



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

Statement of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 70th Session of WHO Europe Regional Committee

Agenda Item 4: The European Programme of Work (2020–2025) – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations would like to commend the work of the Regional Office for Europe in developing the *United action for better health in Europe*, European Programme of Work, 2020–2025, with efficacy despite the global circumstances.

We welcome the Flagship initiative: Mental Health coalition affirming the necessity to reduce the burden of mental disorders and to improve equitable access to mental health services in the European Region. We value the mention of the need to confront the mental health fallout and support the communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as we are all observing its ravaging effects on the wellbeing of us all, keeping in mind the possibility of other health emergencies striking, we find it of utmost importance that plans resulting from a situation we are currently facing are included in the aims of the Coalition.

Therefore, we call upon the Regional Office to create strategies to increase access to psychological interventions and other emergency relief services, to integrate those into regional and national policies and plans, and to adopt a systemic approach aiming to tackle the inextricable consequences of the affected such as stigma, discrimination, violence, and abuse among other.

Additionally, we recognise the need for discussion regarding the deinstitutionalization of psychiatric care and acknowledge the importance of investment in commensurate community structures. We urge the Regional Office adopt a multidisciplinary approach and involve NSAs, especially youth organisations working in the field, in the related proceedings to offer invaluable insight and help in delivering best services for people living with mental health conditions.

In conclusion, we believe the Coalition will lead to strengthening the international mental health community together with their initiatives and services. We, once again, call on all stakeholders to include youth as part of the future generation of healthcare professionals in aforementioned processes to build an inclusive and a long-lasting approach to providing mental health care for all.