

**EG Chairs and ITAs
Seventeenth Meeting
Berlin, Germany
7 February 2014**

Title	Minutes from the 17th EG Chairs and ITAs meeting
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document recalls the main discussion points and decisions made during the 17th EG Chairs and ITAs meeting. The meeting was followed by an informal meeting to discuss the Expert Groups' and Task Groups' role and input to the process of the development of the NDPHS Strategy and its action plan.
List of Annexes	Annex 1 – List of participants Annex 2 – List of documents submitted to the meeting

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened and chaired by Ms. Dagmar Reitenbach (agenda items 1-3 and 9) and by Mr. Thomas Ifland (agenda items 4-8), Chair Country representatives, the Federal Ministry of Health of Germany.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting **adopted** the Provisional agenda, submitted as document EG Chairs and ITAs 17/2/1.

3. Information by the NDPHS Chair Country and the NDPHS Secretariat

The Chair Country and the Secretariat informed about the past and forthcoming meetings and developments of direct relevance to the EGs and TGs not covered elsewhere in the agenda of the meeting:

- A meeting of the Northern Dimension Steering Group held on 18 December 2013 in Oslo (the Chair Country made a statement, available at <http://www.ndphs.org/?speeches,2013>);
- The withdrawal of Iceland from the NDPHS;
- A meeting between the DG REGIO/DG SANCO/ DEVCO/EEAS and the representatives of the NDPHS held on 4 February 2014 in Brussels, and the conclusions and requests coming from it,
- A meeting of the EUSBSR PACs and HALs held on 5 Feb 2014 in Berlin and the forthcoming funding opportunities (both EUSBSR seed money and fully-fledged regional projects);
- Public consultations of the Operational Programme of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020;
- A new funding offered by the COM to be channeled through the EU Delegation to Russia.

The ITA of the ASA EG asked to clarify, if for the submission of the project proposal to the EU delegation in Russia, the precondition was to include the NDPHS Secretariat as a leading partner of the possible project.

The Secretariat and the Chair Country representative mentioned that even it was financially beneficial to have the Secretariat as a leading partner, that was not a must, and the EG were free not to do that.

The Meeting took note of the presented information and:

- **Invited** the NCD EG to coordinate preparation of a short note for submission to the DG REGIO on what should be done to achieve the PYLL targets proposed by the NDPHS for inclusion in the EUSBR Action Plan;
- **Invited** the EGs and TGs to consider if they would like to contribute to the public consultation on the Operational Programme of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) Programme 2014-2020¹ in order to make health and social well-being more visible in this financing instrument. Inputs, if any, should be submitted to the Secretariat well ahead of the BSR Programme's deadline of 28 March 2014, in order to prepare and approve a joint NDPHS input;
- **Invited** the interested EGs and TGs to submit project concept notes for the funding channeled through the EU Delegation to Russia. The concept notes shall be prepared by using the same format as for the previous calls for proposals for this funding and must have a strong Russian component. The concept notes shall arrive at the Secretariat within the 3 weeks from the meeting day²;
- **Welcomed** a proposal by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus to establish a cooperation with the NDPHS, with an understanding that such cooperation would take place at an expert-level and participation of the Belarusian experts in such cooperation would not be financed by the NDPHS. The issue will be decided on by the CSR during its forthcoming meeting;
- **Thanked** Germany for its generous financial support to the NDPHS, including for the EG/TG training held the day before, the mapping exercise in the framework of developing the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020 and seed money for project-based activities.

4. Development of the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020 and its Action Plan

4.1. Information by the Chair and the Secretariat on the status quo and the progress in work

The Chair informed the Meeting about the current state of affairs regarding the development of the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020 and the progress in the work of the Strategy Working Group.

¹ Available at: <http://eu.baltic.net/>.

² 28 February 2014 was the deadline proposed during the meeting, however, the EU Delegation in Russia approached the Secretariat on 11 February 2014 and, due to the EU internal processes and planning, requested earlier than originally foreseen submission of the project concepts. Due to this, the **Secretariat sent a request to the EG/TG leaderships to shorten the period of time for submission of the concept notes to two weeks**. However, when it became clear that there was no need for a written procedure to obtain the CSR's approval for the Secretariat's participation (the concepts did not foresee the Secretariat's engagement), the original deadline of three weeks was kept.

The role and responsibilities of the EGs and TGs have been stressed. Furthermore the Chair stressed that the EGs should work on the input to the NDPHS Strategy and its action plan also in-between their regular meetings to follow the envisaged timeline of the SWG. As discussed during the CSR meeting in autumn 2013, our ambition should be to have the new strategy and its action plan adopted in the fall of 2014, otherwise it will be difficult to explain to politicians why it took the Partnership more time than that.

The Meeting **took note** of the presented information.

4.2. Development of specific objectives of the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020

With reference to a non-paper listing proposals regarding the topics in the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020 and its Action Plan, the Secretariat informed about the process of the development of specific objectives of the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020 and invited the EGs and TGs to contribute to the mapping performed by the Secretariat after the mapping exercise is finalised by the Secretariat and/or channel their views and suggestions through the EGs'/TGs' representatives in the SWG.

The Meeting **took note** of the presented information.

