



Think-tank for action
on social change

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



Mental Health in Europe - An Ongoing Crisis Online Roundtable

Monday, 7 November 2022 - 15:00 – 16:30 (CEST)

[Registration on Zoom](#)

Background

The right to health, including mental health, is a principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights that all EU Member States have committed to uphold. This right however has been challenged by a mental health crisis evident across Europe, one which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency over the last few years. The pandemic saw a significant rise in persons experiencing depression, anxiety, and loneliness/isolation – many of whom still require support.

Given the importance of addressing cross-national concerns around mental health concerns in Europe, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and the Think-tank for Action on Social Change invite you to this closed-door, online roundtable to discuss **what lessons can be drawn** from the last few years and **how the EU can respond** to this ongoing mental health crisis.

A presentation of an upcoming publication from FEPS and TASC, “**Is an EU-wide Approach to the Mental Health Crisis Necessary?**”, will take place. The study compares the responses of health systems in France, Ireland, and Poland to emerging mental health needs during the pandemic. This international roundtable will be an opportunity for key stakeholders to discuss three key questions:

- Have member states become more proactive in tackling mental health issues since the pandemic? What barriers do they still face?
- What kind of support could the EU provide to tackle mental health challenges in member states? How can progressives steer an upgrade of public health systems to ensure coverage, access and affordability of mental care?
- How can EU institutions devise a **European mental health strategy**? What could be the feature of EU policymaking in this field? Which policy tools could have EU added value?

More questions on the next page

Agenda

15:00 – 15:05

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Shana Cohen, TASC

15:05 – 15:25

Is an EU-wide Approach to the Mental Health Crisis Necessary?

Presentation by:

- **Emily Murphy**, Senior Researcher Health Inequalities, TASC and University of Limerick
- **Sara Bojarczuk**, Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw and Department of Sociology, Trinity College, University of Dublin



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15:25 – 15:55

EU Actions on Mental Health – what can be done?

Political and Policy Exchange with:

- **Estrella Dura Ferrandis**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Radka Maxová**, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)
- **Ignacio Doreste**, ETUC senior advisor
- **Claudia Marinetti**, Director, Mental Health Europe
- **Vincent Russell**, Professor, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland & HSE National Clinical Lead for Self Harm & Suicide related ideation
- **Ciaran Mulholland**, Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Trust & Queens University Belfast

15:55 – 16:25

Q&A

Chair: **Nikita Sanallah**, Policy Analyst FEPS

16:25 – 16:30

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Laszlo Andor, Secretary General, FEPS

Additional questions

How have health systems and public supports in Ireland, France and Poland responded to the reported rise in mental health issues provoked by the Covid-19 pandemic and public health emergency?

What policy responses/ targeted interventions were issued to support mental health and wellbeing during the crisis, in particular, those that target particularly at-risk and marginalised populations?

Have local mental health services in European countries benefited from any innovations in digital care provisions over the last two years?

What policy recommendations and actions are needed at EU level to better inform a coordinated approach to mental health outcomes in Europe?