



MENTAL HEALTH
INNOVATION
RESEARCH NETWORK

MIRAN 2026



15

&

16

OCTOBER

PROGRAMME & TIMETABLE

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

15 OCTOBER

De Krook - Zaal Blauwe Vogel

16 OCTOBER

NTGent - Ghent City Theater



KEYNOTE



Prof. Dr. Laura Shields-Zeeman

Professor of Population Mental Health (Utrecht University) and Head of Public Mental Health at the Trimbos Institute; Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre. Her work focuses on mental health systems, policy and the social determinants of mental health.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

Bridging the gap between mental health evidence and action

Mental health is one of the most urgent challenges facing our societies, and one of the most poorly served by the gap between what research tells us and what happens in policy and practice. That gap reflects choices: about what we study, how we study it, and how we see translation into action as our role as researchers.

This keynote makes a case for change. Drawing on applied research and policy work across Europe, North America, South Asia, and the Caribbean, Prof. Dr. Laura Shields-Zeeman will argue that the mental health field needs to fundamentally widen its lens, away from an a narrow focus on the individual and the healthcare system, and toward the social, economic, and structural conditions that shape mental health at the population level.

Poverty, housing, education, and the systems around us are not merely context. They are causes. And if we are serious about reform, our research agendas need to reflect that. But widening the lens is only the beginning. The harder question is what it takes to move evidence into action, and she will provoke that question directly, drawing on concrete case studies from community-based approaches that have been implemented at scale, as well as national system reform processes.

ORGANISATION

The event is organised by MIRAN, a consortium of Belgian knowledge institutes including Université libre de Bruxelles, Université de Mons, Université Catholique de Louvain, Université de Liège, KU Leuven, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, University of Antwerp, Ghent University and IWEPS. The event is organised in collaboration with Sciensano.



In collaboration with:



THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER - DE KROOK

INNOVATION, TEAM FORMATION & KICKOFF

13:00 - 13:30

WELCOME

Coffee & Registration

13:30 - 13:40

OPENING

Prof. Dr. Alexis Dewaele
The MIRAN Initiative

13:40 - 14:30

KEYNOTE

Prof. Dr. Laura Shields-Zeeman
What will it take? Bridging the gap between mental health evidence and action

14:30 - 15:00

PITCH YOUR TEAM

Participants briefly present their research team, expertise, ongoing projects, and methodological strengths to facilitate team formation.

15:00 - 15:10

WORKING METHOD OVERVIEW

15:10 - 17:10

HACKATHON SPRINT #1

First structured session where teams can explore problems, ideate solutions, and develop concrete research outputs (e.g. study concepts, grant ideas, analytical strategies)

17:10 - 18:00

RECEPTION

19:00

OPTIONAL DINNER

Ghent City Centre

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER - NTGent

BUILD, PITCH & DELIVER

09:15 - 09:30

MORNING COFFEE

09:30 - 12:30

HACKATHON SPRINT #2

Second structured session where teams continue to explore problems, ideate solutions, and develop concrete research outputs

12:30 - 13:30

LUNCH

13:30 - 14:30

PITCH COMPETITION

Teams present their outcomes to an external jury. The jury includes Lize Hermans (Sciensano), Geneviève d'Hoop (Family Carer & Psychoeducation Trainer) and Maxime Résibois (Centre de référence en santé mentale).

14:30 - 15:00

JURY DELIBERATION & NETWORKING

15:00 - 15:15

AWARDS CEREMONY

15:15 - 15:30

NEXT STEPS

15:30 - 15:45

CLOSING REMARKS

