

ACTIVITY REPORT

2020



Mental Health Europe (MHE) is the largest independent European network organisation working to:

- Promote positive mental health and wellbeing
- Prevent mental health problems
- Support and advance the rights of people with mental ill-health or psychosocial disabilities





35+
years of work

30+European countries

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the foundation of our work.





/0+
member organisations

local & regional organisations



Our vision

MHE envisions a Europe:

- where people with mental health problems live as full citizens with access to appropriate services and support,
- where positive mental health and wellbeing are given high priority in the political spectrum and on the European health and social agenda, and
- where meaningful participation is guaranteed at all levels of decision-making.



Our mission

We advocate for positive mental health and wellbeing and the rights of people living with mental ill-health.

We raise awareness to end mental health stigma and discrimination. We build capacity to improve mental health for all.



Our values

- Dignity and respect
- Equal opportunities
- Freedom of choice
- Non-discrimination
- Democracy and participation
- Transparency

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	TAKING STOCK OF 2020: A FOREWORD4
2.	A YEAR IN REVIEW
3.	WHO WE ARE & HOW WE WORK 12 Meet the 2018-2021 Board 12 Meet the staff 13 Meet the Senior Policy Advisors 14 Meet the Committees and Taskforces 14 Meet the members 15 Meet the partners 22
5.	OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES IN 2020



1. TAKING STOCK OF 2020

Without exaggeration: 2020 has been a pivotal year.

Our collective resilience has been pushed to new limits over this past year. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of our lives – from how we live and work to how we interact with one another.

The unprecedented, far-stretching consequences of the pandemic have affected the mental health of millions of people across the globe, including the European continent. The pandemic has negatively impacted on the job security, social contacts, continuity of care, respect for human rights. But for us, at Mental Health Europe, it became evident when working with people experiencing mental ill-health: the pandemic increased existing inequalities and pushed some of the most vulnerable people and communities even further into crisis and poverty. An entire generation of children and young people was confronted with

questions of their futures,
knowing that the world
would never be the
same as it was before
the pandemic. We
could not overlook
the situation of many
migrants and refugees
and the challenges

they face when arriving in Europe with severe implications to their physical and mental health. It also made us think about people living in institutions, older persons in care homes, and persons with disabilities.

When the pandemic took hold of Europe and the world, we drew inspiration and resilience from our network of members in 33 European countries. Together we worked to ensure that voices and experiences of our communities: experts by experience, service providers, mental health leaders were heard by EU leaders and decision-makers when shaping Covid-19 response. You helped us put a spotlight on the importance of mental health during the first European Mental Health Awareness Week. With your support - through testimonies, interviews, and first-hand advice - we were able to quickly inform the public on measures to cope with the situation and ways to support everyone's mental health and wellbeing. Finally, at the end of 2020, we marked our network's 35th anniversary. Although virtually, we had the privilege to gather over Zoom to celebrate our achievements over the past 35 years. Promoting mental health, advancing human rights, advocating for communitybased care, making social inclusion a reality, putting mental health on the European agenda, leading mental health movement in Europe - this all

wouldn't be possible without you, our members, friends, and supporters!

As we turn the page over and close what has been one of the most challenging years in the last century, let us focus on the future. This is a unique moment for mental health. It is a time for ambition - to look ahead and ask fundamental questions about the forthcoming for everyone with a mental health problem. Can this pandemic be an opportunity to question our systems of care, with the future lying outside the institution and in the community? Can 2020 prompt governments to make smart investments today for a better future with good mental health for European societies tomorrow?

The coming pages of history are still blank - how we write the future of mental health is entirely up to us. So let us focus on working towards the future of mental health centred on rights, relationships, and recovery. The solidarity and community that we have experienced in the fight against COVID-19 will help us make greater strides in generating the momentum for change. We remain driven by the commitment of our network as we plan our collective work in the future, including the renewed long-term organizational strategy.

As we welcome you to our annual report, we hope it will inspire you to continue our collaboration to be there for everyone needing help or support for their mental health. We look forward to our relentless journey towards fulfilling the implicit belief that there is no health without mental health and that investing in mental health is not an act of luxury but is decisive action to establish healthy societies – this will remain at the core of our work in 2021.

CLAUDIA MARINETTIDirector, Mental Health Europe

Phondia Marineth







2. A YEAR IN REVIEW

2020 at a glance: timeline and key highlights of what we have done this vear





MHE publishes a **scorecard** to measure the performance of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union during July-December 2019 in relation to mental health and human rights. Learn more >>



MHE publishes **reaction** raising concern about the narrative linking mental health and terrorism on the EU website. Learn more >>



MHE participates in the conference



MHE publishes materials of the "Each of Us" campaign in Hungarian. Learn more >>



MHE submits its **response** to the public Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing



commemorating the 10th anniversary of the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG), of which MHE is a founding member. Learn more >>



consultation on a future mandate of the in Health.





