

**Project Database Project Steering Group
First Meeting
Warsaw, Poland
27 March 2007**

Reference	DPSG 1/4.8/1
Title	Progress on the NDPHS Project Pipeline and next steps to be taken
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	The document provides an overview of the progress made so far and gives an outlook on the next steps in order to link the pipeline to the respective financing agencies.
Requested action	To provide the Secretariat with the name and the contact details of the Focal Points at the Partners' national donor agencies by 13 April 2007 and to inform the agencies about the pipeline development.

Progress made so far

The NDPHS Project Pipeline **Project Applicant's Section** is now operational. Projects can be entered and submitted. The NDPHS Expert Groups have actively contributed to the testing and have entered their own projects. Based on the feedback provided by the NDPHS Expert Groups, the functionalities and user-friendliness of the pipeline have been improved, and the pipeline is now being tested by a Norwegian donor – on 19 March 2007, the Norwegian Ministry of Health opened a call for projects in the area of public health. Project applicants were invited to use the pipeline tool to apply to the Norwegian Grant Scheme. This is the first time that projects will be funded through the pipeline.

Next Steps

Norway will provide further comments on the functionality and the usability of the pipeline tool, from a financing agencies' point of view. This will help the developers to improve the **Donor Section** of the pipeline, before other financing agencies will be approached by the NDPHS.

Partner Contributions

The NDPHS Partners are invited to inform their respective donor agencies about the development of the NDPHS Pipeline. A short description of the main functions and the concept of the NDPHS Pipeline are attached as Annex 1 to this paper, which could be used as a first background document to explain the pipeline to the donor.

Furthermore, the Partners are invited to provide the Secretariat with a focal point in the aid agency/agencies, who can be contacted by the Project Pipeline Working Group. It is of prior importance to establish contact with donor agencies as their input is now required in order to



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inform about the pipeline tool, enquire about the donors' specific needs and define the donor's logical framework approach in the pipeline. So far, the Secretariat has received focal point information from Denmark, Poland and Sweden. All other countries are kindly asked to provide, **no later than by 13 April 2007**, the name and contact details of the responsible officer in the respective donor agency that deals with the public health and social wellbeing.



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Reference	Annex 1
Title	Description of the main functions and development of the NDPHS project pipeline
Summary / Note	The document provides an overview of the scope, functions, and main features of the pipeline, currently available. It also calls for an active participation of the Partners to test the pipeline and provide comments in order to further develop the current features.

1. Background

This paper presents the latest progress in the development of the project pipeline. It provides an overview of the scope, functions, and main features of the database, currently available. It also calls for an active participation of the partners to test the pipeline and provide comments in order to improve the current features. The NDPHS pipeline can be accessed at

<http://www.ndphs.org/pipeline>

While project applicants can easily register, donor agencies will receive a separate access to the pipeline upon request.

The pipeline is a stand-alone tool of the to-be-developed NDPHS Database: The completed projects will be moved from the pipeline and will be included in the database.

2. Scope and Purpose of the Project Pipeline

The NDPHS Project Pipeline:

- Is a networking platform for national, regional and international organisations that are active in the Northern Dimension area in the scope of public health and social well-being. Current public health and social well-being activities include *inter alia* the areas of primary health care, prison health, occupational safety and health, adolescent's health, alcohol and drugs, HIV/AIDS.
- Offers project applicants a possibility to present their projects to the international donor community and seek funding.
- Offers donors an easy-to-use and hands-on solution for reviewing and classifying projects, including the possibility to streamline and improve project application procedures.



