We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit
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6. Health: Mental Health

“To support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone, and ensure our citizens lead healthy and productive lives, we commit to bringing greater attention to mental health.”

*Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué*

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**Background**

In recent years, mental health has experienced a significant rise in research and global attention. For decades, mental well-being was an understudied field that rarely attracted proper resources from the international community. One reason for this is the stigma attached to psychological disorders.\(^{955}\) Mental illness is often associated with a negative connotation or embarrassment and deemed less important than physical conditions like cancer, infectious diseases, or HIV/AIDS.\(^{956}\) This stigma has lessened, albeit not entirely, and new research methods have led to an enhanced understanding of mental health and its global impact.\(^{957}\)

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as “a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.”\(^{958}\) According to the American Psychiatric Association, mental illness is a collective term that encompasses all diagnosable mental disorders that cause shifts in thinking, emotion, and/or behaviour.\(^{959}\) Some of these disorders include depression, bipolar affective disorder, schizophrenia and other psychoses, dementia, intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders including autism.\(^{960}\)

According to WHO, mental disorders account for 10 percent of the global disease burden and 30 percent of the non-fatal disease burden.\(^{961}\) In 2013, approximately 120 million people worldwide

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955 Mental health is global health, University of Washington Institute for Public Health (St. Louis) 29 November 2016. Access Date: 26 August 2018. https://publichealth.wustl.edu/mental-health-global-health/.
957 Mental health is global health, University of Washington Institute for Public Health (St. Louis) 29 November 2016. Access Date: 26 August 2018. https://publichealth.wustl.edu/mental-health-global-health/.
suffered from depression, 50 million from epilepsy, 37 million from Alzheimer’s disease, 24 million from schizophrenia, and 1 million people committed suicide in addition to an estimated 20 million unsuccessful attempts.\textsuperscript{962} Beyond its health impact, mental illness carries a global economic cost due to decreased productivity and income caused by disability or death.

In 2010, this financial burden was approximately USD2.5 trillion and is expected to rise to an estimated USD6 trillion by 2030.\textsuperscript{963} This increase corresponds to the WHO prediction that depression will be the leading cause of the global burden of disease by 2030.\textsuperscript{964} Given this evidence, efforts have been made to change the marginalized perception of mental health and recognize it as a global health issue.

In 2013, the World Health Assembly unveiled the Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 in which countries across the world agreed to common mental health objectives.\textsuperscript{965} Additionally, in April 2016, doctors, aid groups, and government officials met at the Global Mental Health Event organized by the World Bank Group and the WHO to discuss the future of mental health and its place in the international development agenda.\textsuperscript{966}

The G7 has likewise recognized the importance of mental health and its impact on the global population. In 2013, the World Dementia Council was created during the G8 Dementia Summit as part of the United Kingdom’s 2013 G8 presidency.\textsuperscript{967}

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 member states first included mental health within their declarations, acknowledging the need for proper mental health policies to promote healthy and active aging.\textsuperscript{968} Here the G7 also committed to “promoting women’s, children’s, and adolescents’ mental and physical health, ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights without discrimination of any kind.”\textsuperscript{969}

This commitment was reaffirmed and expanded upon in the 2017 G7 Milan Health Ministers’ Communiqué in which leaders agreed to protect women’s, children’s and adolescent’s mental health in addition to improving the access of migrants, refugees, and crisis-affected populations to physical and mental health services.\textsuperscript{970} Yet, the 2017 G7 Taormina Final Compliance Report by the G7 Research Group found that the G7’s mental health commitment achieved the lowest compliance


score with a mere 25 percent. This is significantly lower than the G7’s overall compliance average with all assessed health commitments at 77 percent.971

During the Canadian 2018 G7 presidency, health was excluded from the five-priority agenda of the 8-9 June Charlevoix Summit. Despite this, the Youth 7 and the Gender Equality Advisory Council still advocated for mental health representation.972 Specifically, the Council recommended that G7 members “promote access to [mental] health services for men” in addition to women.973 The communiqué acknowledged the importance of psychological well-being within the context of the theme “Investing in Growth that Works for Everyone.”974 Leaders agreed to bring “greater attention to mental health” while establishing affordable health systems that ensure equal participation and healthy living.975

Commitment Features
G7 members agreed “to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure [their] citizens lead healthy and productive lives, [G7 leaders] commit to bringing greater attention to mental health.”976

