

Dear Chairs and Co-chairs of Expert Groups, experts, colleagues!

Welcome to Moscow, to the eleventh or the first meeting of a new team of NCD experts.

At the beginning, as elected NCD EG chair I would like to express my gratitude for your trust and support my candidature. It is a great honour for me to work with you on NCD problems in the Northern Dimension region. We have to thank our colleagues, from the previous expert group team, former chair of the NCD EG Dr. Mikko Vienonen and NCD experts for their effective work and contribution that have done to reduce the NCD burden in the Region.

In 2015 the NDPHS Strategy 2020 and accompanied it Action Plan were finalized and approved. So now we have a guiding document for our future practical work.

Here, during our first meeting we shall find joint possibilities for effective actions toward NCD prevention. For this it would be reasonable to focus on the use of all three strategies for NCD prevention: population, high risk and secondary prevention. Population-wide approaches should form the central strategy for NCD prevention but it should be combined with interventions for individuals. These two approaches are complimentary. Having many evidences on “**what to do**” to reduce the burden of NCD, we, together, might to concentrate our joint activities on “**how to do**” in order to implement these evidences in short and cost effective ways in the region.

A range of effective interventions for the NCD prevention and control are existed and major reductions in NCD death rates can be achieved through the effective implementation.

We well understand that NCD prevention is a comprehensive and integrated problem. The effective decision of such problem is possible when health and other sectors of our society work together effectively. That is why, a successful realization of our activities toward prevention and control of NCD

will also depend on communication with other expert groups within our Partnership. So we have to invite and work with other expert groups to find mutual optimal solutions for overlapping problems. We have discussed the possibility of collaboration with ASA EG and EG PHSC and are open for cooperation with other EGs.

Educational activities could be a part of our Work Plan. International seminars and training courses enhancing the knowledge of physicians, other health care providers and decision-makers are in high demand and may influence on the health of the NDPHS populations. Known experts from different countries should be invited to deliver lectures during such activities.

About a year or biennial (two-year) Action plan. One year maybe quite enough for the working-out agreed NCD EG Action Plan, for discussion of different documents: policy, strategy, recommendations, statements and their adaptation to the needs of our respectful Partner-Countries. But this only the first stage, the next step should be to find agreed effective ways for the implementation of the discussed documents to the activities of health care systems, as well as national, regional and local government and authorities. Designation of the needed and adequate resources (economic, professional, structural, technical...), and seek the funding for the implementation of such activities is also a part of this step. I think that during the work of expert group we should not stop at the first stage because the development of documents without its future implementation is just to waste of time and money.

That is why I would recommend biennial plan in order to escape endless writing plans and reports.

As you know the outcome of the meeting should be the elaboration of joint two year NCD EG work plan for 2016-2017. After the presentation and discussion of proposals by the NCD experts from Partner countries, secretariat will review them and make a draft NCD expert group plan. This project will be sent to all NCD Group country experts and, when all expert comments,

additions, proposals are taking into account, it will be submitted to the Partnership secretariat.

I wish all of us a great success, and, as the chairman, I will try that you will have time left for get acquainted with Moscow.

Thank you.