MHE calls on the EU to develop a comprehensive and pro-active **European** Mental Health Strategy to improve the wellbeing of Europeans at an event in the European Parliament. See more on

page 30 >>



MHE releases a **reaction** to a deadly care home incident in Czechia to support deinstitutionalisation and promote the transition towards community-based care. Learn more >>



MHE supports an **open letter** by the Task Force on Diagnostic Alternatives, which calls for the reform and revision of diagnostic systems in psychiatry, psychology and mental health care. Learn more >>



MHE releases a **scoping report** of the national developments in mental health policies during 2017 - 2019, which underlines the need for their better alignment. Learn more >>



MHE joins the Inter-Active Living for Mental Health (InALMH) project. Learn more >>





MHE publishes an **analysis** of the new EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 to support the implementation of the UN CRPD. Learn more >>



MHE releases a **guide** on how to look after mental health to promote healthy coping mechanisms and wellbeing during the COVID-19 crisis. Learn more >>





MHE issues a **statement** to remind policymakers of the critical role that human rights compliant mental health services play in a public health response during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Learn more** >>



MHE **joins 16 other organisations** calling on EU and national governments to make the investment in physical & mental health prevention and protect vulnerable groups from the impact of COVID-19. Learn more >>



MHE holds a **webinar** to discuss key challenges and opportunities for the prevention of mental ill-health in the aftermath of COVID-19. **Learn more** >>



MHE updates its 2019 **paper on social protection** to include recommendations related to the COVID-19 crisis in it. **Learn** more >>





MHE publishes a **joint report** on implementing supported decision-making for people with (psychosocial) disabilities in Europe. **See more on page 26 >>**



MHE publishes a **position paper** on mental health in the aftermath of COVID-19 to provide guidance on key challenges and opportunities. **Learn more** >>



MHE holds the **2020 European Empowerment Seminar** "Let's talk –
Empowering recovery in Europe" to
explore how empowering recovery
through co-production provides better
outcomes for everyone. **Learn more** >>





MHE launches the first **European mental** health awareness week to highlight the importance of mental health during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. See more on page 36 >>



MHE's Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the European Parliament sends an **open letter** to the presidents of the European Commission and Council of the EU, urging them to address mental health and the needs of people with mental health problems now and in the aftermath of the pandemic. See more on page 35 >>



MHE publishes **explainer** 'Mental health Europe explained' to shed light on some common terminology and misperceptions when it comes to mental health. **Learn** more >>



In collaboration with the European Public Health Alliance, MHE organises a **webinar** to discuss ways to protect the mental health of healthcare workers in times of pandemic. **Learn more** >>



MHE releases a **reaction** to the announcement of a new health programme within the next seven-year EU budget, calling for adequate inclusion of mental health. **Learn more** >>



MHE publishes a **reaction** to the European Commission's 2020 Country Specific Recommendations to point out the lack of specific mental health-focused recommendations and to draw attention to MHE's policy recommendations. **Learn** more >>



Together with 16 other NGOs, MHE releases a **statement** to call on European institutions and Member States to act for stronger and more ambitious health policies. **Learn more** >>





The EEG, of which MHE is a part of, releases a **report** on the state of play with deinstitutionalisation in 27 EU Member States, underlying the need for human rights-compliant community-based care. **Learn more** >>



Together with EMSA, MHE co-hosts a **webinar** for medical students on the human rights-based approach to mental health and European policies.





MHE publishes a **scorecard** to measure the performance of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January-June 2020) in relation to mental health and human rights. **Learn more** >>



MHE updates "Keep in mind: A quick **guide** to the institutions and policy-making of the European Union" to provide advice to members on how to interact with the EU institutions and agencies. Learn more >>







MHE publishes its **animated video** on Article 11 of the UNCRPD, focusing on health provision during humanitarian emergencies . **See more on page 29** >>



On International Youth Day, MHE launches the **quiz series** "7 things you should know about mental health" to educate people about young people's mental health. Learn more >>



MHE publishes an **opinion piece** about the lack of transparency within the mental healthcare sector and to shine a spotlight on the over-medicalisation of mental health. **Learn more** >>



Following its report in June, MHE launches its **video mini-series** on legal capacity and supported decision-making. **See more on page 27** >>



MHE releases a **reaction** to the adoption of the European Parliament's resolution on the EU's future public health strategy, calling on the European Commission to deliver a long-term vision for mental health in Europe in the form of an EU Action Plan on mental health (2021-2027). Learn more >>



MHE publishes "Words Matter" **infographic** in Croatian to promote awareness of the ways we talk about mental health in multiple languages. Learn more >>



MHE launches **video series** on supported decision-making to educate and raise awareness about its importance in an engaging way. Learn more >>



MHE takes on **coordination** of the "COVID-19: mental health support" stakeholder network at the EU Health Policy Platform.



Together with the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance, MHE **reacts** to cuts in EU health programme amidst ongoing COVID-19 crisis. **Learn more** >>

SEPTEMBER





Together with the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance, MHE releases 10 Guiding Principles for the European Commission's new health programme.

Learn more >>



On World Suicide Prevention Day, MHE releases a **myth buster** to educate about the misconceptions of suicide. **Learn** more >>



MHE publishes its **statement** regarding the call for practices on voluntary care by the DH Bioethics Committee at the Council of Europe. Learn more >>



MHE releases a **reaction** to the 2020 State of the Union address, calling for the European Commission to take comprehensive actions to reaffirm its commitment to mental health and disability. **Learn more** >>



Together with the Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing, MHE hosts a **webinar** discussing mental health challenges in the LGBTI community.



