

INFORMATIVE NOTE
Open Call for the Admission of New Cities
European Mental Health Cities Network (EMHCN)

Institutional document for public dissemination

Institutional Background

The **European Mental Health Cities Network (EMHCN)** was formally established on **30 October 2025**, following a shared political commitment by European cities to strengthen local public mental health policies through cooperation, good governance and evidence-informed action.

On **19 December 2025**, the General Assembly elected the **first Executive Secretariat of the EMHCN** for an initial **two-year mandate (2026–2027)**, entrusting it with the operational coordination, institutional representation and strategic development of the Network.

Within this framework, and in accordance with its mandate, the Executive Secretariat hereby launches an **Open Call for Expressions of Interest**, inviting European cities and municipalities to join the EMHCN.

Open Call for Expressions of Interest

The **European Mental Health Cities Network (EMHCN)** invites European cities and municipalities to express their interest in joining a structured, values-based and action-oriented European network dedicated to the advancement of **local public mental health policies**.

Mental health is a fundamental human right and a key determinant of quality of life, social cohesion and sustainable urban development. As proximity-based governance actors, cities play a central role in promoting inclusive, preventive and community-oriented approaches to mental health.

Membership in the EMHCN offers cities the opportunity to engage in a collaborative European framework designed to support:

- **Sharing Best Practices** – Establishing a structured space for the exchange and implementation of effective, evidence-informed local mental health policies;
- **Developing Joint Projects** – Creating synergies for innovative, transnational mental health initiatives;
- **Access to International Networks and Identification Funding Opportunities** – Strengthening the positioning of cities within the European and international mental health landscape.

Eligibility

This call is open to **cities and municipalities located in European countries** that:

- Demonstrate a clear political commitment to mental health as a strategic local public policy priority;
- Align their local approaches with the values and principles set out in the **EMHCN Charter of Principles**;
- Are willing to ensure active institutional and technical engagement in the work of the Network.

Conditions for Membership

Membership of the EMHCN is **institutional and voluntary** and is formalised through:

- The **signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**;
- The **explicit acceptance of the Charter of Principles and the Rules of Procedure**.

The governing documents are attached to this call and must be carefully reviewed, as their acceptance constitutes a **mandatory condition for admission** to the Network.

Submission of Expressions of Interest

Cities wishing to apply are invited to submit an **Expression of Interest**, including:

- A formal letter or email expressing political intent to join the EMHCN;
- Confirmation of readiness to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and to accept the Charter of Principles and the Rules of Procedure;
- A concise description of local mental health priorities and existing policy frameworks;
- The designation of official political and technical contact points.

Institutional Contact

European Mental Health Cities Network (EMHCN)

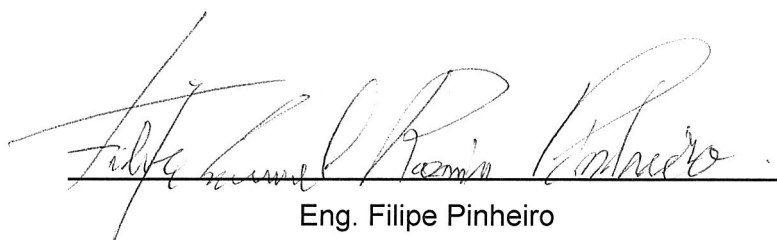
Executive Secretariat

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**Issued and signed on behalf of the Executive Secretariat
of the European Mental Health Cities Network (EMHCN)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Filipe Pinheiro'.

Eng. Filipe Pinheiro

Councillor for Health - Municipality of Barcelos