy-making processes.

HEALTH POLICY

THE COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council Conclusions on the Economy of Well-being

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) adopted the Council conclusions on the Economy of Well-being. These conclusions are a part of the commitment of the Finnish Presidency to the Council of the European Union to put the economy of well-being at the centre of all policies.

The Council recommended to the European Commission to propose a Mental Health Strategy for the Union, taking into account the cross-sectoral impacts of different policies on mental health.

The above creates a strong base for civil society organisations to advocate for a creation of such a strategy that would deliver on a Mental Health in All Policies approach.

GET INVOLVED! _____

If you want to learn more about the Council Conclusions on the Economy of Well-being, you can find them [here](#). Following [this link](#), you can access MHE's response and recommendations on the conclusions.

THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION & THE EU COMPASS ON MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

The Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being (2013-2016)

The [Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being](#) (2013-2016) was a three-year project which brought together Member States, the Commission and stakeholders active in the field of mental health from across Europe such as MHE.

It was the first real forum for the exchange of best practices on mental health at European level.

It addressed issues related to five areas:

1. Mental health at work
2. Mental health in schools
3. Depression and suicide and implementation of e-health approaches

4. Developing community-based and socially inclusive mental health care
5. Mental health in all policies

The close of the Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being has left us with two important gifts: [the European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Well-being](#) and the re-launched of [the EU Compass for Action on Mental Health and Well-being](#).

GET INVOLVED! _____

If you want to learn more about the Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being, you can find all its reports [here](#).

The EU Framework for Action on Mental Health and Well-being

The [Framework](#) addresses the five themes previously listed that the Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being had worked on.

It is a non-binding call to action which supports national governments to review their policies in the field of mental health and also provide guidance for the review and development of EU's own policies.

It also lists good practices in mental health promotion and prevention.

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If you want to learn more about the Framework and how you can use it within your organisation, MHE has developed a [Guidance note on how to use the European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Well-being](#).

The EU Compass for Action on Mental Health and Well-being

The [EU Compass](#) provided Member States and stakeholders with an opportunity to share annual activity reports about their activities on mental health, the reasons behind them, the progress made in their implementation and the achievements made through them.

The EU Compass focused on 7 priority areas through the years. The priorities for 2016 were prevention of depression & promotion of resilience and improving accessibility to mental health services. The priorities for 2017 are mental health at work, mental health in school and preventing suicide.

The priorities for 2018 were providing community-based mental health

services and developing integrated governance approaches.

The EU Compass for Action in Mental Health and Well-being annual reports were published between 2016-2018. These were the results of the annual survey regarding the activities of Member States and stakeholders in mental health. Each year was held to discuss the annual themes. The EU Compass also collected examples of good practices from EU countries and stakeholders.

 **GET INVOLVED!** _____

Read the EU Compass for Action on Mental Health and Well-being reports [here](#).

EU Health Policy Platform

In 2016, the European Commission launched the [EU Health Policy Platform](#). It is an online forum which facilitates and encourages discussion and exchange of best practices in specific thematic networks between the European Commission and civil society.

The EU Health Policy Platform also [holds face-to-face meetings](#) such as the Biannual EU Health Policy Platform meetings, which brings together pan-European, national and local health stakeholders to enhance their communication with the Commission's

services and amongst themselves twice a year. There are also the Biennial EU Health Policy Platform Conferences which bring together a broader set of stakeholders to discuss future pressing issues in the field of health every two years.

In May 2020, the European Commission established a stakeholder network "COVID-19: mental health support" coordinated by Mental Health Europe. The overall objective of this temporary network is to share resources and expertise, identify and

address knowledge gaps, and develop a set of guidance documents that can help address and alleviate the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of European citizens.

GET INVOLVED! _____

If you want to participate in the Health Policy Platform, you will need to [sign up](#) to the Platform and to request access to at least one network.