MHE releases its **reflection paper** on the new approaches to accessibility for people with psychosocial disabilities. **Learn more** >>





MHE brings together key stakeholders for a **high-level even**t to discuss the future of mental health, rights, and recovery in Europe. See more on page 31 >>



Co-chairs of the European Parliament Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing publish an opinion piece urging the EU to make mental health a fundamental pillar in the Covid-19 response. Learn more >>



MHE publishes **key recommendations** for action to help the EU and its member states to scale up mental health support in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. **Learn** more >>



MHE releases **110 tips** on positive mental health to celebrate World Mental Health Day 2020. **Learn more >>**



With the European Commission, MHE co-organises a **webinar** on addressing COVID-19 impact on the mental health of healthcare professionals. **Learn more** >>



MHE publishes its fifth episode of the **podcast** series "Empowering Minds", focusing on psychiatric diagnoses and labels. **Learn more** >>



MHE releases **reaction** to the European Parliament's report on the future EU4Health programme. **Learn more >>**







MHE launches a **guide** on how to cope with stress during the pandemic to mark Stress Awareness Week. **Learn more** >>



MHE releases **recommendations** to the roadmap of the next European Disability Rights Strategy. **Learn more** >>



MHE publishes '**Short Guide** to Psychiatric Drugs', a new resource for people taking medication.. **See more on page 28** >>







MHE and five other organisations **call** on national governments to immediately abandon LGBTIQ-phobic rhetoric and actions. **Learn more** >>



MHE publishes an **animated video** on Article 28 of the UNCRPD explaining the rights of people with psychosocial disabilities to social protection. **See more** on page 29 >>



MHE releases a **statement** expressing concern about the continued use of ill-treatment in psychiatric institutions across Europe. Learn more >>



MHE hosts a **screening** of the documentary "Medicating Normal" to discuss how to prevent overmedicalisation in Europe's mental healthcare. **Learn more** >>



MHE contributes to an **extensive investigation** on mental healthcare
provision in Europe during the COVID-19
crisis. **Learn more** >>



MHE members hold two **national empowerment seminars** for people with lived experience of mental ill-health in Poland and Bulgaria.



MHE **announces** new co-chairs of its Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the European Parliament. **Learn more** >>



MHE publishes an **article** explaining how Europe can better protect migrants with disabilities and mental health problems. **Learn more** >>



MHE releases **wellbeing tips** to support mental health during winter holidays amid the pandemic. **Learn more** >>

2020 IN NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP

102

full, supporting and individual members **33**

European countries represented >5,300

local and regional organisations at national level within MHE membership 2

new countries where MHE did not have members yet 13

new members (7 organisations & 6 individuals)

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

10

events organised

500

participants attended MHE events 10

statements & outputs have contributed to shaping policies across the EU >5,000

downloads and views of our policy outputs

>100

high-level decision-makers reached through meetings and correspondence

COMMUNICATION

33%

increase in newsletter readership 6

-fold increase in website visits by 66,613 unique visitors 17k+

followers across social media platforms 15

languages that MHE materials are available in 18

publications in mass media



3. WHO WE ARE & HOW WE WORK

MEET THE 2018-2021 BOARD

Meet the Board Members who support the work of MHE Brussels Team with passion and commitment.



JAN BERNDSEN
President
Representative, Mental
Health Utrecht GGZ
Nederland, Chief
Executive Officer, Lister,
the Netherlands



DONATELLA MICCINESIVice-President AISMe,
Italy



CATHERINE BROGAN
Deputy CEO,
Mental Health Ireland,
Ireland



STEFAAN BAETEN Treasurer, Vlaamse Vereniging voor Geestelijke Gezondheid (VVVG), Belgium



KRISTIJAN GRĐAN
Member of the
Executive Committee,
Susret,
Croatia



PAUL BOMKE
Dachverbands
Gemeindepsychiatrie,
Pfalzklinikum
Germany



JANE CUMMINGPenumbra United
United Kingdom



AMEDEEA ENACHE Estuar Romania



EVA LEUTNERPro Mente Kärnten,
Austria



MERI LARIVAARA MIELI Mental Health Finland Finland



NACE KOVAČ Sent Slovenia



KARILE LEVICKAITE KITTY MYLONOPOULOU

Mental Health Society of Social

Perspectives Lithuania Psychiatry & Mental Health

Greece



ALEKSEI NORDEN Estonian Mental Health Association Estonia



ANDRÉS SUÁREZ
VELÁZQUEZ
Asociación Española de
Neuropsiquiatría
Spain

MEET THE STAFF

A team of dedicated professionals committed to the promotion of positive mental health and wellbeing in Europe.





This year, we said good bye to Marie Fallon-Kund, MHE
Policy Manager & welcomed new team members: Jennifer
Oroilidis, Junior Communications Officer, Jonas Bull, Policy
& Research Officer & Amandine André, Administration
& Finance Officer. We are thrilled to have you on board,
Jennnifer, Jonas & Amandine. Welcome to Team MHE!



CLAUDIA MARINETTI

Director



MARIE FALLON-KUND

Policy Manager

(until July 2020)



LAURA MARCHETTISenior Policy Officer



MARCIN RODZINKA
Advocacy and Policy Officer



JONAS BULL
Policy and Research Officer
(from July 2020)



TETIANA SYKESCommunications Manager



JENNIFER OROILIDISJunior Communications
Officer (from February 2020)



AMANDINE ANDRÉ
Administration & Finance
Officer (August - December
2020)





MEET THE SENIOR POLICY ADVISORS

Our Senior Policy Advisors are of invaluable support. Their role is to support the work of the MHE office in specific policy areas.



