

Showcasing the activities of EPR working groups

EPR Annual Conference 2022



MENTAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP

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Aims of the Mental Health working group

- Develop resources on identified topics of interest to the group and EPR e.g. digitalisation of services, wellbeing at work, trauma
- Accessing the expertise of EPR members for professional development in mental health service provision and providing feedback at EU level
- Contributing to public seminars, National Awareness Raising Events, EPR conferences, study visits
- 2 online meetings and 1 in-person study visit per year hosted by a member of the working group e.g. at SIVA in Latvia in 2022

Examples of activities and outputs

- High turnout online public seminar on digitalisation of services during Covid-19
- Sharing resources about digitalisation of services during Covid on the European Commission EU Health Policy Platform portal
- Presented good practices at the 2022 EPR National Awareness Raising Event on Mental Health in employment in the Netherlands
- Currently developing a publication on trauma

Key learning and impact

- Increased willingness to share good practices
- Broader range of approaches to support and empower people with mental health issues
- Advancements in the use of technology to support people with mental health issues
- Development of practices during the Covid-19 pandemic to support service delivery in challenging times

YOUTH WORKING GROUP

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Aims of the Youth working group

- Meets 2-3 times/year, once in-person
- Exchange & mutual learning on challenges, concepts/approaches, services design, qualifications of staff
 - 1) Transitions into the labour market
 - 2) Improvement of employability of YPWD
 - 3) Mental health
 - 4) Hybrid models of teaching, learning and training in services for YPWD
 - 5) Inclusive education
 - 6) Relevant EU-level policy framework and EU funds

Examples of activities and outputs

- Identification of common challenges for services
 - 1) higher complexity of needs/1:1 services,
 - 2) increasing relevance of mental health conditions
 - 3) challenges for the creation of an employment and life
 - 4) service reorganisation
- Presentations:
 - concept of inclusive education & discussion of examples
 - Transition Services
 - Training Programme in Horeca Sector
- 2022: EPR Report “Good practice collection on transition programmes and services for young people with disabilities into VET or employment”

Key learning and impact

- Exchange and mutual learning on agreed topics of common interest
- Successful practices, services and transition programmes for young people with disabilities into VET or employment
- => Partial update of 2014 [EPR Study on services supporting YPWD transitioning to adulthood, postsecondary education, employment and the community](#)
- What is the relevant EU-level policy framework for youth welfare and youth policies (including European Year of Youth 2022) and which EU funds can be used to support EPR members?

DISABILITY MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

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Aims of the Disability Management working group

- Meets 2 times per year
- Working with employers aiming to support staff facing the impacts of an accident/chronic disease and return to work
- Focus: Barriers, success factors, good practices & business models for return-to-work programmes, job retention, reasonable accommodation
- Output 2022: Practice-oriented report with promising (integrated) models and approaches of disability inclusive management

Examples of activities and outputs

- Exchange and mutual learning on support needs for employers (e.g. information on relevant legal frameworks, financial support measures for employers, measures to prevent/reduce accidents and illness, return-to-work programs), service design and service packages, strategies to address employers, business models in the field of disability inclusive management
- Looking into policies, measures and services to promote prevention and remediation of regular or long-term absences due to accidents or chronic diseases (in the context of inclusive workplaces and rehabilitation support for employers)
- Discussion on European Disability Strategy initiative on reasonable accommodation
- Exchange of development needs of EPR members in the field (e.g., to work with small enterprises)

Key learning and impact

- Identification of approaches, methodologies and service packages offered by EPR members to support inclusive employers dealing with workers who have acquired a disability
- Exchange on and gathering of intervention tools (both for in-person and for online/remote services)
- Discussing & identifying structured services/service packages for employers & strategies to reach out to them
- Information sharing re. convincing business cases for disability management that foster the implementation of supported disability inclusive management in the workplaces

EMPLOYMENT, INCLUSION AND ICF WORKING GROUP

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Aims of the Employment, Inclusion and ICF working group

- Meets 2x/year online
- Objective: Presentation & discussion of latest research, studies, practical experiences with using ICF for an inclusive *ability* assessment
- Thematic focus:
Sharing knowledge, challenges and common resources concerning the use of ICF to:
 - coordinate vocational rehabilitation services
 - support case managers

Examples of activities and outputs

Presentations of good practices for discussion

- BfW Köln: 5-year project “Development of an ICF-based profiling system in the field of rehabilitation“: Concept and insights from project evaluation
- GTB: Use of ICF in the job mediation services of Flanders
- SIVA: Insights from the use of the World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule learning from the use of the Work Rehabilitation Questionnaire
- Theotokos: Use of Work Rehabilitation Questionnaire; Patient Education Programme “ICF Based Patient Education - Stroke (Manual)