“Support” is understood to mean “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”977 “Equal participation” refers to the opportunity for an individual to participate in a state’s society regardless of one’s gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, disability, etc.978 As per WHO’s definition of “health,” “healthy” is considered to be a “state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”979 “Greater attention” implies renewed effort to further certain objectives and initiatives. To bring greater attention is to expand the notice of the issue especially consideration to take action. In order for the member to increased attention, they should have either updated, renewed or extended an already existing initiative, objective or action OR have made a new initiative, objective or action was yet to be noticed previously. Finally, mental health is “a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.”9780

This commitment can be separated into two components. First, G7 members will uphold mental health initiatives “to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone.” The scope of this component lies in the term “everyone,” in which G7 members agree to establish mental health policies that affect the global population.

Second, G7 members will enhance mental health action to “ensure our citizens lead healthy and productive lives.” For this component, the scope is determined by “our citizens,” implying a domestic responsibility to further mental health policies within a state’s borders.

Some possible actions eligible for compliance to support their citizens are outlined in the 2013 WHO Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020. The Action Plan was supported by all G7 members and remains the most comprehensive framework that specifically outlines sufficient mental health actions. This is not a binding nor an exhaustive list of possible actions for compliance.

**International Mental Health Actions**

1. Supporting relevant international and regional human rights instruments that protect people with mental disorders from experiencing discrimination, including:
   a. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
   b. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
   c. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
   d. The Convention on the Rights of the Child981

2. Working jointly with other countries and organizations to achieve the following Global Targets:
   a. 80 percent of countries will have developed or updated their policy/plan for mental health in line with international and regional human rights instruments (by 2020)
   b. 50 percent of countries will have developed or updated their law for mental health in line with international and regional human rights instruments (by 2020)
   c. Service coverage for severe mental disorders will have increased by 20 percent (by 2020).
   d. 80 percent of countries will have at least two functioning national, multisectoral mental health promotion and prevention programmes (by 2020)
   e. The rate of suicide in countries will be reduced by 10 percent (by 2020)
   f. 80 percent of countries will be routinely collecting and reporting at least a core set of mental health indicators every two years through their national health and social information systems (by 2020)982

**National Mental Health Actions**

1. Strengthen effective leadership and governance for mental health through, among other actions:
   a. Policy and law: Develop, strengthen, keep up to date and implement national policies, strategies, programme, laws, and regulations relating to mental health
   b. Resource planning: Plan according to measured need and allocate a budget to implement agreed-upon evidence-based mental health plans and actions
   c. Stakeholder collaboration: Motivate and engage stakeholders from all relevant sectors in the development and implementation of policies, laws, and services relating to mental health
   d. Strengthening and empowerment of people with mental disorders and psychosocial disabilities and their organizations

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2. Provide comprehensive, integrated and responsive mental health and social care services in community-based settings through, among other actions:
   a. Service reorganization and expanded coverage
   b. Integrate and coordinate holistic prevention, promotion, rehabilitation, care and support
   c. Mental health in humanitarian emergencies: Work with national emergency committees and mental health providers in order to include mental health and psychosocial support needs in emergency preparedness and enable access to safe and supportive services, including services that address psychological trauma
   d. Human resource development: Build the knowledge and skills of general and specialized health workers to deliver evidence-based, culturally appropriate and human rights-oriented mental health and social care services, for children and adolescents

3. Implement strategies for promotion and prevention in mental health through, among other actions:
   a. Mental health promotion and prevention
   b. Suicide prevention (with special attention to groups identified as at increased risk of suicide, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, youth and other vulnerable groups of all ages based on local context)

4. Strengthen information systems, evidence and research for mental health through, among other actions:
   a. Information systems: Integrate mental health into the routine health information system to improve mental health service delivery, promotion, and prevention strategies and to provide data for the Global Mental Health Observatory (as a part of WHO’s Global Health Observatory
   b. Evidence and research: Improve research capacity and academic collaboration on national priorities for research in mental health

Full compliance thus requires the G7 member to support the specified international AND national actions (see above) regarding mental health.

To achieve partial compliance, the G7 member must support either international OR national actions and to achieve no compliance, the G7 member does not support any specified actions.

