



**European Mental Health Week:
How Mentally Healthy Communities
Can Make Us Thrive**

Speaker Bios





MEP István Ujhelyi – EP Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing

MEP dr. István Ujhelyi is a Hungarian politician who has been serving as a Member of the European Parliament since 2014 in the group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats. He is the vice-chair of the Committee on Tourism and Transportation (TRAN) and substitute member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI). As of this year, he is also a member of ENVI's Subcommittee on Public Health, SANT. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, he started floating the idea of a minimum standard for healthcare in the European Union, and he took part in the creation of S&D's Position Paper on the European Health Union in 2020. In 2022, together with healthcare organizations and colleagues, he launched the European Health Union Network, a

roundtable between organizations and the parliament with his leadership. In addition, together with colleagues from S&D, he is actively working on the creation of a task force or a working group on Mental Health Strategy. Closely connecting to this, he started a so-called "SoulVaccine" programme during the lockdown, which focused on the mental well-being of Hungarian people. He holds a law degree from József Attila University in Szeged. He has been active in Hungarian politics since 1996 and he held several significant positions such as State Secretary in the Prime Minister's office in 2009-2010 and state Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development in 2006-2008. In 2022, he established Esély Közösség -the Hungarian Community of Chance, which focuses on social democratic values and helps bringing civilians together with everyday problems -be it social or health related -and solve the issue, move forward together as a community.

MEP Soraya Rodríguez Ramos – EP Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mrs Soraya Rodríguez Ramos is a lawyer and Spanish politician. In 2008, she was Secretary of State for International Cooperation in Spain, where she actively collaborated in the creation of the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in Latin America. Currently, she works as an MEP for the political group Renew Europe, and she is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety at the European Parliament, where she firmly defends the importance of ensuring a mentalhealth support of quality all around Europe.





MEP Stelios Kypouropoulos – EP Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Dr. MEP Stelios Kypouropoulos is a Greek psychiatrist and politician and has been serving as a Member of the European Parliament since 2019. He joined the European People's Party. He is a member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), Committee on Petitions (PETI). He is also a Member of the newly established Subcommittee on Public Health (SANT). In addition, he is the EPP coordinator in COVI Committee; a substitute member of the ENVI Committee; REGI Committee and the Subcommittee on Human Rights; and the co-chair of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament. He holds a master in "Mental Health Promotion -Prevention of Psychiatric Disorders" and a BA in Medicine from the Department of Medicine

of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. In 2013, he pioneered the organization of the first Greek delegation to the pan-European event "Freedom Drive", which became the springboard for the creation of the first Independent Living Organization of Greece, "I-Living!", which is an urban non-profit company run exclusively by individuals with a disability.

Véronique Wasbauer – Principal Adviser for non-communicable diseases – European Commission (she/her)

Véronique Wasbauer (she) is currently principal adviser on non-communicable diseases at the European Commission, in DG SANTE. Previously she served as Director of an executive agency in charge of implementing various EU programmes, including the Public Health Programme. Among other functions in earlier stage of her career, she was in charge of reporting on a portfolio of Council activities, of the coordination of tasks in DG Employment and social affairs, of setting up the first European action plan on drugs and drug addiction. Prior to joining the Commission, she was a lawyer at the Luxembourg Bar.



Claudia Marinetti – Director – Mental Health Europe (she/her)

Claudia Marinetti is Director at Mental Health Europe (MHE) and has extensive expertise in the areas of health and its social determinants, well-being, and equity. With over 15 years of experience in management, policy, advocacy and research, Claudia has worked across sectors to improve the well-being of people, including a focus on approaches based on human rights, access to quality services, Health in All Policies, and social inclusion. Prior to joining MHE, Claudia worked at European level on public health, disease prevention, health promotion, and inequality reduction. She has conducted research for K.U. Leuven and other research institutions. Claudia is a graduate of the University of Padua (Italy) and holds a PhD in Social and Applied Psychology from the University of Oxford (UK).



Jessica Mahoney –Policy Analyst – OECD Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE) (she/her)

Jessica Mahoney is a Policy Analyst at the OECD's Centre on Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE). Her work focuses on well-being approaches to policy making and measures of subjective well-being and mental health. Prior to joining the OECD, she managed impact evaluations of public service provision programs in transit and education for the World Bank and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) in Tanzania. She has a BA in Political Science from Williams College and a Master's in Applied Economics: Public Policy and Development from the Paris School of Economics.



Enea Venegoni – LGBTQ+ activist and representative of the queer community (they/he)

A transmasculine person, Enea is a Policy Researcher and writer, with a background in psychology and neuroscience. In their daily life, they work as policy researcher, with a focus on inequalities in care, with the aim to promote evidence-based changes. As a writer, they have been featured on VICE Italy, i-D Italy, and other magazines and independent zines, mainly curating columns on queer culture and issues faced by the LGBTQI+ community, on top of writing informative articles for both the community and the general public in Italy. Their interests are related to equity in global health, research and the use of art as an agent for social-change.

Stewart Cornelius – Regional Lead (South East) – IPS Grow (he/him)

Stewart Cornelius is a professional in the field of mental health and employment support, currently serving as a IPS Grow Regional Lead. With a decade of experience in the industry, Stewart works closely with services providers including Charities, No profit Organisations and UK National Health Service to promote best practices and provide technical assistance to enhance IPS service delivery. Stewart's passion for improving the lives of those living with mental illness is evident in his dedication to supporting and empowering providers to provide the best possible IPS service to their clients.





Elizabeth Gosme – Director – COFACE Families Europe

Elizabeth Gosme is mother of two girls, EU social policy analyst, and Director of COFACE Families Europe, a network of 50+ family organisations across 23 countries advocating for the rights of all families without discrimination through various tools: advocacy and campaigning at European Union level for strong social rights and gender-responsive family policies, building European research projects, developing practical tools to support education and training to support parents, families, children. COFACE's work on mental health includes calling for strong policies on work-life balance of parents and carers, preventing and addressing school bullying and cyberbullying, raising awareness on the mental load of parents and mothers especially including through the Family TeamWork campaign launched in 2022.

Joseph Duffy – Chief Executive Officer – Jigsaw (he/him)

Dr Joseph Duffy is the CEO of Jigsaw – The National Centre for Youth Mental Health in Ireland. He holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and has worked in the area of mental health for over 25 years.

He is a Board member of the Irish Mental Health Commission and Mental Health Reform, a member of the Executive of the International Association for Youth Mental Health (IAYMH), he sits on the National Implementation Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for Sharing the Vision – A Mental Health Policy for Everybody and the Advisory Board of the Irish Probation Journal.



Fatima Awil – Policy & Knowledge Office – Mental Health Europe (she/her)

Fatima is Mental Health Europe's Policy and Knowledge Officer. She has a background in human rights research, policy, and advocacy with NGOs. Before joining Mental Health Europe, Fatima worked as the Advocacy and Policy Officer for End Female Genital Mutilation European Network. As well as being an intersectional feminist, Fatima is an activist, with over nine years of experience in advocacy and campaigning. Fatima holds a BA (Hons) in Law and Human Rights, and an LLM in International Law and International Relations