




Building resilient health systems in the Eastern Partnership

The WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Union are working together to strengthen health systems in 5 countries of the European Union’s Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Our goal is to promote resilient health systems in the Eastern Partnership countries, with a focus on health workforce and mental health services, including through innovative cross-sectoral engagement with the culture sector.


The project is supported with €5.3 million in funding from the European Commission and will run until March 2027.

What we are focusing on



Workforce

- ensuring fair working conditions for health and care workers
- improving education and training for health professionals
- planning the health workforce of the future



Mental health


- strengthening policies and systems to improve access to mental health services
- building skills and capacities to deliver quality mental health care
- tackling mental health stigma





Arts


- building capacity to integrate arts and culture to promote mental and physical health and well-being


Why it matters

 In some countries, over 40% of medical doctors are close to retirement and fewer young people are choosing health professions


 Poor working conditions for health professionals lead to stress and burnout


 Between 2014 and 2023, in countries reporting data, the number of foreign-trained doctors grew by 58% and foreign-trained nurses by 67%

 Mental health stigma and lack of community-based services prevent people from getting help

 Less than 4% of health budgets are allocated to mental health, mostly for outdated institutional care

 One in 6 people in the European Region –or about 140 million– live with a mental health condition

 The burden of mental health conditions exceeds 1600 years of healthy life lost per 100 000 population

 Growing mental health needs and the resulting strain on health systems require a “mental health in all policies” approach that includes evidence-based culture and arts interventions

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Health Resilience in the Eastern Partnership

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