FUNDING

Even though the EU competence to legislate in the area of health is limited, the EU is required to ensure by its founding treaty that health is protected within EU policies and to work with the EU countries to improve public health, prevent illness and eliminate risk to physical and mental health. The 3rd EU Health Programme and the newly announced EU4Health Programme are two examples of the Union dedicated funding for health.

Third EU Health Programme (2014-2020)

The [third EU Health Programme](#) is the main and current instrument for implementing the [EU health strategy](#). It consists of supporting the EU Member

States' efforts to protect and improve the health of their citizens and to ensure the accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of their health systems.

EU4Health (2021-2027) - a new health programme

Within the framework of the new Multiannual Financial Framework proposed by the European Commission in May 2020, [a new standalone Health Programme](#) will be created. As announced by the European Commission, this programme is a response to the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. EU4Health aims at boosting EU's preparedness for major cross border health threats and making sure that European health systems are resilient. It identifies mental health as one of the key challenges to address in the coming years.

The three general objectives of the programme are the following:

1. **protecting** people in the EU from serious cross-border health threats and improving crisis management capacity;
2. **making** medicines, medical devices and other crisis relevant products, available and affordable and supporting innovation;
3. **strengthening** health systems and the health care workforce, including by investing in public health (e.g. through health promotion and disease prevention programmes and improving access to healthcare).

HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

The UN CRPD (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and the EU

The UN CRPD is a ground-breaking international legally binding human rights treaty which protects the rights of persons with disabilities. People with long-term mental health problems who face barriers in society -persons with psychosocial disabilities- are included in the definition of a person with a disability. The Convention does not create new rights but re-iterates how the human rights of persons with disabilities can be fully protected, respected and fulfilled. It promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal treatment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities.

In 2010, the EU became the first inter-governmental organisation to ratify a UN human rights treaty when it ratified the UN CRPD, making it part of EU law. It also means that the EU must take part in the reporting system like all other parties to the Convention. [The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) is the UN treaty body responsible for the Convention and for monitoring its implementation by States Parties through the review process. It also has the power to review individual complaints against States which have signed the [Optional Protocol to the UN CRPD](#). The EU underwent its first review by the Committee in August 2015. Following

this review, the Committee issued recommendations to the EU on how to implement the Convention. These recommendations now form a basis for the EU's work on the UN CRPD going forward. MHE is following the implementation of this review and will be monitoring the next review cycle initially planned for January 2021 (but probably delayed for a couple of months if not years).

At the European level, [the EU Framework for the UN CRPD](#) promotes, protects and monitors the implementation of the Convention in matters of EU competence, as required by the UN CRPD. It complements national monitoring frameworks which are responsible for promoting, protecting and monitoring the UN CRPD in EU Member States.



Due to the EU's accession to the UN CRPD, it has become of central importance to the work of MHE. We can use the instrument as leverage to call for the implementation of the rights by the EU and all its Member States.



GET INVOLVED!

- For more on the recommendations received by the EU from the CRPD, [check here](#).
 - Want to get involved in your national review process of the UN CRPD? Check out [MHE's toolkit](#).
 - Want to see the case law of the Committee? [Check here](#).
 - You can also check MHE's [implementation report 2019](#) to see how the EU is doing on implementing the recommendations.
-

The EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020

The [EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020](#) aimed at the full empowerment and participation of people with disabilities in society and was intended to build on the UN CRPD. The main focus of the Strategy was the elimination of barriers in eight areas: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education & training, social protection, health and external action.

This Strategy is now coming to an end and the European Commission has confirmed a new Strategy covering a ten years timespan to be adopted in January 2021.

Although the 2010-2020 Strategy allowed to raise awareness and positively positioned persons with disabilities at the EU institutional level, it did not fully meet the initial expectations.



MHE advocates for a comprehensive post 2020 Disability Strategy addressing the recommendations received from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



GET INVOLVED!

