



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Health



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

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**Summit on actions required to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and service delivery systems in the WHO European Region  
Athens, Hellenic Republic, 22–23 July 2021**

Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso Hotel in Athens Riviera  
Website: <https://divaniapollonhotel.com/>

**Provisional programme**

**Thursday 22 July 2021**

08:30–09:00 **Electronic Registration**

09:00–10:00 **Plenary 1. Opening and introduction**

**Co-chairs:**

**Zoe Rapti**, Deputy Minister of Health of the Hellenic Republic,  
**Nikitas Kaklamanis**, First Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament, and  
**Natasha Azzopardi Muscat**, Director of the Division of Country Health Policies and Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Opening addresses:**

**HE Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic  
**Hans Henri P. Kluge**, WHO Regional Director for Europe  
**Margaritis Schinas**, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, European Commission  
**HE Vassilis Kikilias**, Minister of Health of the Hellenic Republic  
**Katerina Messimeri**, Social Cooperative of Corfu, Hellenic Republic

**Presentation of the Athens mental health summit declaration**

10:00–10:30 Coffee break and photo

10:30–12:30 **Plenary 2. Ministerial forum on actions required to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and service delivery systems in the WHO European Region**

**Keynote speeches by:**

**Pim Cuijpers**, co-chair of the WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

**Kostas Fountoulakis**, Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Hellenic Republic

**Country experiences of mental health impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic**

*Member States panel discussion*

**HE Anahit Avanesyan**, Minister of Health of Armenia

**HE Alymkadyr Beishenaliev**, Minister of Health, Ministry of Health and Social Development of Kyrgyzstan

**HE Zlatibor Loncar**, Minister of Health of Serbia

**HE Carolina Darias**, Minister of Health of Spain

**Iryna Mykychak**, Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine

**Diana Paun**, State Councillor and Health Advisor of the President of Romania

**Bernard Jacob**, representing HE Franck Vanderbroucke, Belgian Federal Minister of Health

*Member States virtual round table (via video link)*

**The Hon. Chris Fearne**, Deputy Prime Minister of Malta

**HE Alen Seranic**, Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**HE Jelena Borovinic Bojovic**, Minister of Health of Montenegro

**HE Marta Temido**, Minister of Health of Portugal

**HE Mikhail Murashko**, Minister of Health of the Russian Federation

**Goran Cerkez**, Assistant Minister for Public Health, Ministry of Health of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Helena Mas Santur **, Secretary of State of Health of Andorra

**Frank Bellivier**, Ministerial Delegate for Mental Health and Psychiatry, Ministry of Health of France

*Partner representative round table (via video link)*

**Stella Kyriakides**, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

**Afshan Khan**, UNICEF Regional Director Europe and Central Asia, Special Coordinator, Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe

**Francesca Colombo**, Head of the Health Division, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

**Resource person:**

**Jonathan Champion**, WHO consultant on preparing an evidence review of mental health impacts of COVID-19 across the European Region (*via video link*)

12:30–13:45 Lunch break

Ministerial lunch

13:45–15:15 **Plenary 3. Panel on impacts, needs and actions related to mental health services**

**Moderated by:**

**Jutta Lindert**, member of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

**Keynote speech by:**

**Jose Luis Ayuso-Mateos**, member of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

**Testimonial from a health-care worker on their experience of providing mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Maria Dimopoulou**, Head Nurse at the Mental Health Centre of Corfu and Mental Health Mobile Unit of Corfu, and Chair of the Board of the Social Cooperative of Corfu, NEW HORIZONS, Hellenic Republic

**Member States' representatives and partners share countries' experiences and the response of mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic**

*Open floor: Member States followed by non-State actors and other partners*

**Resource person:**

**Isabel Noguer**, member of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

15:15–15:45 Coffee break

15:45–17:15 **Plenary 4. Panel on the mental health impacts of COVID-19 and the needs of vulnerable groups**

**Moderated by:**

**Roberto Mezzina**, member of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

**Keynote speech by:**

**Curt Hagquist**, member of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

Testimonial from **Chryssa Bolaki** on her experiences as a young person during the enforcement of public health and social measures, with a commentary by **Nicholas Morgan**, member of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Presentation of the recommendations from the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Safe Schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Antony Morgan**, Chair of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Safe Schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic (*via video link*)

