

Hristo Hinkov is a psychiatrist and the Head of the Department of Mental Health at the National Center for Public Health Protection in Sofia, Bulgaria. He received his Medical Doctorate in 1980 and specialty in psychiatry in 1984 in Sofia. Dr. Hinkov studied specialized psychiatry in Japan, attended training courses on family medicine at the Free University in Brussels, and in 2002 attended the Flagship course on health care systems and health insurance organized by the World Bank in Washington D.C. and received a magisterial degree on health management.

Dr. Hinkov started his professional career in a large psychiatric hospital in Sofia and then worked as a researcher on dependences in the medical academy in Sofia. From 1988 to 1997 he works as a consultant psychiatrist at the National Institute for Emergency Medicine in Sofia. In 1997 he became head of the department of “Projects” for the Bulgaria Ministry of Health. From 1999 to 2001 he was a deputy director of the National Health Insurance Fund. Since 2002 Dr. Hinkov coordinates projects under the Stability Pact for South-East Europe. Dr. Hinkov is a WHO national counterpart for mental health, a member of the Executive Council of the National Program for Mental Health, and a member of the National Board of the Bulgarian Medical Association (1990 –1992 and 1998). He participates in different working groups for preparing the National Health Strategy, Act for the Health Care Facilities, Act for Health Insurance, Act for Professional Organizations in Medicine, Act for Public Health (particularly the mental health chapter), National Mental Health Policy and Action plan. Since 2002 he coordinates the Bulgarian survey EPIBUL as part of the WMH Survey. Since 2008 he is a principle investigator for the Bulgarian part of the WMH Survey.