Read MHE's [assessment of the 2010-2020 Strategy](#).

The Equal Treatment Directive

In 2000, the [EU Directive on equal treatment](#) in employment and occupation was adopted, protecting among others the rights of people with disabilities in the field of employment and training. The European Commission then proposed in 2008 a directive on non-discrimination outside employment including on access to social services - the horizontal Equal Treatment Directive. This proposed directive has been blocked by Member States in the Council ever since.

The current Commission's President Ursula von der Leyen affirmed the importance of equality in her political guidelines and committed to propose new anti-discrimination legislation.



GET INVOLVED!

MHE continues to advocate for the adoption of a horizontal Equal Treatment Directive.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

The [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#) (the Charter) provides a legal framework for ensuring a whole range of civil, political, economic and social rights of people living in the EU.

The Charter contains rights and freedoms under six titles: dignity, freedoms, equality, solidarity, citizens' rights, and justice. The [Court of Justice of the European Union](#) is in charge of ensuring that the provisions of the Charter are respected. With the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the Charter became legally binding on the EU institutions and on national governments meaning that the EU institutions and Member States

have to respect the rights in the Charter when applying EU law.

The most relevant articles for MHE include Article 24 (right of the child), Article 25 (right of elderly), Article 26 (integration of persons with disabilities), Article 34 (healthy working conditions) and Article 35 (right to healthcare).



GET INVOLVED!

- You can [see here](#) to know more about the Charter.
- You can also [learn more here](#) about what to do if your rights are violated.

SOCIAL POLICY

The European Pillar of Social Rights

The [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) (the Social Pillar) is a framework of social rights and principles. This framework is used to screen the employment and social performance of the euro area and participating Member States in order to drive reforms at national level. It delivers new and more effective rights to EU citizens.

The Social Pillar represents an opportunity for the EU to rebalance its policies in favour of a more fair and social Europe. It is also an opportunity for MHE and its members to further advocate for better investment in mental health promotion and prevention as well as support services and healthcare as well as for the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities. Adopted in 2017 under the leadership of the former Commissioner for Employment, the Social Pillar is being continuously implemented. President von der Leyen tasked the new Commissioner Schmit with the development of an action plan for the full implementation of the Social Pillar.

The rights in the Social Pillar are laid out in 3 categories: equal opportunities & access to the labour market, fair working

conditions and social protection & inclusion. These categories are divided into 20 rights/principles. From those, some are more relevant to our work and the work of our members such as education, training and life-long learning; active support to employment; secure and adaptable employment; work-life balance; healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection; health care, inclusion of people with disabilities and housing and assistance for the homeless.

GET INVOLVED!

- You can use [The European Pillar of Social Rights](#) as leverage at national level
 - You can follow the [Social Scoreboard for the European Pillar of Social Rights](#) which will monitor the implementation of the Social Pillar within the European Semester framework by tracking trends and performances across EU countries
 - Want to learn more about the 20 principles? [Check here](#)
 - Want to learn more about MHE's preliminary analysis of the 20 principles of the Social Pillar? [Check here](#)
-

The Europe 2020 Strategy

In 2010, the EU adopted a [10-year strategy](#) for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth - the Europe 2020 Strategy. It set out five ambitious targets to be achieved by 2020 on employment, research & development, climate change & energy, education and poverty & social exclusion. As part of the strategy, a reporting cycle called the European Semester, is applied to Member States which evaluates their economic and fiscal policies.

This Strategy is now coming to an end. The European Parliament and the

Council of the EU have called for a new long-term EU Strategy in line with the commitments made on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The European Commission, however, has not presented until today any adequate successor to the Europe 2020 strategy, that would set the European Union's vision and steer the EU's priorities in the long-term.

As part of the strategy, a reporting cycle called the European Semester, is applied to Member States which evaluates their economic and fiscal policies.