**Video about mental health care institutions and the COVID-19 crisis: the Croatian experience (produced by the WHO Regional Office for Europe)**

**Member States' representatives and partners share countries' experiences of responding to the emerging needs of vulnerable groups in the context of the COVID-19 response**

*Open floor: Member States followed by non-State actors and other partners*

**Resource person:**

**Anna Vasileva**, member of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

17:15–17:30 **Closing of day 1**

**Jana Chihai**, Co-chair, and **Ronny Bruffaerts**, member, of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

## **Friday 23 July 2021**

09:00–09:10 **Feedback from day 1**

**Panagiotis Tsinganos**, Chief of Cabinet, Deputy Minister's Office, Ministry of Health of the Hellenic Republic, and  
**Ledia Lazeri**, Regional Adviser on Mental Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe

09:10–10:40 **Plenary 5. Quality of mental health services**

**Moderated by:**

**Pavlos Theodorakis**, Senior Health Policy Adviser, WHO Country Office, Russian Federation

**Improving the quality of care and patient safety of mental health care in the post-COVID era**

**Parashar Ramanuj**, Consultant Psychiatrist, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, and Clinical Lead, London Spinal Cord Injury Centre, London, United Kingdom (*via video link*)

**The impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of health-care workers and its quality of care implications**

**Hannes De Kock**, University of the Highlands and Islands, United Kingdom

**Is Covid-19 the black swan for global digital mental health?**

**Heleen Riper**, Full Professor of eMental-Health and Clinical Psychology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and Department of Psychiatry, Amsterdam University Medical Centre, the Netherlands (*via video link*)

**Ensuring continuity and quality of care through digital mental health interventions during the pandemic – experiences from the field**

**Lene Sjøvold**, Clinical Psychologist, Mental Health Advisor and Independent Researcher, Norway (*via video link*)

**The new WHO Office on Quality of Care and Patient Safety: opportunities for quality of care and patient safety improvements in the mental health sector**

**João Breda**, Head, WHO Quality of Care and Patient Safety Office, Division of Country Policies and Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Member States’ representatives and partners share countries’ experiences on quality of mental health services**

*Open floor: Member States followed by non-State actors and other partners*

**Closing remarks**

**Tino Marti**, consultant, WHO Quality of Care and Patient Safety Office, Division of Country Policies and Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Resource persons:**

**Katerina Nomidou** and **Emanuele Caroppo**, members of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

10:40–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:15 **Plenary 6. Mental health impacts for the health and care workforce**

**Moderated by:**

**Anton Grech**, member of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region, and **Margrieta Langins** (*via video link*), Nursing and Midwifery Policy Adviser, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Video: Frontline stories (produced by the WHO Regional Office for Europe)**

**Understanding the priorities for supporting the mental health of the health and care workforce**

**Margaret Walker**, Executive Director, European Association of Psychiatry

**Response and panel discussion**

**Jacques de Haller**, Standing Committee of European Doctors  
**Howard Catton**, Chief Executive Officer, International Council of Nurses (*via video link*)

**Christos Lionis**, Professor of General Practice and Primary Health Care, University of Crete, Hellenic Republic, and Chair (elect) of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) Working Party on Mental Health

**Afonso Gouveia**, Occupational Health Lead at the Local Health Unit in Baixo Alentejo – ULSBA, Portugal

**Morgan Lucey**, National Lead for the Employee Assistance Programme, Health Service Executive, Ireland

**Member States' representatives and partners share countries' experiences on the mental health impacts for health and care workers**

*Open floor: Member States followed by non-State actors and other partners*

12:15–13:00 **Closing plenary: future actions**

**Co-chairs:**

**Zoe Rapti**, Deputy Minister of Health of the Hellenic Republic, and  
**Natasha Azzopardi Muscat**, Director of the Division of Country Health Policies and Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Presentation of the recommendations of the TAG on the mental health impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region**

**Emiliano Albanese**, member and rapporteur of the WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

**The proposed WHO European Framework for Action on Mental Health 2021–2025 and a pan-European Mental Health Coalition**

**Ledia Lazeri**, Regional Adviser on Mental Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Global WHO perspectives on aligned mental health actions and the importance of international cooperation**

**Dévara Kestel**, Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Use, WHO headquarters

**Resource person:**

**Liron David**, member of WHO TAG on the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 in the WHO European Region

13:00 **Farewell to participants and lunch**