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Personal Statement
Johannes Wancata nominated as
Zonal Representative Candidate for Western Europe

Full version:

Psychiatry in Western Europe experiences various challenges which require a close collaboration between National Psychiatric Associations, such as:

- Funding for mental health care and psychiatry is too low
- Improving post-graduate training in psychiatry
- Training of psychotherapy for psychiatrists
- Decreasing numbers of psychiatrists in numerous European countries
- Recurring shortage of some psychotropics in several countries
- Ethical aspects of assisted suicide as emerging problem
- Providing psychiatric treatment for refugees
- Psychological burden due to climate change
- Considering physical co-morbidity when planning mental health care

This requires an exchange of knowledge and experiences between National Psychiatric Associations for developing common strategies how to promote psychiatry, joint activities for health service planning, for postgraduate psychiatric training and for teaching students. Collaborative psychiatric research could gather new knowledge especially relevant for Western Europe countries. Stimulating and supporting exchange of psychiatric trainees and young psychiatrists by attending WPA congresses and conferences of National Psychiatric Associations in Western Europe could develop a basis for closer collaboration between them.

These tasks can be supported by:

- Panel discussions of representatives of National Psychiatric Associations during national and international congresses about essential topics for psychiatry
- Exchange of selected Webinars which might be interesting for the members of all National Psychiatric Associations of the Zone
- Meetings of presidents of all National Psychiatric Associations
- Forwarding important topics and needs of the zone to the attention of WPA Executive
- Authoring expert statements sent to national and international policy makers

In order to strengthen the communication between Western Europe and WPA, WPA related information and WPA educational materials should be disseminated to all National Psychiatric Associations of the region.

My strengths to fulfill the tasks of this position:

- As past president of the Austrian Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics I know the potentials and the needs of a National Psychiatric Association.
- I have managerial skills shown as Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee of the World Congress of Psychiatry 2023 in Vienna and as host of several national and international congresses.
- I have comprehensive experience in committee work in WPA as well as in other international and national organization such as the International Federation of Psychiatric Epidemiology or the Austrian Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics.

Short version:

Psychiatry in Western Europe experience various challenges which require a close collaboration between National Psychiatric Associations (NPAs) such as decreasing numbers of psychiatrists in several countries, training in psychotherapy, recurring shortage of psychotropics and treatment for refugees. This requires an exchange of knowledge and experiences between NPAs as well as stimulating and supporting exchange between psychiatric trainees from different countries. As past president of the Austrian Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics I know the potentials and the needs of a NPA. I have comprehensive experience in committee work in WPA and other international organizations.