



**NDPHS Strategy Working Group
Second Meeting
Brussels, Belgium
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Reference	SWG 2/4/6
Title	Proposal concerning projects
Submitted by	Norway and Finland
Summary / Note	-

Below are questions as they are listed in the document. **It is our view that part of them can only be discussed after an agreement as to what will be the overall organization of the NDPH when it comes to structure, the role of the Secretariat, the role of the EGs – how they are to be financed, established etc.** For now we have just answered them having the present structure and recourses in mind.

Projects

- The NDPHS should be more oriented towards project-activities (and take project facilitation seriously), but avoid the pitfall of being too much an implementing agency on its own (facilitation means: formulation of project proposals in collaboration with suitable implementation agencies, taking note of developments within projects (receiving and scrutinizing reports), evaluating the impact of these projects, raising the findings from a project level to a policy level (Sec. 5, Rec. 1);

The EGs could be involved in 1-2 “flagship projects” where they take active part in the implementation. They can offer advice to other actors (government bodies, NGOs) that are interested in implementing projects. Can an expert group be a co-signer of a grant application? Can CSR give recommendations to support individual projects? Selection criteria?

- NDPHS should be not only a facilitator of projects, but foremost a facilitator of ideas and concepts, mainstreaming and dissemination agency into the level of political decision-making in its member-states (Sec. 5, Rec. 2);

The strategies and thematic reports are examples of a way to approach this.

- Encourage the Secretariat [...] to apply for additional project-oriented funding. (Sec. 3.1.3, Rec. 6);

The Secretariat may assist in the application procedure, but it is the project partners who will be responsible for implementation of the project (EGs or others) themselves who must also be responsible for the application.

- Plan for at least one continuous project directly applied for, implemented, monitored and evaluated by the Secretariat. Projects should be chosen for an overall benefit of the whole NDPHS (focus on research or filling in loopholes within the NDPHS’ activities, which are not addressed by the Expert Groups (Sec. 4.2.6, Rec. 5);

This would require additional Secretariat staff (see next bullet point)

- If the Secretariat is to continue as an agency for project implementation, then increase the number of the permanent staff of the Secretariat (Sec. 3.1.3, Rec. 7);

This will require additional funding. We do not foresee that at present.

- Define clearly how the term “project facilitation” should be used in the future and what it includes if an Expert Group claims it facilitates a concrete project. When the definition is agreed upon, adhere to it in all reporting and monitoring (Sec. 4.2.6, Rec. 4);
- A project is facilitated by an EG when the EG as a group has been involved (e.g. by discussions prior to the application, taking part in the project itself (conference etc.).
Other examples:
 - a. One or two members of the EG prepare a common project proposal which is based on ideas and discussions in the EG.
 - b. A project proposal is submitted from outside the EG but before submission the EG is reviewing it and making suggestions for improvements etc.
 - c. The entire group (or a great majority) is planning and implementing a project with different working packages where individual members are involved with variable intensity
 - d. One member of the group is recruiting institutes from 1-3 different countries to prepare a project proposal based on discussions in the EG
 - e. A project proposal is prepared outside the EG (for instance as a response to EU-funding) and the EG is reviewing it and expressing its support by presenting it to CSR
- Expert Groups: facilitate, support in application and evaluate at least one “flagship project” per EG, and at maximum two to three. Projects clearly linked to the NDPHS should be featured prominently on the NDPHS website (Sec. 4.2.6, Rec. 6).¹

We agree with this proposal. One flagship project of some size or a few small projects should in most cases be sufficient.

¹ This particular recommendation might be worked on in tandem with Sweden and Lithuania that are suggested to deal with recommendations concerning Expert Groups. Also, Expert Groups’ comments and suggestion might be asked for.