Dear colleagues,

in the framework of the "Covid-19 Mental Health Support" Stakeholders Network, we are planning a webinar on "How to take forward the lessons learned from Covid-19". We have identified 3 main lessons and we are looking for inspiration from you! We are keen to receive your input, on whether and how the specific lesson has been taken forward (i.e., how you have successfully tackled the problem) and – if not- what the hurdles have been and what is needed to make progress. We are also interested in knowing whether the actions taken to address the lessons learned are being sustained and whether we are starting to move in the right direction.

1) The pandemic has showed us the importance to live and work in an environment that is positive for mental health (protective factor). Do you have any example of intensified psychosocial support – as a result of the pandemic- in the environment we live in (e.g., in school settings or workplaces)?

2) There has been a range of people at particular risk of bad mental health (children, youth, women, migrant and refugees, LGBTQ+, people with physical or psychosocial disabilities, elderly, healthcare professionals, informal carers). Have we seen any new tailored actions to pick up on the mental health needs of these potentially vulnerable groups?

3) Mental health services were already overstretched before the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic triggered a new demand (often at the softer end of the mental health needs) and showed a mismatch between the offer of services and the needs. How has this been tackled? Do we see any strengthening of services - or innovation in service provision (including, but not limited to, digitalisation)- able to meet the increasing needs? Has Covid-19 led to any repurposing of funds (e.g., increase in funds for school counselling or psychosocial support)?

If you have got experience in relation to one of the above lessons, please contact MHE Policy Officer Francesca Centola at francesca.centola@mhe-sme.org by the 24th of June.

Thank you.

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