**Scoring Guidelines**

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<td>Member brings greater attention to mental health to 1) support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone (globally) OR 2) ensure citizens lead healthy and productive lives (nationally).</td>
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<td>Member brings greater attention to mental health to 1) support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone (globally) AND 2) ensure citizens lead healthy and productive lives (nationally).</td>
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Lead Analyst: Kareem Shahin
Compliance Director: Harrison Myles

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Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives by bringing greater attention to mental health.

On 25 July 2018, the Government of Canada announced over CAD30 million in federal support of health care services in the Yukon.984 Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Yukon Member of Parliament Larry Bagnell, and Yukon Minister of Health and Social Services Pauline Frost outlined how Yukon plans to invest the funding into improving access to home and community care and mental health and addiction services in the territory.985

On 12 September 2018, the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) announced the launch of its mental health literacy training program with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).986 Over 6,000 OPP personnel will undergo Mental Health First Aid training within the next two to three years.987

On 25 September 2018, the Canadian government launched the Promoting Health Equity: Mental Health of Black Canadians initiative.988 The initiative focuses on factors such as anti-black racism, promoting cultural diversity and well-being, and “taking into account other significant challenges in order to support culturally appropriate, effective and accessible mental health programs.”989 Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor claims the new initiative will improve mental health support for black youth, families, and communities.990


On 23 October 2018, the MHCC and the College of Family Physicians of Canada launched the Best Advice Guide: Recovery-Oriented Mental Health and Addiction Care in the Patient’s Medical Home

at the Canadian Mental Health Association’s 3rd annual conference.\textsuperscript{993} It was developed in consultation with mental health experts and physicians. This report offers practical strategies for health care providers, who provide almost two-thirds of mental health services in Canada, and includes important mental health conversation points and addiction issues.\textsuperscript{994}

On 13 November 2018, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale announced CAD1.1 million in funding over three years in support of the National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Mentoring Project spearheaded by the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute.\textsuperscript{995} The program will provide information and awareness sessions to off-reserve Indigenous families across Canada.\textsuperscript{996} FASD can cause life-long mental, physical, behavioural and learning disabilities.\textsuperscript{997}

On 20 November 2018, the Canadian government announced a partnership between Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and 4-H Canada to support farmer mental and physical health.\textsuperscript{998} FCC will contribute CAD50,000 to the National 4-H Healthy Living Initiative and assist more than 7,700 volunteer leaders and 25,000 4-H members across the country.\textsuperscript{999} The FCC is also working with mental health experts to create Rooted in Strength, a stress and anxiety management resource for farmers.\textsuperscript{1000}

On 7 December 2018, the Canadian government gave the Mood Disorders Society of Canada CAD741,620 in funding over three years through the Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund.\textsuperscript{1001} The reward will support Project Trauma Support and address mental illness and post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans, first responders, and correctional officers.

Canada has demonstrated efforts to comply with its mental health commitment at the national level to ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives. However, it has not taken sufficient steps

towards implementing actions at the international level to support growth and participation that benefits everyone.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Faiyad Nafis

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives by bringing greater attention to mental health.

On 22 June 2018, Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood hosted the first ever European conference on veteran's mental health, featuring delegations from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. At the conference, countries shared best practices on veterans’ issues and discussed improving mental health assistance for former service personnel.

On 28 June 2018, Minister of Solidarity and Health Agnès Buzyn spoke at the first meeting of the Strategic Committee for Mental Health and presented the Roadmap for Mental Health and Psychiatry, an action plan with the primary goal to change the way people perceive mental illness. The roadmap has three objectives: promote early identification of mental illnesses and prevent suicide; provide accessible, diversified, and quality mental health care; and improve the living conditions and social inclusion for citizens living with mental disabilities.

On 18 September 2018, President Emmanuel Macron announced the “Ma Santé 2022” healthcare strategy. The proposed strategy will allocate additional funding to France’s healthcare system and reform the system in order to increase the efficiency and quality of care. The strategy will increase the number of mental health resources available to healthcare professionals, improve patient access

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to psychiatric care, and mobilize resources in order to combat mental health stigma by educating the
general public.\textsuperscript{1008}

On 25 October 2018, Secretary of State in charge of People with Disabilities Sophie Cluzel
announced that 310,000 disabled people who have been made wards of the court will be guaranteed
the right to get married and the right to vote in the 2020 municipal elections.\textsuperscript{1009} Many of these
people have mental illnesses and previously could be banned by a judge from voting.\textsuperscript{1010} According to
Cluzel, this new decision “will give disabled people back their citizenship” and ensure equal
participation in society.\textsuperscript{1011}

