



*Northern Dimension*  
Partnership in Public Health  
and Social Well-being

## **NDPHS Work Plan for 2017**

Adopted during the 12<sup>th</sup> Partnership Annual Conference  
[28 October 2016, Sopot, Poland]

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### Abbreviations and acronyms used

AMR EG – Expert Group Antimicrobial Resistance  
ASA EG – Expert Group on Alcohol and Substance Abuse  
CSR – NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives  
EU – European Union  
EUSBSR – EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region  
HiAP – Health in All Policies  
HIV, TB&AI EG – Expert Group on HIV, TB and Associated Infections  
NCD EG – Expert Group on Non-communicable Diseases  
ND – Northern Dimension  
NDPHS – Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being  
OSH EG – Expert Group on Occupational Safety and Health  
PAC (in relation to the NDPHS) – Partnership Annual Conference  
PH EG – Expert Group on Prison Health  
PHC EG – Expert Group on Primary Healthcare  
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal

## I. Introduction and policy context

This Work Plan gives an overview of the actions to be launched or continued (if already launched) and, where specified, completed in 2017 by the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS). It builds foremost on the Oslo Declaration from 2003<sup>1</sup> and the NDPHS Strategy 2020 and its Action Plan from 2015<sup>2</sup>, as well as takes into account the NDPHS' role as the Policy Area Coordinator in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region<sup>3</sup>. The relevant stipulations contained in the *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* from 2015 (and, especially, its Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), as well as the *Political Declaration on the Northern Dimension Policy* and the *Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document* describing the new Northern Dimension Policy from 2007 have been taken into account, too.

All relevant stakeholders have key roles to play in the improvement of health and social well-being. The national governments of the Partner Countries have a leading role in formulating strategies and providing various essential forms of support to efforts aimed at improving existing health and social conditions. Partner organisations, regional cooperation bodies and international financial institutions are also key actors in setting priorities, and in making available the resources needed to move the activities and initiatives of the Partnership forward. The committed involvement of the private sector, local and regional actors, NGOs and other interested parties is also important at all levels of cooperation and consultation in the Partnership structure.

## II. Focus on the NDPHS Strategy 2020 and its Action Plan

The focus of this Work Plan is on the implementation of the NDPHS Strategy 2020 and its Action Plan. By implementing the Work Plan the Partnership will take the first step toward its mid-term vision, which it will strive to achieve during the coming years of the NDPHS development and action:

**The NDPHS, as a highly valued and innovative regional network, significantly contributes to the improvement of people's health and social well-being in the Northern Dimension area.**

## III. Action lines

During 2017, the Partnership will continue efforts to promote the sustainable development of the Northern Dimension area by improving peoples' health and social well-being and will coordinate the health-related actions in the EUSBSR Action Plan by taking actions along the following lines.

### Action Line 1. Working toward implementing the NDPHS Strategy 2020

In 2015 the NDPHS adopted its Strategy 2020 – a guiding instrument assisting the Partner Countries and Organisations in their joint efforts to achieve improvements in the six chosen priority areas. The Action Plan, which accompanies the NDPHS Strategy 2020, contains detailed information on the planned activities and expected results of the joint work during 2015-2017. Progress in achieving the expected results for each of the six objectives is measured through quantified indicators, with the baseline, target, data source and responsible organisation indicated.

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<sup>1</sup> The Declaration Concerning the Establishment of a Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being, available at [www.ndphs.org/?doc\\_Oslo\\_Declaration.pdf](http://www.ndphs.org/?doc_Oslo_Declaration.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Available at: [http://www.ndphs.org/?about\\_ndphs#New\\_NDPHS\\_Strategy](http://www.ndphs.org/?about_ndphs#New_NDPHS_Strategy).

<sup>3</sup> Available at [www.ndphs.org/?eusbsr\\_introduction](http://www.ndphs.org/?eusbsr_introduction).

➤ **Specific actions**

- **(1.1) Continue/initiate new efforts towards reaching the targets defined in the Action Plan and keep the governing bodies informed on the progress.**

Consistent with their Terms of Reference, the Expert Groups shall facilitate the implementation of the respective activities and reaching the respective targets defined in the Action Plan accompanying the NDPHS Strategy 2020. They will report on their progress in their individual annual progress reports to be submitted to and discussed during the CSR 27 meeting (spring 2017).

