WHO: Human Rights in the European Region

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Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
Health is more than physical

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”
WHO mandate

1. Give worldwide guidance in the field of health.
2. Set global standards for health.
3. Cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes.
4. Develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information and standards.
Binding International legislation

- Univ. Dec. of Human Rights
- Int. Cov. on Civil & Political Rights
- Int. Cov. on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on Prevention of Torture
- CRPD
WHO mental health and disability resolutions: 2001-2014

- 2001, WHO World Mental Health Report
- 2010 Bucharest Declaration
- 2013, Global Mental Health Action Plan
- 2013, European Mental Health Action Plan
- 2014, Resolution on Autism
Bucharest Declaration: Better Health, Better Lives
Purpose: Better Health better Lives

• promoting and supporting good physical and mental health and well-being*;

• eliminating health and other inequalities and preventing other forms of discrimination, neglect and abuse;

• providing support that prevents family separation and allow parents to care for and protect children and young people with intellectual disabilities;

• supporting children and young people in the development of their potential and the successful transitions through life.
WHO European Mental Health Action Plan

WHO European Mental Health Action Plan adopted at RC in September 2013
WHO EMHAP: Scope

Wellbeing

Rights

Services
Fairness

Everyone is enabled to reach the highest possible level of mental well being, and is offered support proportional to their needs. Any form of discrimination, prejudice or neglect that hinder the attainment of the full rights of people with mental health problems is tackled.
Empowerment

All people with mental health problems have the right throughout their lives to be autonomous, having the opportunity to take responsibility for and to share in all decisions affecting their lives, mental health and wellbeing.
Safety and effectiveness

People can trust that all activities and interventions are safe and effective, able to show benefits to population mental health or the wellbeing of people with mental health problems.
WHO Activities

• Country assessments
• Policy development
• Support implementation
• Working in partnership
Psychiatric services
New mental health services in Turkey
EU co-funded project Turkey: Institutional assessment

- Residents inactive
- No individual care
- Level of dependence low
- Staff poorly trained
- Half family contact
Establishment of community services across Turkey

Ministry of Health:
71 Community Mental Health Centres so far in 55 Turkish provinces.

Ministry of Family and Social Policies:
44 Houses of Hope so far in 20 provinces.
Challenges

- Stigma and legislation
- Poor Information
- Realistic Plans and Financing
- Fragmentation of responsibilities
- Disempowerment Agencies and NGOs
- Definitions and Indicators