BOB GROVEEmployment, social affairs



NIGEL HENDERSON Understanding Mental Health, Recovery Services, All Policies



JAN PFEIFFER
Deinstitutionalisation,
Structural funds



DOMINIQUE DE MARNÉYouth

MEET THE EMERITUS PRESIDENT AND HONORARY ADVISOR

Our Emeritus President Josée Van Remoortel and Honorary Advisor Stijn Jannes offer support to our work thanks to the breadth and the depth of their knowledge on the functioning of Mental Health Europe throughout its long-standing history.



JOSÉE VAN REMOORTEL



STIJN JANNES

MEET THE COMMITTEES AND TASKFORCES

MHE Committees and Taskforces support our office on specific issues related to mental health, including human rights, policy, youth, communications and governance. Committees support Brussels office's work on a regular, permanent basis. Taskforces have a temporary character and deal with specific topics, limited in time, scope and depending on the needs.

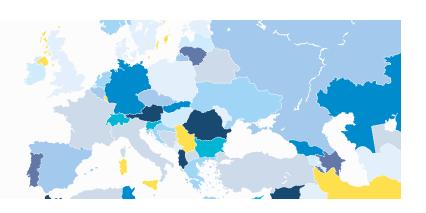
COMMITTEES

- 1. MEMBERSHIP
- 2. FINANCES
- 3. HUMAN RIGHTS

TASKFORCES

- 1. Beyond the Biomedical Paradigm (BBP)
- 2. Social Policy
- 3. Youth
- 4. Communications

OUR STRENGTH IS IN OUR MEMBERS



74
MEMBER
ORGANISATIONS

We are a membership organisation which represents 70+ member organisations from 31 European countries. MHE would not be able to accomplish what it does without the strong support and participation of its members. We want to foster dialogue between our members and the European Institutions and support a strong and wide network of organisations active in the field of mental health throughout Europe.

We are proud to have a very broad membership which represents associations and individuals in the field of mental health including (ex)users of mental health services, professionals, service providers and volunteers.

This year, we welcomed **13 new members, including seven organisations**: EMDR Europe (EU), Icelandic Mental Health Alliance (Iceland), Human Foundation (Poland), Integra (Slovakia), NetzG-RLP (Germany), Liga za duševné zdravie (Slovakia), Together Albania (Albania) and six new individual members.



EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



MEET THE MEMBERS

AUSTRIA

Pro Mente Austria https://www.promenteaustria.at/de/home/

BELGIUM

Crésam	http://www.cresam.be/
Familles du Monde	https://famillesdumonde.eu
Hand in Hand	https://www.ipso-gent.be
Het Clientenbureau	https://clientenbureau.be/
Huis Perrekes	https://perrekes.be/
Steunpunt Geestelijke Gezondheid	http://www.steunpuntgg.be/
UNESSA	http://www.unessa.be/Homepage.aspx
Zorgnet-Icuro	https://www.zorgneticuro.be/

BULGARIA

Koja https://www.koja-bg.org/

CROATIA

Pro Mente Croatia	http://www.promente.hr/en/	
Susret - Association for Psychological	http://www.udruga-susret.hr/home/	
Support		

CYPRUS

Advocacy group for the Mentally III (AGMI) https://ekpedevsiveltiosimiosi.wordpress.com/

CZECH REPUBLIC

Fokus CR http://www.promente.hr/en/

ESTONIA

Estonian Mental Health Association https://lapsemure.ee/

EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS

ADHD Europe	https://www.adhdeurope.eu/
Badiliko	https://www.badiliko.com/
Club House Europe	https://clubhouse-europe.com/
European Assertive Outreach Foundation	https://www.eaof.org/index.html

EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS

EMDR Europe	https://emdr-europe.org
Horatio European nurses	http://www.horatio-web.eu/
MeTis Europe	http://www.metis-europe.eu/
SMES-Europa aisbl	http://www.smes-europa.org/

FINLAND

Finnish Central Association for Mental Health (MTKL)	https://www.mtkl.fi/
Mieli - Mental Health Finland	https://mieli.fi/fi
National Institute for Health & Welfare (THL)	https://thl.fi/fi/

FRANCE

Advocacy France https://www.advocacy.fr/

GERMANY

Bundesosychotheapeutenkammer (BptK)	https://www.bptk.de/
Bundeszentrale fuer Gesundheitliche Aufklaerung (BzgA)	https://www.bzga.de/
Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie	https://www.dvgp.org/
Klinik Hohe Mark	https://www.hohemark.de/startseite/
NetzG-RLP	https://www.netzg-rlp.de
Pfalzklinikum – AdoeR – Serviceprovider for Mental Health	https://www.pfalzklinikum.de/home/
Zentegra	https://www.zentegra.de/

GREECE

ARGO Federation	http://argo.org.gr/
EPIONI	https://www.epioni.gr/
Hellenic Association For Counselling	https://www.elesyp.gr/
K.S.D.E.O. "EDRA"	https://www.edra-coop.gr/el/
Mental Health Institute for Children and Adults (M.H.I.C.A.)	http://www.inpsy.gr/en/
PROMITHEAS C.N.P.C	https://promitheasamke.gr/en/
Society of Social Psychiatry P.Sakellaropoulos	http://ekpse.gr/en/