More on how the European Semester cycle works

The European Semester is coordinated by the European Commission, which every November publishes the priorities and guidelines for the coming year, which is then followed every February by the country reports for each EU Member State, assessing their economic and social policies. Each EU Member States then presents to the European Commission with their national reform programmes, setting out the initiatives they are undertaking to reach the targets in the Europe 2020 Strategy. Following this, the European Commission publishes the Country Specific Recommendations for each Member State, which are then incorporated in national reform plans and budgets for the coming year.

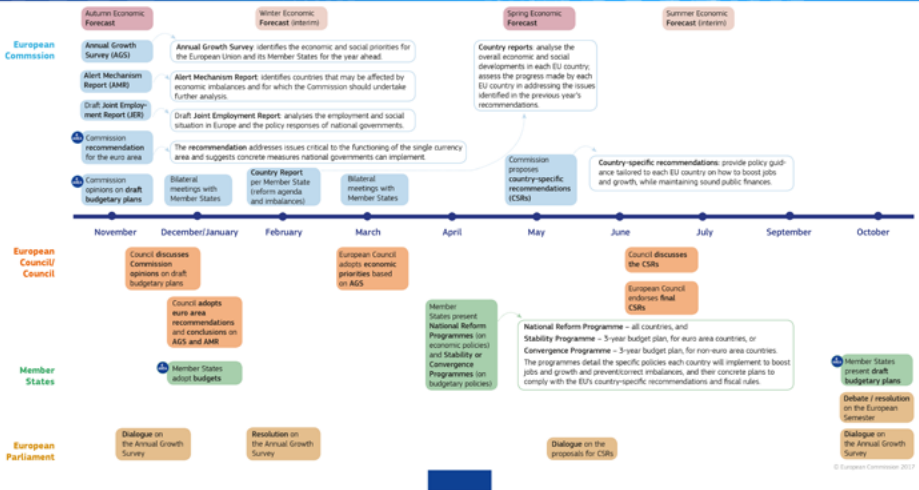


GET INVOLVED!

- Follow-up on the European Semester cycle and review the [EU Country Specific Recommendations](#) drafted by the European Commission to ensure that health and mental health aspects are not overlooked and are incorporated into national reform plans and budgets by keeping in touch with your government.
- Learn more by watching [MHE webinar](#) explaining the European Semester process.



European Semester timeline



Source: [European Commission](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/european-semester-timeline)

The European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion

The [European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion](#) is one of 7 headline initiatives to aimed at implementing the targets of the EU2020 Strategy. The target of the Platform is to lift 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion by 2020. One of the areas for action is to enhance policy coordination among EU countries through the Social Method of Coordination (OMC) implementation which is monitored by the [Social Protection Committee](#) (SPC).

Through this method, the EU provides a framework for national development on social protection and for coordinating

policies between EU countries on issues related to poverty and social exclusion, health care, long-term care and pensions. It focuses on access to quality and sustainable health care and on closing the gap between the supply and demand for long-term care. It explores how to extend or restore older people's autonomy and capacity to live independently, while people are now reaching an age where declining physical and mental health can lead to social exclusion. The Commission has also identified a number of key initiatives designed to help meet the poverty target.

GET INVOLVED!

You can contact the Social Protection Committee members from your country and inform them regularly about mental health related issues. You can also encourage them to bring in a proposal for a peer review on mental health. Please [check here](#) to obtain more information on previous peer reviews).

The Social Investment Package (SIP) and its Recommendation Against Child Poverty

The Commission's [Social Investment Package \(SIP\)](#) is one of the mechanisms to reach Europe 2020's targets. The European Commission adopted the Recommendation '[Investing in Children – Breaking the cycle of disadvantage](#)' as part of the Social Investment Package.

