

JA ImpleMENTAL Workshop on Human Rights, in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe successfully took place in Vilnius, Lithuania



Between 22nd-24th April, 2024 a three-day workshop on human rights was organised in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius.

The workshop, which was attended by more than 70 participants, was opened by **Vasileia Konte**, coordinator of the EU JA ImpleMENTAL project, followed by the greetings of **Edita Bishop**, head of the Mental Health Services in the Lithuanian Ministry of Health. Then Edita Bishop and the Lithuanian team of JA ImpleMENTAL introduced the participants to the Lithuanian mental health care system, including a field visit to the Mental Health Centre in Vilnius and to the campus of Valakampiu Social Services.

The organisation of the programme was supported by the Deputy Mayor of Vilnius, **Simona Bielune**, who joined JA ImpleMENTAL's workshop participants during their field visit to the social care centre and participated in the "Move for Better Mental Health" workshop along with the employees and users of the facility.

The second and third days of the Vilnius event participants could get acquainted in depth with the **WHO QualityRight Initiative**. Deputy Lithuanian Minister of Health, **Aurimasom Peckauskas**, gave an introductory speech before the training, in which he underlined the significance of the ImpleMENTAL Joint Action and emphasized its crucial role in addressing mental health issues not only for Lithuania, but also for the entire European Union. He emphasised that mental health is a priority for the entire European community, especially after the Covid 19 pandemic and during the current war conflicts surrounding us.

After a brief introduction and sharing of experiences and challenges that experts face in certain countries, **Melita Murko**, representative of WHO Europe, presented the achievements of the WHO

QualityRights initiative so far, and Vasileia Konte showcased best practices collected from the implementation of the JA ImpleMENTAL.

Danijela Štimac, coordinator of JA ImpleMENTAL for Croatia, **Karlie Levickaite**, director of the NGO Mental Health Perspective and **Arunas Germanavicius**, director of the State Psychiatric Hospital in Vilnius, shared their experiences having gained in the process of implementing the WHO QualityRights initiative in Croatia and Lithuania.

The **WHO QualityRight core training was organised in parallel** in two groups **on two different themes: *on recovery and human rights to health***, and ***on legal capacity and the right to decide***.

Olga Kalina from the European Network of Users and **Simon Vasseur Bacle**, clinical psychologist from EPSM Lille Metropole held the core training on recovery and right to health. The aim of this workshop was to educate participants about the reorientation of care towards the client's needs and an individualized approach to the recovery process with the active participation of the user.

Whereas the core training on legal capacity and the right to decide was held by Cassie Redlich and **Melita Murko** from WHO, joined by **Jarrood Clyne**, human rights advisor from International Disability Alliance.

All participants agreed that mental health care should always respect human rights, and using WHO QualityRights initiative assists and highly contributes to adopting the best practices from Europe.

The event proved that JA ImpleMENTAL continues to make strides in the area of mental health. We are grateful for the invaluable support and guidance from HADEA and WHO Regional Office for Europe, as well as thank Lithuanian Ministry of Health, Vilnius Municipality and none the less our Lithuanian colleagues for their superb organisation and hospitality.

About JA Implemental:

The Joint Action involves 39 participating organisations from competent authorities in 21 EU/EEA countries and supports them to establish local networks for mental health and to strengthen community-based provision of preventive care services across sectors in order to improve access to a sustainable quality of care. JA ImpleMENTAL is focusing on the transfer and implementation of two best practices:

(1) mental health reform in Belgium based on the principle of deinstitutionalization, the transition from primarily institutional care to community-based care in order to improve mental health outcomes and quality of life and avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, and

(2) Suicide Prevention Austria (SUPRA), a multi-level suicide prevention strategy that integrates universal, selective and indicated prevention interventions, based on the local implementation context and building upon existing resources and initiatives. The activities of the JA ImpleMENTAL strongly support the new Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health, which aims to put mental health on par with physical health and to ensure a cross-sectorial approach to mental health issues.

JA ImpleMENTAL is committed to improve the quality of life of people living with mental problems and illnesses with the involvement of all parties concerned.

For further information on JA ImpleMENTAL project: <https://ja-implimental.eu/>

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