HUNGARY

Mental Health Interest Forum (PEF) https://pef.hu

2020 | Activity Report

ICELAND

Icelandic Mental Health Alliance (Geðhjálp)

https://gedhjalp.is

IRELAND

Bloomfield Health Services https://www.bloomfield.ie/

Mental Health Ireland https://www.mentalhealthireland.ie/

ISRAEL

Makshivim Net https://makshivim.net/

ITALY

Associazione Italiana per la Salute Mentale (AISME)

http://aisme.info/home-english

Comunità di Venezia

https://www.comunitadivenezia.it/

Tages Onlus https://www.tagesonlus.org

LITHUANIA

Mental Health Perspectives http://www.perspektyvos.org/

LUXEMBOURG

Réseau Psy - Psychesch Hellef Dobaussen asbl

http://www.reseaupsy.lu/

https://www.ggznederland.nl/

NETHERLANDS

GGZ Nederland

https://wijzijnmind.nl/

NORWAY

Mind NL

Volksne for Barn (Adults for Children) https://www.vfb.no/

PORTUGAL

ARIA - Associacao de Reabilitacao e Intergracao Ajuda https://www.aria.com.pt/

Centro de Direito da Família

https://www.centrodedireitodafamilia.org/

POLAND

Human Foundation https://human-foundation.eu

ROMANIA

ESTUAR http://www.estuar.org/

SERBIA

Krugovi http://www.krugovi.org/

SLOVAKIA

Integra	https://www.integradz.sk
Liga za duševné zdravie	https://dusevnezdravie.sk
Open the Doors, Open the Hearts (ODOS)	http://www.odos-sk.com/

SLOVENIA

SENT - Slovenian Association for Mental https://www.sent.si/ Health

SPAIN

Andalusian School of Public Health	https://www.aspher.org/users,119.html
Associacion Espanola de Neuropsiquiatria (AEN)	https://aen.es/
Associacion Nacional de Enfermeria en Salud Mental (ANESM)	http://www.aeesme.org/
Confederacion Salud Mental Espana	https://consaludmental.org/
Fundacion Mundo Bipolar	http://ibpf.org/resource/fundacion-mundo- bipolar
ISEM	https://www.redisem.es/

SWEDEN

Mind Sweden https://mind.se/

SWITZERLAND

Universitäre Psychiatrische Kliniken Basel https://www.upk.ch/startseite.html

UK

Penumbra	http://www.penumbra.org.uk/
The British Psychological Society	https://www.bps.org.uk/



WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY

In August-November 2020, MHE ran a survey to find out our members' opinion about the key areas of MHE's work and to gain a better understanding of the expertise available within the network.

WHAT'S GOING WELL IN RELATION TO MEMBERS' ENGAGEMENT



POLICY AREAS IN WHICH BOTH MHE & ITS MEMBERS ARE ENGAGED

- Social inclusion (88%)
- Public mental health (83%)
- Better community-based care (75%)
- Recovery (73%)
- Empowerment (80%)
- Peer support (75%)
- Young people's mental health (65%)
- Suicide prevention (60%)



- Deinstitutionalisation (56%)
- Mental health in the workplace (55%)
- Reducing & ending coercion in mental health (50%)
- Human rights monitoring (50%)
- Early intervention (48%)
- Employment (48%)
- Supported decision-making (43%)
- Migrants' mental health (33%)
- Transparency (28%)
- Forensic mental health care (18%)

Other topics:

- Prevention (i.e. First Aid Mental Health and European Alliance against Depression (3%)
- Peers2peers, training for trainers, peer trainings (3%)

LEARN WHO WE ARE THROUGH OUR MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

Being a member of MHE means being informed, connected and supported Providing funding to attend face-to-face meeting is Providing funding to attend much appreciated face-to-face meeting is much appreciated I have increased the impact of my work through participation in MHE-organized events We have found new partnerships through membership with MHE Through membership with MHE, we acquired know-hows on specific MHE's communication areas (such as promoting and newsletters keep me human rights in informed and up-to-date MHE provides our organisation psychiatry) with a channel to Europe for our concerns and represents our interests

- Membership with MHE gives me an opportunity for meaningful contribution in the decision-making processes of the EU
- Being part of a network of knowledgeable people from different countries gives us a sense of trust and belongingness
- Possibility to reach high profile politicians
- I gained better understanding about mental health practices in other European countries
- Sharing experience and knowledge, being inspired by colleagues from all over Europe
- MHE is developing our skills for effective advocacy
- A strong entity which I can use to support our efforts to transform the mental health services



MEET THE PARTNERS



MHE works closely with the European Institutions and international bodies to bring mental health at the heart of EU policy making. Together with its members, MHE formulates recommendations for policy makers to develop mental health-friendly policies. MHE places users of mental health services at the centre of its work to ensure the voice of people who have experienced mental ill health is heard across Europe.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Collaborating with the European Commission is key to MHE's work. This collaboration includes our participation in various civil dialogues, response to publication consultations and participation in European conferences and forums. MHE also shares expertise and input about mental health policy with the EU Commission when required.



WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

MHE has an observatory Status with the World Health Organization. We are pleased to see our work included in the new WHO Quality Rights initiative on human rights and mental health, with some of MHE's outputs being used to train health professionals on the topic of human rights and mental health.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

MHE has a consultative status within the Council of Europe and contributes to the Council of Europe coalition of INGOs. MHE continues to lead the fight against the drafting of the controversial Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Oviedo Convention on involuntary placement and treatment of people with mental health problems.





EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

MHE works closely with the European Parliament and its Members through the MEPs affiliated to our Coalition for Mental Health and Well-being.



UNITED NATIONS

MHE continues to monitor closely the implementation of the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disability by the EU, with a specific focus this year on independent living and article 19 of the UN CRPD.



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Mental Health Europe is member of the mental health working group of the International Labour Organization – Business and Disability.

EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS

Mental Health Europe maintains close relationships with other European organisations active in the field of health, disability and social affairs at European level.

Mental Health Europe is a member of the following European organisations:









2020 | Activity Report

OUR COALITION & ALLIANCES

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S COALITION FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING







www.mental-health-coalition.com #MHEPCoalition Established in 2012, the Coalition brings together Member of the European Parliament (MEPs) from most of political groups working towards the inclusion and mainstreaming of positive mental health in all policies.

The Coalition is a real changemaker and a platform of likeminded MEPs amplifying the voices of people with mental health problems and advocating for a coordinated response to

For more information

about the Coalition

click here

most pressing determinants of mental health.

address the

EUROPEAN EXPERT GROUP ON TRANSITION FROM INSTITUTIONAL TO COMMUNITY-BASED CARE (EEG)



www.deinstitutionalisation.com

#EEGCommunity

24

Mental Health Europe contributes actively to the work of the European Expert Group on Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG) through which we advocate with 12 other organisations for deinstitutionalisation and the transition to community-based care in Europe.

THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH - EMPLOYMENT & WORK



www.eumhalliance.com #EUMHAlliance The European Alliance for Mental Health – Employment & Work (EUMH Alliance) is an informal coalition of European organisations, the main aims of which are to promote mental health and well-being in the workplace, to advocate for equal access to the labour market for all people experiencing mental ill health and to stimulate policy developments at EU level in these domains.

EU ALLIANCE FOR INVESTING IN CHILDREN



www.alliance4investinginchildren.eu #InvestingInChildren The EU Alliance for Investing in Children brings together over 20 European networks sharing a commitment to end child poverty and to promote child well-being across Europe.

The Alliance partners believe the EU policy framework and funding opportunities can catalyse political commitment and policy reform within Member States, thereby improving the quality of life of children and young people in Europe.

TASKFORCE ON CO-PRODUCTION AND THE SUPPORT SERVICES OF TOMORROW

This taskforce consists of several organisations (EASPD, Inclusion Europe, European Disability Forum, European Network on Independent Living, COFACE Families Europe and Mental Health Europe) working together on the direction support services should take to enable full inclusion, and how co-production can contribute to this.

2020 | Activity Report

4. OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES IN 2020



Mental Health Europe works to promote and advance the rights of people with mental ill health.

Our work is underlined and guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) which states that people with disabilities, including people with psychosocial disabilities, must fully enjoy their human rights.

This includes work to promote deinstitutionalisation in Europe, ending coercive practices and moving away from regimes of substituted decision-making towards supported decision-making.

In 2020, we continued advocating for full and meaningful participation of persons with psychosocial disabilities at all levels of decision-making. In June 2020, MHE and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENHRI) released a joint report on the progress with **implementing supported decision-making** for people with (psychosocial) disabilities in Europe.





To support the release of a report, we worked on a video series explaining the role of legal capacity and how supported decision-making enables people with psychosocial disabilities to enjoy their rights in full.

The video series aimed to educate the public and raise awareness about the issue in an engaging way.





We also continued to work to end the use of coercion in mental health care. which is still widely used across Europe, with increasing figures in several West-European countries.

MHE published its statement regarding the call for practices on voluntary care by the DH Bioethics Committee at the Council of Europe.

We contributed to a **new Disability** Rights Strategy 2020-2030 through engagement with members to make sure that the new strategy fully considers issues concerning persons with psychosocial disabilities.



The report gives us an opportunity

how supported decisionmaking works in practice and is a tool that could support efforts to build the capacity of key stakeholders... on **Article 12 of the CRPD.**

It confirms that other responses are possible; that it is feasible to support persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity instead of resorting to restrictions to adequate support.

It is a very timely reminder that a different path is not only possible, but absolutely necessary to ensure the legal capacity of persons with recognition before the law.



CATALINA **DEVANDAS-**AGUILAR

Find out more about our work on human rights 💥

2020 | Activity Report 27



PROMOTING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL MODEL AND UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Europe advocates for a psychosocial approach to mental health.

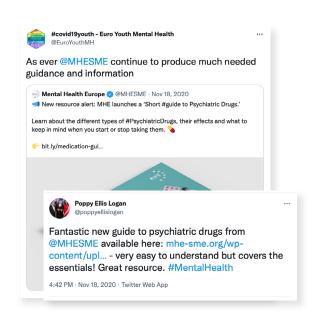
This approach, instead of defining mental ill-health as a 'disease' or 'illness' caused by purely biological factors, looks at a person's life and social environment. It treats these factors as equally important in understanding well-being and mental ill health. It appreciates the lived experience of people who have experienced mental distress and recognises them as experts in their own lives.

