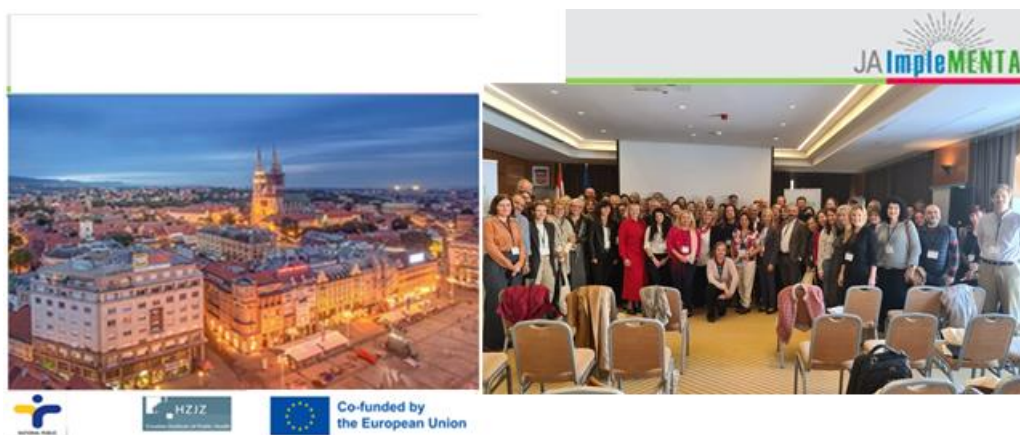


PRESS RELEASE

17th to the 18th of October, 2022 Zagreb hosted the 1st ANNUAL CONSORTIUM MEETING of JA ImpleMENTAL project



Mental disorders are one of the greatest public health challenges in terms of prevalence, burden of disease and disability as they cause major burden to economies, calling for demanding policy action. Economic costs for Mental Health amount to €600 billion across 27 EU countries, equivalent to 4.1% of GDP according to a WHO 2019 data.

Joint Action on Implementation of Best Practices in the area of Mental Health (JA ImpleMENTAL) is major programme co-funded by the European Union engaging in piloting and mainstreaming Mental Health policies. The programme involves 39 participating organizations from competent authorities in 21 EU/EEA countries. The programme is focusing on the adaptation and transfer of two best practices in mental health taken from Belgium ‘community based services as an alternative to hospitalization’ and Austria on suicide prevention in order to improve citizens’ mental health, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to extend the benefits of these best practices by transferring and implementing them as a pilot in the participating countries.

Project Partners, as well as major stakeholders were gathering in Zagreb on 17-18 October 2022 for the Annual Consortium meeting of the Joint Action programme Implemental, organised by, the National Public Health Organization (NPHO) of Greece in cooperation with the Croatian Institute of Public Health (HZJZ).

The event provided a unique opportunity to deep dive in the challenges and success stories generated by the implementation of both best practices and highlighted key recommendations for the implementation of the 2nd year of the project.

Key note addresses were given by Mr. Filip Borkowski, Disease prevention and Health promotion of Directorate General Santé at the European Commission-**Mrs. Florina Telea**, representing HADEA Executive Agency, **Prof.Krunoslav Capak**, Director of CIPH, and on behalf of the hosting country, **Mr.Ivan Celic**, Member of the Parliament of Croatia Mr.Vili Beroš, Minister of Health of the Croatian Government

greeted participants and expressed the significance of the event. Opening addresses were closed by **Ms Zoi Rapti**, Deputy Minister of Health of Greece, who joined the event online

On behalf of the **Hungarian** JA ImpleMENTAL team dr Bernadett Bulyovszky, country coordinator from National Directorate General for Hospitals (**OKFŐ** is the Hungarian beneficiary and consortium project partner) and Dr. Eszter Kovács, head of the health workforce planning center, assistant professor from the Health Services Management Training Centre, Semmelweis University (affiliated project partner involved in dissemination and sustainability of JA results from Hungary) participated in person at the Annual Consortium Meeting, whereas representatives of the other affiliated project partner involved in training and piloting, the Faculty of Public Health of the University of Debrecen, joined online.

As **Hungary works as** a co-leader with the Croatian leadership in WP2 on communication and dissemination, and on sustainability & transfer in WP4, along with the Dutch co-leader, the **Hungarian participants gave an overview on** activities so far executed (e.g. stakeholder analysis, the development of a communication and dissemination plan, identification process of dissemination channels and networks target groups) and preparations for funding and elaboration of action plans for the dissemination of good practices as well as preparing and planning the ImpleMENTAL pilots.

OKFŐ and the two universities are actively involved in the work packages specialised on transferring the two selected good practices from Belgium and Austria, where they will contribute to the detailed identification of good practices and the situation assessment that will influence the possible direction and extent of the transfer, the development of the transfer model, the design and preparation of the pilot, the implementation and evaluation of the national pilot.

About JA Implemental:

JA Implemental aims to support participating member states to improve and promote mental health via an innovative and sustainable (mental) health system change and reinforce capacity to address system transformation, in particular to support citizen centred and integrated approaches, increase system efficiency, build and maintain healthy alliances across sectors, and reinforce the coordination between national and regional authorities.

The JA supports the best practice transfer of two best practices in mental health, pre-selected by the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention (Member States) from the pool of the EU's Public Health Best Practice Portal: the "Mental health reform in Belgium" (focusing on establishing local networks for mental health to strengthen community-based provision of preventive care services across sectors in order to improve access to continuity and quality of care) and the Austrian best practice on suicide prevention "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.

Participating countries work in 6 work-packages and will be supported in developing or upgrading draft national/regional strategies and in initiating (first steps towards) pilot-implementation of selected suicide prevention interventions through workshops, training sessions and webinars. Activities will focus on the preparation of the national/regional/local team and environment for the implementation.

Funded by the European Union's 3rd Health Programme (2014-2020), JA ImpleMENTAL will run for three years and be coordinated at a European and national level by Εθνικός Οργανισμός Δημόσιας Υγείας (ΕΟΔΥ), National Public Health Organization (NPHO), Greece.

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

[JA ImpleMENTAL](#)