



MHPSS-CA&EN

Mental Health and
Psychosocial Support
Central Asian and European Network



First Announcement of the MHPSS Central Asian and European Network Forum 2026

Hosted by the Czech Red Cross in Prague, Czech Republic

Workshop and/or service visit:

Tuesday 3 November 2pm to 5pm (all times are Central European Time)

Wednesday 4 November 9am to midday

Forum:

Wednesday 4 November 2pm to 5pm

Thursday 5 November 9am to 5pm

Friday 6 November 9am to midday

Advocating for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Forum Program

The objectives of the 2026 MHPSS Forum are:

> To share insights and practices on **advocacy for mental health and psychosocial support**, particularly relating to:

1. **Children and young people,**
2. **Community based MHPSS and**
3. **Sustainability and funding.**

> To consider how National Societies can integrate these insights and practices into their programmes and support activities.

> To share good practices and lessons learned when advocating for mental health and psychosocial support.

Workshop Program

We will organise a workshop and/or a visit to a nearby local Red Cross service related to Advocating for Mental health and Psychosocial Support at the same venue as the Forum at the above times.

Style

The Forum will be as engaging, inclusive and interactive as possible. We use various methods of sharing information, including presentations and small group discussions in which examples of Red Cross and Red Crescent practices, interventions and evaluations are shared. The Forum will be held in English.

Participation

MHPSS focal persons from Europe and Central Asia are invited and will have the opportunity to meet each other and discuss next steps for the Network. This year we invite you to Prague, Czech Republic. More information about the venue will follow in the next announcement. If you would like to deliver a presentation or workshop please contact a member of the Steering Committee (see the contact details at the end of this announcement). **In order to have as wide a representation from across the region as possible, only two people per National Society are able to join us.**

Solidarity Fund

We kindly ask you to consult your management to contribute to the MHPSS Central Asian and European Network Solidarity Fund. This fund provides opportunities for MHPSS colleagues of National Societies with limited resources to participate in the training and forum. The suggested contribution is € 600 or any other amount that your National Society can contribute. Information about Solidarity fund details will follow in the Second announcement.

Application

The Second Announcement will have the links to register for the Forum and Hotel.

Prague is the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic and one of the most beautiful historic cities in Europe. Prague offers a unique blend of rich history dating back to the 8th century, beautiful architecture, and modern life. The historic centre has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992. Among the most famous landmarks are Prague Castle and Charles Bridge.

The airport is located 15–20 km west of the city and offers direct connections to more than 50 countries worldwide. The climate in November is cold, with average temperatures around 5–8 °C, and it is often rainy. The locals are calm and may seem rather reserved at first glance. However, people here are friendly and willing to help. The city is home to many foreigners, making it the most cosmopolitan city in the Czech Republic.

Updating the Terms of Reference for the Central Asian and European MHPSS Network

This year we need to update the Terms of Reference for our Network and would welcome your input. The Terms of Reference currently sets out our Network's aims and the duties of the Steering Committee (below). We want to update these to make them more inclusive and engaging, so that we can build more support and capacity for MHPSS activities across the region and make the most of our connections. If you wish to be involved, please email Sarah Davidson SDavidson@redcross.org.uk chair of the MHPSS- CA&EN Steering Committee. Thank you!

The aims of the MHPSS Central Asian and European Network (MHPSS- CA&EN) are:

- 1) **To promote the sharing** of experiences and practices in mental health and psychosocial support between the Central Asian and European Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies.
- 2) **To communicate** the specificities of MHPSS in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement at the Central Asian and European level, including understanding of the different contexts of National Societies, and the way they intervene in the prevention, activation and follow up of crises and various psychosocial interventions, programs and training.
- 3) **To enhance cooperation** between the National Societies, other parts of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, European authorities and institutions, and within/between communities and associative partners such as (but not limited to) the European Society of Traumatic Stress Studies (ESTSS), the World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe, and variety of research institutions.

The duties of the Steering Committee are:

- > To facilitate the mission of the MHPSS-Central Asian and European Network
- > To support the administrative management of the MHPSS-Central Asian and European Network
- > To keep agendas and notes from the meetings
- > To establish the program for the annual MHPSS-Central Asian and European Network Forum
- > To follow-up on co-operation within and transcend the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- > To maintain an overview of MHPSS-Central Asian and European Network digital platforms and resources within the network
- > To liaise between the experts and external partners.

The current Steering Committee is composed of the following members:

Chair	Members	Standing members	Scientific Advisor
Sarah Davidson British Red Cross SDavidson@redcross.org.uk	Armida Zakharyan Armenian Red Cross Armida.zakharyan@redcross.am Marija Lindić Croatian Red Cross marija.lindic@hck.hr Marianne Jossen Swiss Red Cross Marianne.jossen@redcross.ch Alina Garleanu Romanian Red Cross alina.garleanu@crucearosie.ro Jana Hadravová Czech Republic Red Cross hadravova.jana@cervenykriz.eu Sóley Ómarsdóttir Icelandic Red Cross soley@redcross.is	Ganna Goloktionova IFRC Psychosocial Reference Centre anglo@rodekors.dk Aneta Trachevska IFRC Regional Office for Europe aneta.trgachevska@ifrc.org Helene Ely ICRC Belgrade hely@icrc.org	Barbara Juen Austrian Red Cross Barbara.Juen@redcross.at

Many thanks, MHPSS Central Asian and European Network Steering Committee.