The Recommendation provides guidance for EU Member States on how to tackle child poverty and social exclusion through measures such as family support and benefits, quality health and childcare and early-childhood education. It has a specific reference to the need to devote special attention to children with mental

health problems. The [European Platform for Investing in Children \(EPIC\)](#) helps Member States to implement this Recommendation and is also a tool to monitor the activities brought by the Recommendation and a platform for sharing the best policymaking in this field.

MHE is also part of the [EU Alliance for investing in children](#) as poverty and social exclusion can have negative impacts on the mental health and well-being of disadvantaged children including increases in child suicide.

GET INVOLVED!

See the [Communication on Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion](#) for more information on the Social Investment Package (SIP)

4. INTERNATIONAL BODIES & POLICY FRAMEWORKS OF RELEVANCE TO MENTAL HEALTH

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The [Council of Europe](#) is an inter-governmental organisation focused on promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. It has 47 Member States, including all EU Member States. The Council of Europe can make legally binding laws with the agreement of its members. As previously mentioned, the Council of Europe should not be confused with other EU bodies such as the Council of the European Union.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

The [European Court of Human Rights \(ECHR\)](#) is a Court of the Council which interprets and applies the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) signed by the 47 Member States. The Convention is an international treaty under which the Member States of the Council of Europe promise to secure fundamental civil and political rights, not only to their own citizens but also to everyone within their jurisdiction. The decisions are

binding on Member States and can lead to important changes in policies and legislation. Cases can be taken against Member States which infringe rights secured by the Convention.

 **GET INVOLVED!**

See how to take a case to the ECHR [here](#).

European Social Charter

Another treaty of importance for human rights within the Council of Europe is the [European Social Charter](#) which guarantees fundamental social and economic rights related to employment, housing, health, education, social protection and welfare as a counterpart to the European Convention on Human Rights. The Charter lays specific emphasis on the protection of elderly people, children, people with disabilities and migrants. It requires that enjoyment of the abovementioned rights be guaranteed without discrimination. The [European Committee of Social](#)

[Rights](#) is in charge of monitoring the implementation of the European Social Charter.

GET INVOLVED! _____

- You can read the [Revised European Social Charter](#)
 - You can learn more about the two ways the European Committee of Social Rights is monitoring the implementation of the Charter by the [Collective Complaints Procedure](#) and the [Reporting system](#)
-

Commissioner for Human Rights

The [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) is elected for 6 years. The role of the Commissioner is to act independently to foster the observance of human rights, to provide advice and to promote awareness in the human rights field. The Commissioner also works with national ombudspersons institutions.

GET INVOLVED! _____

The Commissioner has carried out significant work on the rights of persons with disabilities. You can learn more about it [here](#) and find some issue papers, notably about the [right](#) of people with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community and the [right](#) to legal capacity for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities

Venice Commission

The [Venice Commission](#) (officially known as the European Commission for Democracy through law) is an advisory body of the Council of Europe and

assists and advises individual countries in constitutional matters in order to improve democratic institutions to protect human rights.

Conference of INGOs

The [Conference of INGOs](#) is an institution of the Council of Europe which acts as a platform for civil society to engage with the work of the organisation. From 1952 to 2003, INGOs were acting as representatives of civil society but only on a consultative basis. In 2003, the introduction of the participatory status has enabled INGOs to increase their participation in the

policies and work programme of the Council of Europe. It also reinforced cooperation between the Council of Europe and the various NGOs in Member States. More than 300 INGOs enjoy participatory status, including MHE.

Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-2023

The Council of Europe adopted its [Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2017-2023](#) on 30 November 2016 under the title: «Human rights: a reality for all». The Strategy aims at achieving equality, dignity and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. This requires ensuring independence, freedom of choice and full and active participation in all areas of life and society.

This goal will be achieved through work and activities around five priority areas: equality and non-discrimination, awareness raising, accessibility, equal recognition before the law, freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse.

Unlike the UN CRPD, the Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities does not create legal obligations for Member States, but aims at better harmonising the work of the Council of Europe with the UN CRPD and guiding and supporting the work of Member States towards full implementation of the UN CRPD.

