



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE – SANTE MENTALE EUROPE

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MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

CALL FOR EXPERT

Report and promising practices on right to vote and be elected for persons with psychosocial disabilities

Mental Health Europe is seeking an expert to support the development of a report with good practices on voting rights for persons with psychosocial disabilities, as outlined in [Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD).

Deadline: Candidates are invited to respond to this call by the 5th of November 2023 by sending their proposal to Fatima Awil at francesca.centola@mhe-sme.org. Candidates can get in contact before submission for questions and clarifications. **Proposals will be assessed on a rolling basis and therefore the consultancy may be assigned before the deadline should a proposal meet the technical and financial requirements.**

The selection of the expert will be completed by the 8th of November and the selected candidate should be ready to start the assignment no later than the 13th of November and complete it by end of December 2023.

I. About MHE

Mental Health Europe (MHE) is the largest European independent network organisation representing mental health users, their families and carers, health professionals and service providers in over 30 countries across Europe. MHE has been working for over 35 years to promote positive mental health, prevent mental distress and advocate for social inclusion and the protection of the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities. MHE subscribes to the [psychosocial model of mental health](#), according to which mental ill-health is a human experience and is influenced by a variety of factors including wider socio-economic and environmental issues (e.g., access to employment, education, living conditions, etc.).

MHE's work is underlined and guided by key international and European frameworks such as the CRPD. A human rights-based approach to mental health and disability is founded on the principle that people with disabilities, including people with psychosocial disabilities, must fully enjoy their human rights. MHE advocates for the full inclusion in society of persons with psychosocial disabilities without discrimination and on an equal basis with others.

II. Background information

Article 29 of the CRPD clearly outlines the right to participation in political and public life for persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial disabilities. It sets obligations for States Parties to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully enjoy the right to vote and be elected without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. Nonetheless, [legal and practical barriers remain for many people with disabilities](#), including people with psychosocial disabilities.

Both the European Union (EU) and all its Member States have signed and ratified the CRPD, taking a commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities within the EU. Ahead of the 2024 European Parliament elections, MHE aims to provide an overview of voting rights for persons with psychosocial disabilities in the EU, with a particular focus on changes that may have occurred since the last European Parliament elections in 2019.

The final result of this exercise, which will end by 2023, is to provide guidance to relevant EU and national stakeholders (policymakers, political parties, civil society, etc.) to reduce inequalities and ensure accessible elections at the national and EU level. The guide will include a mapping of existing legislations (outlining possible changes that might have occurred in the past 5 years), promising practices, as well as recommendations for key stakeholders based on MHE expertise.

III. Scope of assignment

Overall task:

The expert is expected to carry out a mapping of voting rights for persons with psychosocial disabilities in EU Member States, with a particular focus on legislative changes since the last European Parliament elections in 2019. The expert is also expected to outline case studies showcasing good practices of voting rights for persons with psychosocial disabilities in EU Member States. The final report from the expert, combining the mapping and good practices, should not exceed 10 pages.

Description of tasks:

- Carry out a mapping of voting rights for persons with psychosocial disabilities in EU Member States;
- Outline possible legislative changes that might have occurred in European electoral processes that impact the right to vote and stand as a candidate for persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- Produce an overview of main findings of the implementation of Article 29 of the CRPD for persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- Draft case studies showcasing good practices (approx. 5/6 but final number to be agreed depending on findings).

IV. Budget and deliverables

The maximum budget planned for this assignment is 6.000€ including VAT.

Overview of steps and deliverables; the detailed timeframe will be agreed with the winning bidder:

Deliverable
Preparatory meeting between MHE Secretariat and the expert. Agreement on the overall structure and outline of the report, including criteria to collect good practices.
Draft report outlining preliminary findings of mapping voting rights for persons with psychosocial disabilities.
Proposal of 5/6 case studies from EU Member States showcasing good practices of the implementation of Article 29 of the CRPD.
Final report mapping voting rights for persons with psychosocial disabilities addressing and integrating feedback provided by MHE.
Final outline of case studies addressing and integrating feedback provided by MHE.

V. Selection process

In order to perform this assignment according to expectations the expert must have:

- Proven expertise in carrying out research in the field of human rights and mental health;
- A highly methodological approach and excellent writing skills;
- Fluency in English (written and spoken).

To respond to this call, applicants shall submit:

1. A CV describing expertise and experience in carrying out similar assignments;
2. An outline of their approach to this assignment (maximum 1 page);
3. Financial proposition, which should include number of days of work, daily rate and VAT (if applicable).