

# The challenge of implementation of suicide-prevention-actions across European countries

## Setting the scene



Alexander Grabenhofer-Eggerth, Joy Ladurner, Alexandr Kasal and Eva Tušková, IASP Conference Piran September 2023

Gesundheit Österreich  
GmbH

**SUPRA**  
Suizidprävention Austria  
Eine Initiative des  
Bundesministeriums für Soziales, Gesundheit,  
Pflege und Konsumentenschutz

 **Bundesministerium**  
Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege  
und Konsumentenschutz

 **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**NIMH**  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH




Co-funded by the European Union's Health Programme  
under Grant Agreement No. 01035969 /JA-02-2020 [HADEA]

# Content of presentation

- ▶ **JA ImpleMENTAL**
  - Overview of the project
  
- ▶ **Work package „Suicide Prevention“**
  - Results of Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment
  - Common and individual challenges
  - Different policy frameworks
  
- ▶ **Challenges and facilitators in the countries**

# JA ImpleMENTAL

- ▷ 2 best practices were selected by the Steering Group on Promotion & Prevention (Member States) :
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- Mental healthcare delivery system reform in Belgium
  - Suicide Prevention Austria SUPRA
    - lead: Austria, Czechia
    - 17 countries (14 implementing, 3 participating/non-implementing)

Further information: <https://ja-imental.eu/>

# JA ImpleMENTAL

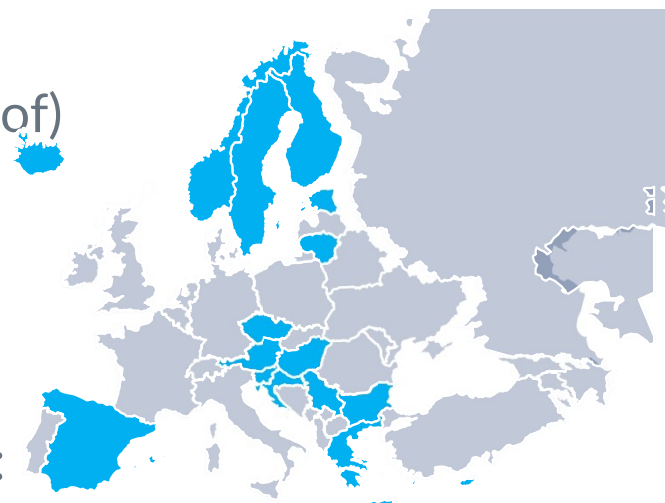
## WP 6 Suicide Prevention (SP), SUPRA

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▷ SUPRA is 1 of 2 **technical WPs** of JA ImpleMENTAL  
**WP6** „Transfer and pilot implementation of (selected elements of) of Austrian Best Practice on Suicide Prevention (SP) “SUPRA”

▷ **Lead:** GÖG/Austria, Co-Lead: MoH/Czech Republic

▷ **Partners** from 17 [14 of them **implementing**] countries:  
Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden,



# Differences in policy frameworks

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- ▷ **15** (of 17 participating) **countries committed to implement** prioritized measures/actions and to develop i.e. revise a national SP strategy
- ▷ **9 countries had a national and/or regional SP strategy in place when JA started**
- ▷ **6 had no specific SP-strategy in place**
- ▷ **Numerous** public and private stakeholders involved in suicide prevention at national/regional level

# Steps in the project

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- ▷ **Record and assess the current situation** in the field of SP in each country/region → situation analysis (SA), national country profiles (CPs)
- ▷ **Needs assessment** (+ define prioritized strategic and/or operative actions to be taken) (NA) → SWOT-analysis, national country profiles
- ▷ **Implement actions** at national/regional/local level → pilots
- ▷ **Develop/revise a/the national SP strategy** → draft/revised strategy

# Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment

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- ▷ Countries completed Situation Analysis (SA) questionnaire with 61 indicators
  - General country information, epidemiology of suicidal behaviour, health care availability, related policy and research, vulnerable groups
- ▷ Formulation of Country Profiles
  - Condensed version of SA
  - Including:
    - SWOT analysis
    - Including implementation success factors/facilitators and barriers
    - Prioritised measures
    - Next steps

# Findings: Common challenges

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- ▷ Gap between ambitions and resources
- ▷ Competing interests (school environment)
- ▷ Stakeholder involvement
- ▷ Too many objectives
- ▷ Stigma
- ▷ Expensive private treatment of MH problems
- ▷ Threats of policy cycle
- ▷ No funding allocated for implementation of national suicide prevention policy



## Findings: Specific challenges

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- ▷ Low continuity of care among child and adolescent and adult services (EST)
- ▷ Project based funding for community services (EST)
- ▷ Anti-psychiatric and "anti-antidepressant" campaigns in the media and on the internet (HUN)
- ▷ Availability of MH specialists (MAL)
- ▷ Problematic social and healthcare frontier. Insufficient collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (CZE)
- ▷ Wide network of actors active in health promotion (ICE)
- ▷ Small, less fragmented country; centralised governance (SLO)
- ▷ Alcohol culture (SLO)

# Findings: Common facilitators

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- ▷ Involving stakeholders
- ▷ Contribution to adoption of EBP
- ▷ Adopted policy document
- ▷ JA ImpleMENTAL
- ▷ Networking with international community
- ▷ Awareness raising

# What you will hear in the next 40 minutes

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- ▷ In JA ImpleMENTAL we are currently in the phase of SP strategy formulation/revision
- ▷ Three examples of different stages of the development in terms of national strategy (including 1 perspective from outside of the JA)
- ▷ Final presentation on scoping review of facilitators and barriers in suicide prevention interventions

# Thank you for your attention!

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