As part our work to raise awareness about the psychosocial model of mental health, MHE continued with the series of guides. After the Short Guide to Psychiatric Diagnosis in 2018 and the Short Guide on Recovery in 2019, MHE published a 'Short Guide to Psychiatric Drugs' in 2020.

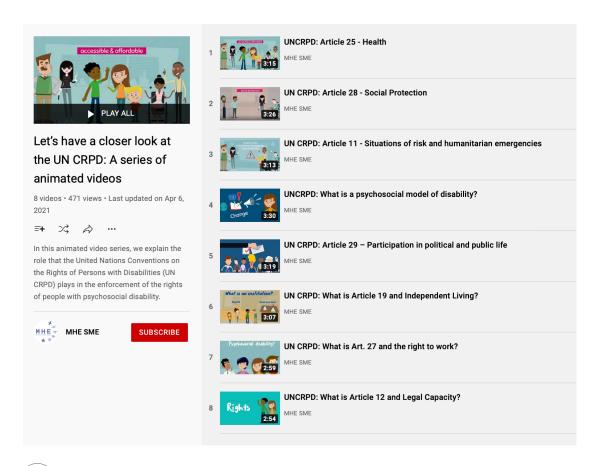
This new resource was created for people taking medication to help them stay better informed. It explored the different types of psychiatric drugs, their effects and what to keep in mind when you start or stop taking them.







In 2020, MHE continued its animated video series, in which we explain the UN CRPD in relation to the enforcement of rights of people with psychosocial disability.





On World Humanitarian Day, we released a new **video on Article 11** of the UNCRPD, focusing on health provision for people with disabilities, including psychosocial disabilities, in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

To celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Mental Health Europe released a **video on Article 28**, which explains the rights of people with disabilities, including psychosocial disabilities, to social protection and adequate standards of living.



Find out more about MHE's work on promoting the psychosocial model of mental health

2020 | Activity Report



INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKERS

ADVOCACY TOWARDS THE EU MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY

In February 2020, MHE's Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the European Parliament together with the Alliance for Mental Health kicked off the <u>public discussion</u> on the need to develop a comprehensive and pro-active **European Mental Health**Strategy to improve the wellbeing of millions of Europeans.



Key policy-makers from the European Parliament urged the European Commission to respond to the invitation by the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Coun-cil (EPSCO) Council Conclusions on the Economy of Well-being on 24 October 2019 to "propose a Mental Health Strategy for the Union, taking into account the cross-sectoral impacts of different policies on mental health."

The event received overwhelming support; a clear demonstration of the keen interest of key stakeholders to move forward on this issue.





WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2020



In a call to mark World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2020, Mental Health Europe urged governments to step up efforts in supporting the mental health of millions of Europeans. We demanded that the EU takes the lead and integrates mental health into the long-term recovery plans, policies and funding.

To discuss the challenges ahead, MHE organised a high-level conference "The future of mental health, rights, and recovery in Europe". The event provided an insight on the actions needed to implement change and protect the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the future.











See other highlights from World Mental Health Day 2020 💥





RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 INFORMATION HUB



From the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in early March 2020, MHE developed an **information hub**, providing information, resources and support related to the pandemic and mental health.



Focus on

Minding your mental health during COVID-19





Coronavirus: 8 ways to look after your mental health

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mental Health Europe reminds you that taking care of your mental health is as important as looking after your physical health. Good mental health and positive wellbeing can help you better cope with the COVID-19 threat and the uncertainty it's creating.

READ MORE

10 ways to cope with stress during the pandemic

Teleworking and imposed lockdown restrictions led to stress and isolation for many. On the occasion of Stress Awareness Week (2-6 November), MHE is launching a guide on how to cope with stress during these testing times.

READ MORE



Explore information on COVID-19 and mental health in 15 other European languages

HELPLINES AND SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH



In April 2020, Mental Health Europe created a **map of helplines and services** providing mental health care during COVID-19, including COVID-specific support, in 23 European countries.



In the <u>interview series</u> with MHE members and partners we provided expert advice on the topic and offered a personal side and shared expertise for people within the mental health sector, decision makers, and anyone interested in improving mental health during the crisis and afterwards.





below you can into a collection to interview with which immeries and parties by exactions the importance of putting mental health higher on the European agenda, during the crisis and afterwards, while offering a personal side and shared expertise for people within the mental health sector, decision makers, and anyone interested in improving mental health for all.



It is not always easy but our capacity for change is much higher than we think





COVID-19 RESPONSE
This is a global experience, even if experiences vary tremendously due to inequality

27 MAY
27 MAY





VOUTH
Allow every feeling but focus on good things every day

20 MAY

READ MORE

2020 | Activity Report

IN THE MEDIA

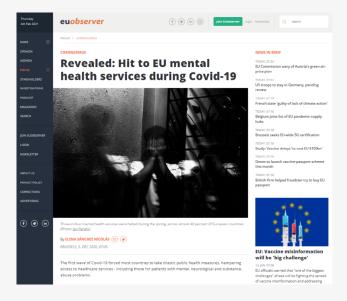






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ADVOCACY

As countries continued grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, Mental Health Europe shared <u>policy guidance</u> on the key challenges and opportunities for mental health in the aftermath of COVID-19. It focused on the crucial moment for policy-makers to act wisely and to rethink approaches to mental health and implement structural changes in mental health support.

