



Mental Health Europe

Terms of reference

Mental Health Europe is currently seeking a consultant (a part-time employment to be considered) to work on the development of a strategic stakeholder network, along with some additional activities.

The following terms of reference set out the framework for this work.

I. Background

Mental Health Europe (MHE) 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.

MHE works closely with the European Institutions and international bodies to mainstream mental health in all policies and end mental health stigma. We represent associations and individuals in the field of mental health including users of mental health services, mental health professionals, service providers and volunteers. Together with its members, MHE formulates recommendations for policy and decision makers to develop mental health friendly policies and practices. MHE places users of mental services at the centre of its work to ensure the voice of people who have experienced mental ill health is heard across Europe.

II. Objectives

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an enormous impact on the mental health and wellbeing of people. Some of the long-term consequences on the social determinants of mental health are likely to be visible for a significant period of time, including on employment, access to services and social networks, schooling, etc.

Society at large, but especially those living with pre-existing mental health problems, chronic conditions, healthcare and social workers, and vulnerable groups (e.g. older, young people, homeless, LGBTI) are at increased risk of negative impact and deterioration of their mental health.

This increasingly important challenge has been recognised by a number of international and intergovernmental institutions such as the World Health Organisation and the European Commission. The latter established a temporary network of European stakeholders to discuss and share knowledge and practices on COVID19-related mental health issues within the framework of the EU Health Policy Platform. This network has been already joined by over 60 participants coming from several different sectors. Mental Health Europe has been selected as a coordinating organisation for this network and appointed to act as a focal point for the European Commission.

The network has been also tasked with the development of a set of guidance documents that can help address the mental health aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MHE aims at developing a long-term stakeholder network and establishing a strategic alliance for mental health at the EU level, of which it could be a coordinator.

Objectives:

- To set a long-term strategy, looking at the immediate recovery from COVID-19 and beyond, for mental health in Europe
- To consolidate a strong stakeholder alliance sharing the common objective of placing mental health priorities high on the future EU policy agenda
- To develop a set of policy recommendations with a strong support from numerous relevant stakeholders.

III. Consultancy terms

Foreseen activities/tasks (details to be agreed):

- Collecting information and available data on the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of identified communities to create an evidence base for short and long-terms policy making in Europe **(optional)**
- Based on the collection and the outputs of the “COVID-19 mental health support” stakeholder network (EU Health Policy Platform) developing a guidance document for mental health support **(optional)**
- Developing a long-term strategy & building an alliance (coalition) with an objective of prioritising mental health in the EU, especially during and after COVID-19. The alliance should be composed of the key stakeholders (i.e. NGOs, academia, policymakers and others considered relevant)
- Developing a set of recommendations that outline a vision for mental health in Europe
- Organising / Supporting organisation of a policy event(s) targeting policymakers
- Supporting MHE’s communication around this initiative

IV. Deliverables

Deliverables:

- An analysis of the COVID-19 impact on mental health of populations listed above (optional)
- A practical guidance document for mental health support (optional)
- An established alliance / coalition for mental health at the EU level with a clear agenda and a set of recommendations endorsed by a range of stakeholders
- A long-term strategy for the alliance that goes beyond this assignment
- 1-2 policy meeting – a launch of the initiative and a presentation of the recommendations

The foreseen timeframe of this assignment is from December 2020 to June 2021.

V. Selection process

In order to perform this task according to the highest standards the external consultant should be/have:

- Proven record and extensive experience in multi-stakeholder collaboration;
- Experience in working with non-governmental network organisations at European level;
- Highly developed strategic thinking;
- Fluent in English
- Understanding of European landscape, EU strategies, policy and practices, ideally linked to social, public health and human rights policies.

To respond to this call, the candidate must submit a **CV**, a **brief outline** of their approach for the development of the strategy, **a timeline and an estimate of the costs** linked to the activities to be carried out.

Deadline: 15 December 2020

The outline should clearly explain candidate's capacity to deliver according to the highest quality. A part-time employment (if preferable) might be considered of up to 50%.

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