

*Translation into English*

**12.04.2024**

### **Expert workshop on mental health care**

**The focus of an expert workshop on 9 April 2024 at the Representation of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate to the EU in Brussels was on approaches to transforming mental health care. Transformation in this context refers to the reorganisation of care systems for people with mental illness, moving away from a focus on inpatient care towards a more outpatient system, better integration of sufferers into society and greater involvement of the local community in mental health issues. At the workshop, which was attended by around 30 experts from various European regions, lighthouse projects from France, Belgium and Germany were presented and their successes and challenges discussed.**

The all-day event entitled "Transformation Management in Mental Health Care - Change Processes in Member State Health Systems", which was jointly organised by the European Association of Hospital Managers (EAHM) with its Mental Health Subcommittee and the national representation, focused on the perspective of management and providers. The organisational, financial and political aspects of such a transformation were examined. Pascal Mariotti, General Director of the Centre Hospitalier Le Vinatier Bron, reported on the experience gained from projects to design more recovery-oriented treatment methods and the transition to more outpatient and outreach care in Lyon. Michael van Brederode, LVR Institute for Health Services Research, presented the path that the LVR Clinic Bonn has taken as a very large clinic in an urban area to organise such a transformation process. Pfalzkrankenhaus für Psychiatrie und Neurologie (AdöR), used the model project of the Pfalzkrankenhaus to highlight possible solutions from the perspective of rural areas and introduced the idea of "regional governance" into the discussion. Jochen van den Steen, Director General of the Ghent Psychiatric Centre - Sleidinge vzw, presented concrete examples of the transformation process of mental healthcare in the province of East Flanders and Ghent and Oberbayern (kbo), reported on the development process towards the current system of care for psychiatric emergencies in Bavaria as well as its successes and prospects. Franz Podechtl, Chairman of the Board of Kliniken des BezirksThe intensive exchange between the experts on these examples showed that although the initial situation in the various EU countries and regions is different, the question of how to successfully reorganise the care of the mentally ill is the same in all the regions represented, even against the background of changing conditions. A further lesson from the processes and projects presented is that staff recruitment and qualification, the intensive involvement of all those involved in the process in the individual steps of the reorganisation as well as the embedding of the projects in the region and close cooperation with the various stakeholders and civil society in the region are important success factors. It also became clear that the necessary. This is not least because one of the major challenges in the care of mentally ill people - demographic change - affects all healthcare systems in the EU. This is not least because one of the major challenges in the care of mentally ill people - demographic change - affects all healthcare systems in the EU. (MK)