Similarly, we produced <u>policy recommendations</u> to tackle the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and <u>shared</u> them with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission on behalf of the 13 MEPs from our Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the European Parliament.





COORDINATION





In May 2020, MHE was selected as a coordinator of the "COVID-19 and mental health support" stakeholder network within the Health Policy Platform.

The <u>platform</u> is currently composed of over 70 members and regularly organises webinars and exchanges of good practices between EU level and national organisations.

In October 2020, MHE together with DG Sante hosted a webinar on mental health of healthcare professionals, which attracted a high number of participants. A work on collecting good practices in addressing the pandemic was also initiated within this network with the purpose of disseminating results in 2021.

EUROPEAN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

To highlight the importance of mental health during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond, Mental Health Europe launched the first European mental health awareness week from 4 May until 10 May 2020 with a strong message 'Together We Can Make It' to promote community, solidarity and hope. The European Mental Health Week put a spotlight on the importance of mental health in our everyday lives and inspired action in response to the spike in poor mental health since the COVID-19 outbreak.



Given the circumstances, the week took place in digital dimension, where political dialogue was combined with messages of awareness and practical advice regarding mental health and Coronavirus.

This week-long online action was supported in 17 European countries with campaign messages translated and utilized in 24 languages and over 1 million outreach across MHE social media.

















I commend Mental **Health Europe for** their initiative: **European Mental** drawing attention to this vitally important issue.

Parliament's Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing, I strongly believe that mental health needs to be at the centre of our work, particularly when we deal with policies relating to



employment, migration and social affairs.

SEÁN KELLY **MEP**







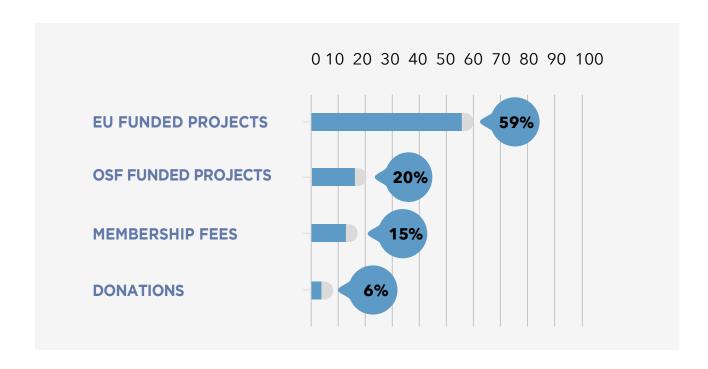




37 2020 | Activity Report

5. OUR FINANCES IN 2020

INCOME 2020



306 488,59

76 773,50

107 545,77

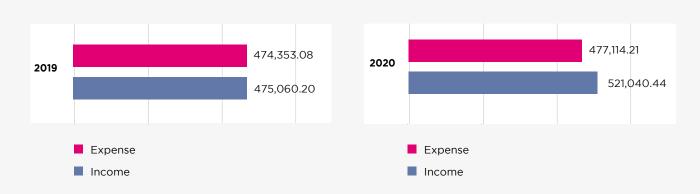
29 872,53

360,05

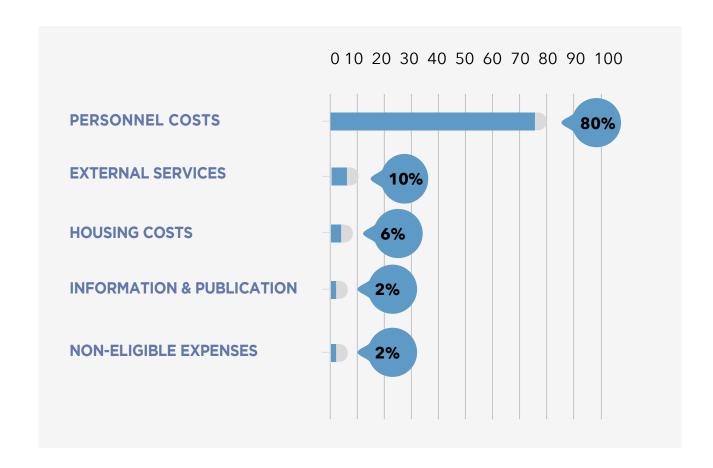
EU funded projects
Membership fees
OSF funded projects
Donations
Other income

Income total 521 040,44

YEARLY COMPARISON



EXPENDITURE 2020



Expenditure total	477 114,21
Office and financial costs	2 241,12
Information and publication	8 320,11
Non eligible expenses	9 806,23
Housing costs	29 571,00
General operations	0,00
Travel and subsistence	1 112,58
External services	48 192,90
Personnel costs	377 870,27



6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



On behalf of everyone at MHE, and all those you enable us to help.

Thank you so much for supporting us and our work for better mental health in Europe!





















This is a unique moment for mental health, and for Mental Health Europe.



Join us in making an impact for human rights-based and recovery-oriented mental health systems of the future!



www.mhe-sme.org



mental-health-europe



mentalhealtheurope



mhesme



mentalhealtheurope

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