On 9 November 2018, the Interministerial Delegation to Combat Racism, Anti-Semitism and Anti-
LGBT Hate announced it will contribute EUR1 million to Facebook’s Fund for Civility.\textsuperscript{1012} The
objectives of the initiative are to combat cyberbullying and hate speech and to develop critical
thinking.\textsuperscript{1013} Cyberbullying has been shown to negatively impact young people and lead to
psychological suffering.\textsuperscript{1014}

France has demonstrated efforts to comply with its commitment by implementing mental health
initiatives at the national level concerning equal participation and support systems. However, it has
not made an effort to promote mental health initiatives abroad.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

\textit{Analyst: Lilin Tong}

\textbf{Germany: 0}

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to support growth and equal participation that
benefits everyone and ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives by bringing greater
attention to mental health.

On 22 June 2018, Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood hosted the first ever
European conference on veteran’s mental health, featuring delegations from Denmark, France,
Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. At the conference, countries shared best practices on veterans’ issues and discussed improving mental health assistance for former service personnel.

Germany has demonstrated no efforts to comply with its mental health commitments at the national level but has taken sufficient action to implement mental health commitments at the international level through participating in the conference on veteran’s mental health.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Wilson Adore

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives by bringing greater attention to mental health.

On 29 August 2018, the Italian Ministry of Health released two new documents outlining how to support and care for young people with eating disorders. These documents sought to provide some homogeneity to the care and treatment of eating disorders both for parents and health professionals. The Recommendation for Family Members document informs parents and family members how to identify symptoms of eating disorders and how to provide practical support.

On 26 September 2018, the Italian government gave a EUR1 million contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to support Palestinian refugees in Syria. The funds provide access to educational services, psychosocial support for minors, and training activities for teachers and parents, including issues related to gender-based violence.

On 22 June 2018, Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood hosted the first ever European conference on veteran’s mental health, featuring delegations from Denmark, France,
Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. At the conference, countries shared best practices on veterans’ issues and discussed improving mental health assistance for former service personnel.

On 27 September 2018, representatives of the Italian government participated and committed the state to 13 steps to address non-communicable diseases, including mental health diseases and mental health wellbeing, through World Health Organization. The program intends to speed up progress in curbing the impact of non-communicable diseases on society.

From 23 to 25 October 2018, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and more than 170 mayors and public figures supported a new mental health awareness campaign. The announcement was made during the XXXV Assembly of the National Association of Italian Municipalities held in Rimini. The campaign will promote information sharing and social inclusion of people with mental illness.

Through Italy’s implementation of national mental health initiatives regarding eating disorders and general awareness and its international psychological backing for Palestinian refugees, Italy has supported growth that benefits everyone and ensured its citizens lead healthy and productive lives.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

**Analyst: Dorota Borovsky**

**Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives by bringing greater attention to mental health.

On 29 June 2018, Japan approved legislation to cap overtime work at 100 hours per month for all employees. The legislation is an attempt to contest karoshi or death by overworking (a very

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common occurrence in Japan) and the mental strain associated with long hours.\textsuperscript{1030} Additionally, the law imposes penalties for companies that violate these boundaries.\textsuperscript{1031}

Japan has complied with its mental health commitment at the national level by ensuring citizens lead healthy and productive lives, although it has not complied at the international level with insufficient implemented action to support growth and participation that benefits everyone.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

\textit{Analyst: Faiyad Nafis}

\textbf{United Kingdom: +1}

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives by bringing greater attention to mental health.

