



Second Announcement of the MHPSS- Central Asian and European Network Forum

Hosted by the Czech Red Cross in Prague

Workshop: Tuesday 3rd November 14:00 to 17:00 (CET)
Wednesday 4th November 9:00 to 12:00 (CET)
Forum: Wednesday 4th November 14:00 to 20:00 (CET)
Thursday 5th November 9:00 to 17:00 (CET)
Friday 6th November 9:00 to 13:00 (CET)

Advocating for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Forum Programme	The objectives of the 2026 MHPSS Forum are: > To share insights and practices on advocacy for mental health and psychosocial support, particularly related to: 1. Children and young people, 2. Community based MHPSS and 3. Sustainability and funding. > To explore 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.
Pre – Forum event (Workshop) Programme	We will organise a Workshop “Changing the Agenda: Prioritising MHPSS through Advocacy” on Tuesday 2nd November and Wednesday 3rd November. The Workshop will be a space to 1) define advocacy goals, 2) identify the target audience and map stakeholders and influencers, 3) develop an advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy plan, including advocacy messages and selected advocacy tactics and channels.
Style	This Forum will be as engaging, inclusive and interactive as possible. In addition to presentations, members of the Network are invited to share their activities and lessons learned related to advocating for MHPSS through interactive showcases. The Forum will be held in English.
Participation Showcase Opportunity	MHPSS focal points from Europe and Central Asia are invited to participate and will have the opportunity to exchange and meet one another. This year, we are pleased to invite you to Prague, Czech Republic. If you would like to deliver an interactive showcase on advocating for MHPSS, please complete the proposal form before 30th July using the following link: https://ee.ifrc.org/x/THVtE9N4. Please note that no more than two representatives per National Society may attend the Forum, in order to ensure wider representation.
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 Forum. The suggested contribution is € 600 or any other amount that your National Society can contribute. Please contact any member of the Steering Committee (details on the next page).
Application	Registration is open! The accommodation for the Forum is reserved at the Don Giovanni Hotel, Prague. The costs for all travel, overnight stays and dinners must be covered by your National Society. If this is impossible, please consult the Steering Committee. Please register and book your stay through the Registration form before 24th September.
Location	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 TRGACHEVSKA 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,

Sarah on behalf of the MHPSS Central Asian and European Network Steering Committee