GET INVOLVED! _____

If you want to learn more about the Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being, you can find all its reports [here](#).

Draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention

The Oviedo Convention (The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine) is an international legally binding instrument adopted over 20 years ago. In 2015, the Council of Europe started working on a worrying Additional Protocol specifically on ‘involuntary treatment and placement’ of people with mental health problems which runs contrary to the UN CRPD. Together with other organisations, MHE has been advocating for this Protocol to be withdrawn as, if adopted, it may lead to the violation, rather protection, of the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

GET INVOLVED! _____

- You can monitor the work of the Council of Europe relating to the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with mental health problems including the proposed Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention.
 - You can also get in touch with us if you want to advocate against the draft Additional Protocol.
-

UNITED NATIONS (UN)



The [United Nations](#) is an international inter-governmental organisation which aims at maintaining international peace and security, promoting development and providing humanitarian assistance, upholding international laws, protecting human rights and promoting democracy and fighting climate changes. The UN has a total of 193 Member States and it is through the UN that many of the most important human rights treaties have been adopted including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN CRPD. The UN fosters international cooperation on a whole host of issues including health, development and human rights.

GET INVOLVED!

The UN CRPD is the main policy tool of relevance for mental health. Go back to the 'Human Rights Policy' section of [Chapter 3](#) to learn more about it.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)



The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) is a specialised agency of the UN. Its goal is to build a better, healthier future for people all over the world. To achieve this goal, WHO Secretariat staff work side by side with governments and other partners to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all people by directing and coordinating international health within the United Nations' system. There are currently more than 150 country offices and 6 regional offices, such as the [Regional Office for Europe](#).

GET INVOLVED!

- You can [go here](#) to learn more about the WHO's work on and approach to mental health.
 - The WHO Regional Office for Europe's website also has its own [section on mental health](#).
-

The European Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 — extended to 2030

This [action plan](#) from the WHO's Regional Office for Europe, which includes 53 Member States, focuses on seven interlinked objectives and proposes effective actions to strengthen mental health and well-being in the European Region.

It corresponds with the four priority areas of the WHO's European policy framework for health and well-being ([Health 2020](#)) and will contribute directly to its implementation.

The Action Plan has been developed in close consultation with Member States, experts and NGOs and its objectives were adopted by Member States in the WHO European Region, the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the [European Declaration for Mental Health](#), signed in Helsinki

in January 2005, and endorsed by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, it also takes a human rights-based approach with reference to the UN CRPD (2008) and incorporates the conclusions of the [European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being](#) (2008).

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)



The [ILO](#) is a specialised UN agency. It brings together governments, employers and workers representatives of 187 Member States. It aims at setting labour standards, developing policies and promoting decent work for all women and men. It is also promoting rights at work, encouraging decent employment opportunities, enhancing social protection and strengthening dialogue on work-related issues. It is responsible for the development and adoption of international labour laws.

Mental Health Europe is member of the mental health working group of the ILO Business and Disability network. The mental health working group gathers best practices of mental health prevention and promotion at international level. It gathers businesses, experts and representatives from civil society.

GET INVOLVED!

You can learn more about the working group on mental health and the ILO Global Business and Disability Group [here](#).

THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)



The [OECD](#) is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 35 member countries. Its mission is to promote policies that will improve economic and social well-being around the world. The OECD acts as a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and good practices, seek solutions to common problems and coordinate members' domestic and international policies by understanding what drives economic, social and environmental change.

GET INVOLVED!

The OECD has a complete [section](#) on its website about mental health, which includes numerous publications on various topics, such as [mental health systems in OECD countries](#), [mental health care](#), and an important section on [mental health and work](#) which includes a key publication in the field of mental health at work [Fit Mind, Fit Job](#).