On 16 June 2018, the British government announced plans to boost the National Health Service funds with a GBP20 billion injection per year by 2023-24.\textsuperscript{1032} The extra spending will cut cancer deaths, improve mental health services, and hire thousands more medical professionals.\textsuperscript{1033}

On 22 June 2018, Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood hosted the first ever European conference on veteran's mental health, featuring delegations from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands.\textsuperscript{1034} At the conference, countries shared best practices on veterans’ issues and discussed improving mental health assistance for former service personnel.\textsuperscript{1035}

On 9 July 2018, the House of Lords introduced Bill 120, also known as the Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Bill.\textsuperscript{1036} The law is intended to provide oversight regarding the use of force for individuals in mental health units (i.e. healthcare practitioners) in order to protect the physical and mental wellbeing of patients.\textsuperscript{1037}

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On 4 September 2018, the Ministry of Defence launched a mental health pocket guide to help the armed forces identify signs of mental illness or distress, offer support, and provide information on where services are available.1038

On 29 October 2018, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced plans to spend GBP2 billion on mental health services in the final budget prior to the UK’s removal from the European Union.1039

On 22 November 2018, the UK government published a new framework to help employers voluntarily report on the disability, mental health, and well-being of their employees.1040 The framework is meant to promote transparency and encourage employee support networks.1041

On 7 December 2018, the Department of Health and Social Care announced GBP963 million of additional funding for health services across England.1042 The funding will expand existing mental health services and facilities in Newcastle, Gateshead, and Liverpool.1043

The United Kingdom has taken some steps in implementing domestic policies which ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives, especially veterans, and has supported any international initiatives through the European conference on veteran’s mental health, to bring greater attention to mental health.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

**Analyst: Ranjana Nagi**

**United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives by bringing greater attention to mental health.

On 14 August 2018, President Donald Trump signed into effect H.R. 2345, the “National Suicide Hotlines Improvements Act of 2018.”1044 The law requires the Federal Communications Commission

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and Departments of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs to determine the feasibility of a three-digit dialing code for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.1045

On 30 August 2018, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded USD215.2 million over five years to support individuals involved in the justice system with mental health and substance abuse disorders.1046 The programs will provide treatment and recovery services.1047

On 21 September 2018, SAMHSA announced it would provide USD61.1 million in grants to suicide prevention programs over several years.1048 The programs featured include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Disaster Distress Helpline.1049

On 24 September 2018, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced three grants worth USD6.2 million over the next few years to Fairbanks Native Association and Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.1050 The funding aims to develop access to youth mental health and opioid addiction services.1051

On 28 September 2018, President Trump signed into effect H.R. 6157, the “Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act.”1052 The law “secures USD6.7 billion to address substance use and mental health, including opioid and heroin abuse.”1053

The United States has demonstrated efforts towards implementing domestic policies that support mental health and suicide prevention programs in order to ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives. However, it has not taken steps towards implementing international initiatives which bring greater attention to mental health.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ranjana Nagi

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1046 SAMHSA awards $215.2 million to support justice-involved individuals who have substance use or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders, SAMHSA (Rockville) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201808301100.
1047 SAMHSA awards $215.2 million to support justice-involved individuals who have substance use or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders, SAMHSA (Rockville) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201808301100.

25 February 2019

150
European Union: +1
The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure its citizens lead healthy and productive lives by bringing greater attention to mental health.

On 17 July 2018, the European Commission established the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases. The Steering Group will act as a formal expert body to reduce premature death from non-communicable diseases, including mental illness, and assist EU members in achieving the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

On 25 July 2018, the European Commission adopted new regulations on pilot mental health requiring airlines to psychologically assess people prior to hiring and provide support systems. The rules came three years after a Germanwings pilot intentionally flew into a mountain.

On 20 September 2018, a new mental health center funded by the EU was opened in Ankara. The center will help Syrian refugees suffering from mental health disorders.

On 10 October 2018, the European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instruments launched a new campaign alongside World Health Organization, the Palestinian Ministry of Health and the Sharek Youth Forum, to raise awareness about youth mental health in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As part of the program, there will be activities in 34 different schools to raise awareness about mental health and counsellors on site to oversee students and their activities.

On 21 November 2018, Mental Health Europe (with the support from the European Union Programme for Rights, Equality and Citizenship) and Euro Youth Mental Health launched a digital...
map which aggregates the available mental health resources of each EU member. Young people can use the map to see what resources, such as helplines or support organizations, are available to them.

On 22 November 2018, the European Commission alongside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development released their Health at a Glance: Europe report which called for improving mental health and preventing mental illness which costs the EU close to 4 percent of its gross domestic product. The report highlights the importance of mental health in Europe and is expected to urge EU members to make improvements in their own national health initiatives.

The European Union remains committed to implementing mental health initiatives related to policy formation and specific high-risk careers while also implementing international policies to support growth that benefits Palestinians and Syrian refugees.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dorota Borovsky

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