

**NDPHS Working Group on Expert Groups' Terms of Reference
First Meeting
Oslo, Norway
23 November 2009**



Northern Dimension
Partnership in Public Health
and Social Well-being
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Reference	EGTOR 1/3.1/Info 1
Title	Terms of Reference for the NDPHS <i>ad hoc</i> Working Group on Expert Groups' Terms of Reference (EGTOR)
Submitted by	Secretariat
Requested action	For reference

Terms of Reference for the NDPHS *ad hoc* Working Group on Expert Groups' Terms of Reference (EGTOR)

(Adopted by the NDPHS Committee of Senior Officials on 5 November 2009)

1. Background

In 2008, the NDPHS had undergone a five-year evaluation, which resulted in a number of general and more specific recommendations being discussed at the end of 2008 within the framework of the Partnership. As a result of these discussions, during its 5th Annual Conference, the Partnership decided to set up an *ad hoc* NDPHS Strategy Working Group (SWG) which was asked to advise the NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives (CSR) on the follow-up of the evaluation.

The SWG presented its recommendations in a report submitted to the 16th meeting of the CSR.¹ Issues addressed included, but were not limited to, the NDPHS Expert Groups as well as goals and, linked to them, mid-term operational targets for the coming years.

The CSR approved, with a few revisions, the SWG recommendations concerning the goals and operational targets. Altogether, 11 goals have been approved, both overall and for thematic areas. These goals cover the following issues: (i) the role and working methods of the NDPHS, (ii) HIV/AIDS and related diseases, (iii) social and health care for HIV infected individuals, (iv) resistance to antibiotics, (v) access to primary health care, (vi) prison health policy, (vii) hazardous use of alcohol and illicit drugs, (viii) tobacco smoking, (ix) the NDPHS Strategy on Health at Work, and (x) improvement of public health and social well-being among indigenous peoples. **The achievement of the thematic operational targets shall be foremost the task for new/restructured Expert Groups, whose Terms of Reference should be adopted by the CSR during its meeting in spring 2010.** To that effect, the CSR decided to set up an *ad hoc* Working Group on NDPHS Expert Groups' Terms of Reference.

As regards the NDPHS Expert Groups in general, the following has, *inter alia*, been agreed by the CSR following the SEG recommendations: (i) the NDPHS shall be using expert groups of different kinds and different duration in order to achieve the flexibility needed to adapt to different circumstances and needs, and (ii) in some cases experts from all or some of the Expert Groups can come together in an *ad hoc* group to work on an assignment that is connected to those Expert Groups. The leading principle shall be that the aim of the group itself decides the kind of group to be set up. Finally, clear-cut criteria and procedure for establishing and dissolving Expert Groups has been approved.

2. Tasks

The overall task of the EGTOR is to draft Terms of Reference for new/restructured Expert Groups with clear and time-limited mandates and tasks.

The work of the EGTOR shall follow the respective recommendations approved by the CSR, and the outcome of the PAC 6 considerations. Draft Terms of Reference shall also take into account the ToRs of the currently operating four NDPHS Expert Groups.

¹ Available at http://ndphs.org/?download.3328.CSR_16-7.1-1_SWG_report_for_the_CSR.pdf.

The drafted Terms of Reference shall adequately cover the approved goals and operational targets, and take into account the available and pledged human and financial resources. They will properly reflect the fact that the NDPHS has agreed to assume the Lead Partner role for the Health priority sub-area in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Views and suggestions of the present NDPHS Expert Groups shall be taken into consideration, as appropriate. To that effect, considering the EGTOR's short timeline, the Expert Groups should immediately begin preparing their contributions to the EGTOR work to ensure that their inputs are available in due time.

Available external expertise, which can be invited to and utilized in the NDPHS Expert Groups shall be identified and, as appropriate, taken into account.

The EGTOR shall, in due time, present the outcome of its work for consideration and endorsement by the CSR 17 in spring 2010. The outcome shall include a proposed ToR template, which can be used in the future for new Expert Groups, as well as proposed ToRs for individual Expert Groups.

3. Composition and the Chair

The EGTOR shall be composed of representatives designated by the following countries:

- Canada;
- Finland;
- Norway;
- Russia, and
- any other Partner and Associated Partner that wishes to join the group,

as well as:

- The Chairs and ITAs of the present four NDPHS Expert Groups, and
- The NDPHS Secretariat, which shall serve as the secretariat for the EGTOR.

The group shall be chaired by Finland.

4. Timeline

The EGTOR shall hold at least two meetings and work according to the following timetable:

Before 15 November 2009	Nomination of representatives to the EGTOR.
23 November 2009	1 st meeting of the EGTOR, Oslo, Norway.
January 2010	2 nd meeting of the EGTOR, Helsinki, Finland.
March 2010	Outcome of the EGTOR work disseminated to the Partners and Associate Partners for consideration during the CSR 17 Meeting.