5. USEFUL WEBSITES

Mental Health Europe, its Projects and Coalitions & Alliances

Mental Health Europe	www.mhe-sme.org
Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the European Parliament	www.mental-health-coalition.com
The European Expert Group on Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG)	www.deinstitutionalisation.com
The European Alliance for Investing in Children	www.alliance4investinginchildren.eu
The European Alliance for Mental Health – Employment & Work (EUMH Alliance)	www.eumhalliance.com

European Union Institutions

Europa – Official website of the European Union	www.europa.eu
Court of Justice of the European Union	www.curia.europa.eu
EU factsheet on the European Union	www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/displayFtu.html
European Commission	www.ec.europa.eu
European Council	www.consilium.europa.eu
European Court of Auditors	www.eca.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eca_main_pages/home
European Ombudsman	www.ombudsman.europa.eu
European Parliament	www.europarl.europa.eu

Your sources for data and figures

Eurofound	www.eurofound.europa.eu
Eurostat	www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat
OECD	www.oecd.org
FRA	www.fra.europa.eu

Advisory bodies

Committee of Regions (CoR)	www.cor.europa.eu
CoR local events	www.cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/cor-local-events.aspx
European Economic and Social Committee	www.eesc.europa.eu

Useful links on EU law

Consolidated texts of the Lisbon Treaty	www.statewatch.org/news/2008/jan/eu-lisbon-treaty-consolidated.pdf
EU case law	www.curia.europa.eu/en/content/juris/index.htm
EU Legislative Train – Interactive guide on EU laws	www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train
EUR-LEX – the portal to European Union law	www.eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm
EU Treaties and law	www.europa.eu/european-union/law_en
EUROVOC – a multilingual thesaurus on the EU	www.europa.eu/eurovoc
Legislative Observatory of the European Parliament (OEIL)	www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil

Social policy

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	www.ec.europa.eu/social
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities: Social Protection & Social Inclusion	www.ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=750&langId=en
DG JUST: Tackling discrimination	www.ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/index_en.htm

Health

DG Health and Consumer Protection	www.ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm
DG Health – Mental Health	www.ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/policy_en
EU activities on public health	www.europa.eu/pol/health/index_en.htm
EU-Compass for Action on Mental Health and Well-being	www.ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/eu_compass_en

Mental health at the work place and anti-discrimination

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities - Tackling discrimination at work	www.ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=158
Employment Equality Directive	https://bit.ly/2ClnDQj
DG JUST: Tackling discrimination	www.ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/index_en.htm

Disability

The European Union Disability Strategy	www.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:en:PDF
The European Disability Strategy post-2020	www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2020-0123_EN.html
Persons with Disabilities	www.ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1137&langId=en
The UN CRPD	www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages
Research on disability by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights	www.fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities

Fundamental Rights

Equinet	www.equineteurope.org
The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union	www.ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/charter/index_en.htm
European Union Agency on Fundamental Rights	www.fra.europa.eu/en
European Network of National Human Rights Institutions	www.ennhri.org

International bodies

Council of Europe	www.coe.int
ILO – disability and work	www.ilo.org/global/topics/disability-and-work/lang--en/index.htm
OECD	www.oecd.org
United Nations	www.un.org

International bodies (continued)

World Health Organization – Regional Office for Europe	www.euro.who.int
World Health Organization – Regional Office for Europe – Mental Health	www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases/mental-health

Other Institutions

European Committee on Social rights	www.coe.int/t/democracy/migration/bodies/ecsr_en.asp
OHCHR Europe	www.europe.ohchr.org/EN/pages/home.aspx
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	www.osce.org/tolerance-and-nondiscrimination



Mental Health Europe is a European non-governmental network 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 the rights of (ex)users of mental health services, persons with psychosocial disabilities, their families and carers.

FOLLOW OUR WORK AT: WWW.MHE-SME.ORG

 [@mhesme](https://twitter.com/mhesme)

 facebook.com/mentalhealthurope

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/5341240/>



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