MHPSS TWG - Bulgaria

Meeting Minutes

28/03/24

Members

WHO, UNHCR, Foundation Ukraine Support and Renovation, Open Doors Situation center, Ukrainian Hive, IOM, NCPHA, Animus,

Updates & Achievements

1. Up-dates from members

-Bulgarian Red Cross presented their new project with IFRC the Olympic Refugee Foundation and the Bulgarian Olympic Committee – "Sport Couch+". The objective is to foster safe and supportive environments in the sport sector to support young people in distress (10-24 yrs.). Beneficiaries will include young Ukrainian refugees, displaced youth across Europe and host communities. The project is designed with a capacity building approach through a training of trainers, a supervision and mentoring programme and regular follow-up or refresher trainings throughout the duration of the action. The goal is to provide sport coaches with foundational skills and basic PFA competences, prioritizing those that live and work in communities with a high number of displaced people. If any of the members has interest in participating in the project contact Dessi Ilieva directly or write to me.

-USRF will have a meeting on the 29th of March at the Plovdiv regional educational inspectorate with all school psychologists to talk about bulling. A short discussion followed on the necessary work with parents as well, when the child is being bullied at school.

-WHO presented the IASC MHPSS Help-Desk and the new Manual for Psychological interventions implementation manual: integrating evidence-based psychological interventions into existing services and reminded the group of the MHPSS service mapping up-date currently happening with a deadline the 9th of April.

2. Thematic Focus of the Meeting – Domestic violence

Katya Krastanova from Animus Association gave a brief overview of the current work on the secondary legislation regarding the new amendments in the Domestic Violence Act.

-a new methodology for assessment of risk for the court that will minimize the possibility for lenience if the court is bias.

-standards and methodology for 4 new services for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence:

1. A phone line 24/7, harmonized EU number, with an option for localization and automatic up-loads in the national information system.
2. Consultation center for domestic violence – psychological support for victims and children with a social worker leading on the case, free access to a lawyer and facilities for supervised meetings between children and parents under investigation.
3. Protected housing (separate services for men) for emergency placing.
4. Program for aggression and anger management, that can be used after court order but also trough self-referral.

3. Topics for next month's meetings

The following topics were suggested by the TWG members:

1. Sharing best MHPSS practices regarding activities for adaptation and integration.
2. Sport and MHPSS
3. Art therapy

4. AOB

-UNHCR invited TWG members to reach out if they are interested in participating as panelists in an online event on the topic of Art therapy.

Action Points

Next Steps:

- Chair to organize voting for the thematic focus of next meeting.