

## PREVENT: “Preventing Suicide and Mental Health Challenges Among Justice Staff and Vulnerable Populations Through Sustainable Strategies: Preventing Risks and Ensuring Viable, Effective, Novel Tactics”



### Kick-off meeting in Portugal

The **PREVENT** project, which is an EU4Health initiative, kicked off successfully with partners uniting to enhance mental health literacy and suicide prevention in the justice sector.

This meeting marked the beginning of a collective mission to **build a more resilient, inclusive, and prevention-oriented justice system**.

### WP2 - Stakeholder consultations

#### **1st Round (Regional, 3 Nov 2025, Rovereto, Italy):**

Validated best practices via multi-sectoral input from health, social services, and coops; emphasized gardening/green activities for suicide prevention and inclusion of ex-offenders/mental health users.

High satisfaction (80% rated 4-5/5 for usefulness/engagement).

#### **2nd Round (EU-level, 26 Jan 2026):**

Over 70 participants from 18+ countries (EU + neighbors) refined Best Practices Database; key themes: staff well-being, human security, Gherla Prison model. Aligned with DG SANTE criteria for transferability.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

The project addresses critical gaps in mental health support for probation officers, correctional staff, and vulnerable populations such as ex-offenders and veterans, through targeted training, digital innovations, and policy collaboration.

#### **Core Objectives:**

- Boost mental health literacy for justice professionals
- Enhance suicide prevention and early risk detection
- Promote cross-sector collaboration for at-risk groups
- Develop digital screening tools
- Deliver evidence-based training for probation services

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successful Kick-off Meeting, uniting all partners in shared purpose.
- Project governance structures, fully operationalized and ensuring maximum quality benefits throughout the project.
- WP2 research activities advancing steadily.
- Dissemination materials fully developed.

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