4.3. Development of the Action Plan; ensuring the coherence of the EGs' and TGs' inputs

Having discussed issues related to the development of the Action Plan accompanying the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020, the Meeting:

- **Agreed** that it would be helpful to employ an external consultant to assist with the development of the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020 and its Action Plan;
- **Invited** the HIV/AIDS&AI EG Chair and the PPHS EG ITA, in coordination with the Secretariat, to work together to develop a template for the EGs' and TGs' inputs to the Action Plan of the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020 and disseminate the template to the EGs and TGs by the end of the following week;
- **Invited** the EGs and TGs to inform the Secretariat, before 25 March 2014, on whether they would be interested in participating in and contributing to an event where the development of the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020 and its Action Plan could be discussed with other regional stakeholders.³ Such an event could be organized back to back with the next EUSBSR Annual Forum to be held on 3-4 June 2014 in Turku, Finland, provided there is an interest from the EGs and TGs and funding is available.

4.4. Exchange of views on how to develop new approaches for future collaboration within the NDPHS and the NDPHS with other stakeholders in the region

The Meeting discussed the issue of developing new approaches for future collaboration within the NDPHS and the NDPHS with other stakeholders in the region, in particular the idea that each EG and TG would send a letter to relevant regional stakeholders in order to obtain their views on how they could be involved in the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020.⁴

³ The NCD EG and the PPHS EG have announced their interest already during the meeting.

⁴ The Meeting invited the EGs and TGs to send such a letter, however, during the process of adoption of the meeting minutes the NCD EG Chair repeated his proposal to postpone sending the letters until

The Meeting **took note** of the views expressed.

4.5. Other matters

The Secretariat informed that Mr. Arne Grove, the Director of the NCM Kaliningrad office, would finish his employment with the NCM soon, however, he would continue as Denmark's honorary consul in Kaliningrad and had expressed his readiness to pursue cooperation in the future.

The Chair of the HIV/AIDS&AI EG had in a letter to the Secretariat proposed to find time on the agenda for cross disciplinary technical discussions at the Chairs and ITA meeting.

The ASA EG Chair noted that it is understood that this will appear regularly, as a separate agenda point at the future meetings too.

The Meeting **took note** of the provided information.

5. Preparations for the forthcoming CSR and EG/TG meetings, and expected results

5.1. Finalization of the final report on the implementation of the past NDPHS Strategy

Having discussed the issues pertaining to the finalization of the final report on the implementation of the NDPHS Strategy 2010-2013, the Meeting **agreed** that the EGs and TGs would finalize their reports for 2010-2013 in accordance with the comments presented during and after the CSR 23 meeting and submit the finalized reports to the Secretariat by 6 March 2014.

5.2. NDPHS Progress report for 2013

Having discussed the issues pertaining to the preparation of the NDPHS Progress Report for 2013, the Meeting **agreed** that the EGs and TGs will prepare their Progress Reports for 2013 by using the template adopted by the PAC 9⁵ and will submit them to the Secretariat by 6 March 2014.

5.3. Exchange of experience on EG's work in the Partnership, including reporting requirements and reporting formats

The Meeting exchanged views and experience on the EG's and TG's work in the Partnership, including reporting requirements and reporting formats and **took note** of the expressed views.

6. Next EG Chairs and ITAs meeting

Norway referred to previous request concerning holding an EG Chairs and ITAs meeting in Norway, and would investigate whether it would be possible to host the next EG Chairs and ITAs meeting in Norway in the autumn 2014.

The Meeting **took note** of the presented information.

the event mentioned in agenda item 4.3. to avoid confusion among other stakeholders. No objections were expressed regarding the proposal, consequently, the minutes have been amended accordingly.

⁵ Available at: http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,pac_9_berlin

7. Any other business

Having discussed other relevant topics having shared interest between and for the EGs and TGs not covered under other agenda items, the Meeting:

- **Agreed** that the implementation of the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020, including issues related to the EU-Russia cooperation, might be a good topic for the PAC 11 side-event and **requested** the Chair Country and the Secretariat to approach Russia with this idea;
- **Agreed** that there is no need to strictly define the concept of the PAC side-event and **invited** Germany to develop a short note for the CSR on the lessons learned thus far;
- **Agreed** that the EGs and TGs interested in contributing to the next issue of the NDPHS e-Newsletter should submit their inputs (one page long, including the graphic elements) to the Secretariat by 10 April 2014. The NCD EG proposed that the issue would focus on NCDs and that it would provide several articles to that end.

Further, the Expert and Task Groups informally **discussed** the messages to the representatives of the EG Chairs & ITAs and TG Chairs & Coordinators in the Strategy Working Group, to be carried over by the EG leaderships' representatives to the process of developing the NDPHS Strategy 2014-2020.

8. Adoption of the EG Chairs and ITAs 17 meeting minutes

The Secretariat proposed that it would send out draft EG Chairs and ITAs 17 meeting minutes to the participants on 21 February 2014 and that comments on the draft would be due, at the latest, on 28 February 2014. The revised minutes would then be distributed on 4 March 2014 to be adopted *per capsulam* provided that no further comments are submitted within one week.

The Meeting **agreed** to the proposed procedure.

9. Closing of the meeting

The Meeting terminated at 15:30 hours on 7 February 2014.