Key learning and impact

- Building up and use of resource repository
 - 1) Concept
 - 2) Tools
 - 3) ICF & specific diseases
 - 4) patient/user focus
 - 5) Economic & quality of life aspects of use of ICF
- General aim: Better mutual understanding about experiences of EPR members on use of the ICF & how to use optimally
- Policy objective: recommendations on appropriateness of use of the ICF scale

DIGITAL SKILLS WORKING GROUP

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Aims of the Digital Skills working group

- Create possible common project ideas, discuss common challenges and share good practices and projects developed in the field
- Collect policy recommendations from members to be forwarded to the relevant stakeholders
- Guidelines for accessibility of digital skills assessment tools
- 3 online meetings, 1 webinar on Digital Europe Programme and 1 in-person hosted by a member of the working group (F.ONCE in Spain in 2022)

Examples of activities and outputs

- Presentation and test of the new Digital Skills and Job Platform assessment tool launched by the EU
- Presentation of the Digital Europe Programme for funding opportunities
- Group discussion on the development of an accessible assessment tool
- Study visit to F. ONCE's

Key learning and impact

- We need to invest in digital training and in upskilling of trainees and staff
- Service provision must follow developments to lead to inclusion
- The need for safe and sustainable infrastructure

IMPACT

- We realized how important accessibility to digital services is
- Change of mindset in the way we perceive service delivery in the digital times

INTHEREA WORKING GROUP

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Aims of the INTEREHA working group

- a hub for tech-based (or willing-to-be) rehab centres in EU to share such a culture, collect, amplify and bring voices to policy makers
- co-creating a strategic plan & action plan, linking experience to EU trends, through a gap analysis.
- Meets periodically (4 times so far), online during the pandemic, hybrid from now on

Examples of activities and outputs

- Policy making in tech-driven rehabilitation: opportunities through emerging channels under Horizon Europe prepared bases for a SRIA, through questionnaire & critical analysis of results
- Discussions on metrics we use to assess: added value of technologies & tech-assisted procedures
- Presentation of objectives, work programmes, topics and funding opportunities for tech-supported care under Horizon Europe

Key learning and impact

- SRIA in tech-based rehab and long-term care: valuable input to HealthTech4EU “sherpa” role to be played for IHI and, potentially, other work programmes
- Being such an expert group: key to have a seat in policy discussions at EU level
- Discussions & knowledge exchange key to steer our “medical” flavour of rehab, will assist us in wider perspective on digital care transition

POLICY WORKING GROUP

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Aims of the Policy working group

- Ensure EPR members interested in policy work together and are better informed of EU policies and national updates
- Produce policy recommendations based on national level
- Increase the ownership & engagement of EPR members & its policy work
- Bring forward our sector in network's meetings (i.e. SSE) through good practices, input to briefings, statements.
- Review EPR annual policy and advocacy objectives
- 2 online meetings per year

Examples of activities and outputs

- Cooperation with other European networks to feed into policy recommendations i.e. *EPR solidarity statement was provided through a joint declaration made together with partner organisations ahead of the EU Social Summit of June 25th 2020*
- Input into EU public consultations i.e. Disability Strategy
- Informing EPR members about EU funding instruments i.e. Recovery and Resilience Funds during the pandemic and gathering feedback from their implementation at national level

Key learning and impact

- Improved understanding of European policies & priorities
- Increased capacity of EPR members to:
 - influence policy developments through recommendations
 - develop projects at local & regional level benefitting from EU funding instruments
- EPR members' feedback:
 - being updated on latest EU policy developments helps
 - bring up priorities to directors, challenges & opportunities in the future of the sector
 - influence relevant EU actors about national challenges influencing upcoming policies

Aims of the Project Development working group

- Share updates on relevant calls and funding opportunities
- Discuss common challenges, ideas, proposals for projects
- Collect feedback on projects' exploitation plans, identification of strategies and actions to ameliorate them

Examples of activities and outputs

- Presentation of calls for proposal from European Commission
(Erasmus +, Digital Europe, Horizon Europe and C.E.R.V)
- Questionnaire on Exploitation of projects created by EPR and filled by the participants; collection of feedback on the to develop EPR Project funding Exploitation plan
- Creation & update of a digital environment on “Padlet” to share project ideas and challenges

Key learning and impact

- The group is useful to find organisations with similar challenges, to discuss solutions and common projects together.
- Increased awareness of current practices being developed & shared

Concrete project ideas on:

- Strengthening digital skills of our target groups
- Increasing accessibility of digital programmes
- Available and accessible hardware

Reflection:

- Not enough internal capacity to run these kind of projects
- Looking for partnerships