

**THE 10th PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE NORTHERN DIMENSION PARTNERSHIP IN PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING**

Helsinki, 22 November 2013

JOINT STATEMENT

The 10th Partnership Annual Conference of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) was convened in Helsinki on the 22nd of November 2013, hosted and chaired by Ms. Susanna Huovinen, Minister of Health and Social Services of Finland. The meeting was attended by the NDPHS Partners – The Government of the Republic of Estonia, The Government of the Republic of Finland, The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, The Government of the Republic of Latvia, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania, The Government of the Kingdom of Norway, The Government of the Russian Federation, The Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the European Commission and the International Organisation for Migration – at a level of Minister of Health or equivalent level.

The NDPHS Partners

HAVING REGARD to the Oslo Declaration of 2003 and the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Establishment of a Secretariat of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being signed at the ministerial-level Annual Partnership Conference in Oslo on 25 November 2009,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Joint Statement of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Northern Dimension held in Brussels on 18 February 2013 as well as the Joint Statement of the Second Ministerial meeting of the Northern Dimension held in Oslo on 2 November 2010

stated as follows:

The Ministers recognized the significant value of NDPHS which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2013 in raising the profile of health and social well-being on the regional agenda.

The Ministers appreciated the work done by the Evaluation Team of the Partnership and its recommendations on the enhancement of efficiency and the future development of the Partnership and confirm the necessity of seeking a more systematic approach to the cooperation in the region, including the Northern Dimension and particularly the NDPHS. They welcome elaboration of a new Strategy of the Partnership with a view to further enforce joint and equal cooperation in order to implement further joint actions in the health sector in the interest of all the inhabitants of the Northern Dimension area.

The Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Secretariat of the NDPHS (as of 31 December 2012) and encouraged all the remaining NDPHS Partner Countries to sign and ratify the Agreement. They expressed their appreciation to Sweden for hosting the Secretariat and valued its full legal capacity as of 1 July 2013.

The Ministers took note of the work by the Working Group on EU-Russia Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region to determine common priorities on the basis of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and Strategy for the Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal District of the Russian Federation, recognize that together with other strategic and policy planning documents of ND partners it can facilitate new joint actions in the field of health and social well-being and encourage the Group to continue its efforts in cooperation with the other partners of the Partnership.

Taking into account positive perspectives of the NDPHS the Ministers called upon the NDPHS Partners to consider the opportunity to increase their commitment to the Partnership and encouraged efforts to mobilize financing from relevant sources for joint actions under the Partnership.