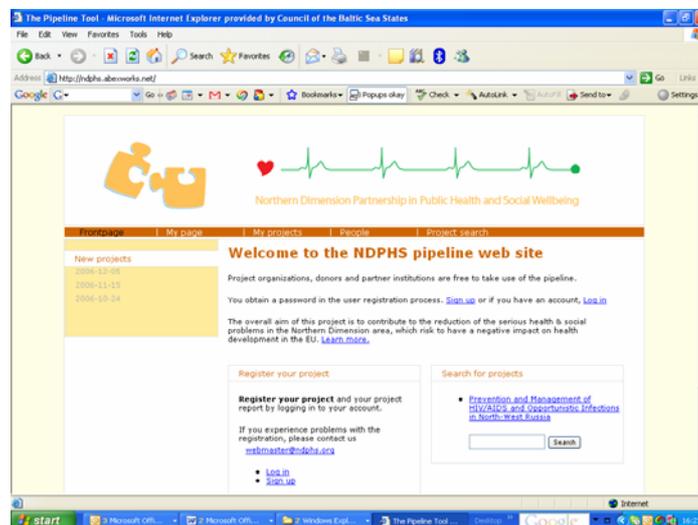
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- Is an open information sharing tool. It promotes coordination, transparency and the sharing and dissemination of knowledge and information between the project partners and donors in the ND area. Donors and applicants can therefore benefit from:
 - o milestone reporting and project review mechanisms
 - o best practices and lessons learned
 - o gaining insight in the project implementation process
 - o a broad network of project partners with different areas of expertise.
- Coordinates and harmonizes project initiatives. By providing an overview of all projects it avoids that projects of similar nature are duplicated and double-funded

3. Main Pipeline Functions

3.1. Public Site

The pipeline search for project proposals is open for everyone and is not password protected. The search engine allows users to comfortably search for submitted projects by key words or categories. This makes the pipeline a unique pool of knowledge for projects and ideas. It enhances transparency and may inspire other actors to get more active in the area of public health and social well-being. At the same time it encourages stakeholders, eligible for funding, to assess and discuss NDPHS project proposals, and ponder if similar projects would improve the current situation they are faced with.



3.2. Password-protected Area for Users

The password protected section of the pipeline contains three major sections: project applicants section, donors section and pipeline administrator section.



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a. Project Applicants Section

Project applicants can, in a first step, register as users and then enter their project proposal step-by-step. The entered projects can be saved over a longer period of time. Before submitting the project to the respective donor agencies, the applicant can invite others to review the project proposal, can update the information, and add documents and meta-data. The latter are different categories which help the donor to identify the project areas (eg. HIV/AIDS or tuberculosis, the countries or regions, etc.). Once submitted, the project will be electronically sent to the respective donors, who in turn, will then consider providing funding, based on the information received and their own funding priorities.

The pipeline also includes a so-called project market place-feature. This enables project applicants who do not yet have financing for their project to submit project applications, whereupon various donors can decide, if to finance them.



b. Donor Section

Technically speaking, the donor section is the most challenging part of the pipeline. As every donor has different requirements, project proposal and tender templates, the pipeline automatically generates a special format, required by an individual donor, and submits the project application via e-mail to a focal point in the donor agency. It will be possible for a donor to define criteria/information he wants to receive. A donor, for example, can specify that only projects, up to a certain amount, or covering specific areas or subjects, will be considered for funding. Also, end-of financial year funding mechanisms, special requirements, such as project implementation experience, etc. can be specified. Such specifications made by a donor will then appear in the project applicant's section, as a new, special requirement, to be filled out.

In other words, the pipeline offers donors an option to apply their Logical Framework Approach (LFA); and donors will themselves decide to what extent LFA matrixes should be used. Hence, this mechanism ensures the highest level of *flexibility* for a



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donor and guarantees for the project applicant that a single project submission meets the requirements of one or many donors.

c. Admin Account Section

The administrator ensures that the users, the network and the project proposals submitted are in line with the objectives of the NDPHS. The administrator can approve or decline a user registration or project submission and will keep the pipeline's project data up-to-date.

3.3. Review Mechanisms

If a donor wishes so, a submitted project proposal can first be reviewed and appraised by a selected NDPHS Expert Group¹. This will help to improve the projects proposal, and its coordination with other (planned and ongoing) activities in the ND area. The respective Expert Group would give a recommendation, which would help the donor organization in making their own assessment of the project proposal and their decision-making as to whether to support or reject the proposal. The engagement of the NDPHS Expert Groups should be seen as an additional value that can be offered by the NDPHS in its supporting and reinforcing regional efforts in the areas covered by the NDPHS mandate.

3.4. Reporting

The pipeline will also offer a number of possibilities for reporting, among them reporting on milestones and the final report. As with the registration process, also the reporting processes will be tailored to the requirements of donors, based on a common module. It will be optional whether the reporting is done in accordance with the LFA principles and whether the donor desires public or confidential project reports.

3.5. Evaluation

The features for the project evaluation will be developed in accordance with the donor requirements at a later stage.

¹ Subject to the Expert Groups' agreement to act as reviewers



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