Launch of the PsychedeliCare Initiative: A European citizens' call to transform mental healthcare in Europe

Today, 14 January 2025, the **PsychedeliCare Initiative**, the first European Citizens' Initiative advocating for the integration of psychedelic-assisted therapies into the EU healthcare systems, officially launches its campaign to collect one million signatures by January 2026.

Supported by 32 associations and organized by therapists, patients, and citizens across **18 European countries**, this initiative aims to urge the **European Commission** to take bold action in supporting these innovative and evidence-based treatments for mental health disorders.

Mental health is a pressing issue in the European Union, with 1 in 6 EU citizens suffering from mental health conditions. Alarmingly, up to 50% of patients with major depression disorders fail to respond to current psychiatric treatments, leaving millions in need of new, effective solutions.

Psychedelic-assisted therapies are emerging as a potential breakthrough, offering rapid, safe, and durable improvements for conditions such as **depression**, **PTSD**, **end-of-life anxiety**, **substance use disorders**, and more. These therapies hold the promise of healing suffering in ways conventional treatments cannot.

The initiative's goals are threefold:

- Foster the development of expert standards for safe and equitable application
- Advocate for EU-funded research into these therapies
- Ensure all EU citizens have the right to access affordable, regulated psychedelic-assisted therapies if needed

To celebrate the start of the signature campaign, several events are organized throughout the EU and a European launch event will be organized at the European Parliament in Brussels, on February 6th. It will gather policymakers, researchers, and advocates to discuss the initiative and its impact. Throughout the year, other such events, workshops, and media campaigns will be organized across the EU to raise awareness and encourage participation.

"Eventually every EU citizen, if needed, should have the possibility to access the promising treatments that psychedelic-assisted therapies represent. With this initiative, we aim to trigger European action in this direction and foster greater public

understanding of these types of therapies, paving the way for enhanced research and supportive policy initiatives," says Théo Giubilei, Founder of the PsychedeliCare Initiative.

"The PsychedeliCare Initiative empowers EU citizens to have autonomy and choice in their healthcare. Prohibition of research and access to psychedelic therapy is now a human rights issue. We are individuals fighting for access to these old and innovative medicines" emphasizes Ciara Reynolds, Founder of Iaso Institute Ireland, National Coordinator for Ireland.

"With this initiative, we activists want to create a future where psychedelic-assisted therapies are safely and ethically integrated into our European healthcare systems, to offer a new hope to those affected by mental health challenges. We seek to advance our policies and foster international collaboration to ensure treatments are accessible and regulated" stresses Audrey Bourget, Communication Strategist for PsychedeliCare.

To achieve this goal, we need **1 million signatures** from EU citizens by January 2026. To participate in the movement:

- You can sign the initiative online
- Find out more about our Initiative, its purpose and our requests to the European Commission here: www.psychedelicare.eu
- You can also follow us on <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Facebook</u> for updates, events, and advocacy opportunities.

For interviews, inquiries, or further information, please contact us at: press@psychedelicare.eu

This is more than a petition – it's a continent-wide movement to redefine mental healthcare in Europe.

With the support of our <u>Partners</u> across Europe, let's care together for the mind.