- **(1.2) Continue efforts towards achieving the horizontal results through horizontal activities listed in the Action Plan.**

The horizontal results listed in the Action Plan aim to make health and social well-being more visible on the regional agenda, strengthen the relevant policies, attract other stakeholders to the NDPHS actions and increase the recognition of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries. It is a responsibility of all Partners and NDPHS structures to be active in producing these results. The activities towards achieving the horizontal results include, but are not limited to:

- Disseminating information regarding health and social well-being and HiAP approaches to relevant policy- and decision makers and other stakeholders;
  - Continuing efforts to include provisions regarding, *inter alia*, health and social well-being on the regional cooperation agenda in the Northern Dimension area and in relevant high-level and other documents;
  - Working with other relevant stakeholders in implementing the activities listed in the Action Plan;
  - Identifying networks and experts with co-operation potential and inviting them to support/engage in the Partnership's activities;
  - Using the CSR and PAC meetings to communicate the results of relevant projects (external and NDPHS-facilitated) to the policy level;
  - Making the NDPHS more visible in the Partner Countries (see also Action Line 3);
  - Facilitating the development and implementation of actions and flagship projects defined in the "Health" Policy Area in the EUSBSR Action Plan.
- **(1.3) Continue efforts towards ensuring adequate funding for the implementation of the NDPHS Strategy 2020 and the Action Plan accompanying it.**

In accordance with the Oslo Declaration, the Partners recognize that in order to meet the objectives of the organisation, it is necessary to continue ensuring adequate funding for activities and relevant projects carried out within its framework. In doing so, the Partners will adhere to "the principle of co-financing from Northern Dimension partners, as well as from international and private financial institutions where appropriate," consistent with the renewed Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document. To that end the activities will include, but be not limited to:

- Expert Groups, NDPHS Secretariat and Partners: Actively seek and ensure that funding be made available for the **NDPHS Expert Groups' activities** as well as other activities decided upon by the CSR or the PAC. The NDPHS Activity Account, along with financing instruments such as the EUSBSR Seed Money Facility and those offered by the Swedish Institute, are useful tools, which may provide micro-financing for initiating and possibly facilitating some project-based

- regional activities of the Partnership;
- NDPHS Secretariat: Keep up-to-date information about **funding opportunities for regional health and social well-being projects** presented on the NDPHS website.
- **(1.4) Continue efforts towards implementation of new approaches for collaboration within the NDPHS.**
  - Expert Groups: Include **cross-cutting themes** in own work, in particular, the cross-cutting themes included in the NDPHS Strategy 2020: (i) Health equity and social cohesion in all actions; (ii) Innovative approaches and technologies; (iii) The ‘Health in All Policies’ approach; (iv) Inclusion of people in vulnerable situations in all actions of relevance;
  - Partners, based on the Expert Groups’ initiative and advice: Create **study visit opportunities** in order to promote ‘learning by doing’ and enable the exchange of best practices;
  - Expert Groups, with support of the Partners (allocation of sufficient working time for the nominated experts): Explore ways of further increasing the level of **activity in-between the meetings** by alternative means of communication, such as telephone and video conferencing, Skype, etc.
- **(1.5) Plan the implementation process for the period up to 2020.**

The current Action Plan accompanying the NDPHS Strategy 2020 contains detailed information on the planned activities and expected results for the period up to the end of 2017. In order to ensure continuity in the Partnership’s work towards achieving the targets by the set deadline, the NDPHS Expert Groups shall elaborate their inputs to an updated NDPHS Action Plan. These inputs will focus on the achievement of the objectives and results within their individual remit and cover the period up to the end of 2020. They shall be submitted to the NDPHS Secretariat by the end of 2017. Based on them the NDPHS Secretariat will prepare an updated Action Plan and submit it to the CSR meeting to be held in spring 2018.

## **Action Line 2. Leading and coordinating the “Health” Policy Area in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Action Plan**

The role of the NDPHS as the “Health” Policy Area Coordinator within the EUSBSR allows for making health more integrated and inclusive in the regional cooperation. Most of the EUSBSR-related activities are coherent with the NDPHS mission as spelled out in the Oslo Declaration and contribute to the strategic aims of the NDPHS, such as: increased visibility and better influence in processes related to allocation of funding for regional cooperation. Through the instrument of the EUSBSR, the Partnership is able to strengthen the message that improving and promoting people’s health, including social aspects, is an important precondition for ensuring sustainable and healthy societies in order to enable economic growth, and for containing future health and social care-related costs.

### ➤ **Specific actions**

- (2.1) NDPHS Secretariat continue the implementation of an EU co-financed project “Support to coordination and implementation of activities within the EUSBSR Policy Area ‘Health’” (acronym: PA Health Support 2), including, but not limited to the activities listed in 2.2. and 2.3;
- (2.2) NDPHS Secretariat: organise a **training on project development and**

**implementation** to help strengthen the capacity of relevant regional stakeholders (among them those participating in the work of the NDPHS Expert Groups) to develop and implement actions and flagship projects which would, assumingly, lead to more health projects developed and implemented in the longer run;

- (2.3) NDPHS Secretariat with support from the Expert Groups: Continue, when requested, issuing **letters of support** for:
  - The EUSBSR Seed Money Facility applicants in accordance with the “NDPHS criteria and procedure for issuing letters of support for Policy Area *Health* project applications for submission to the EUSBSR Seed Money Facility;”<sup>4</sup>
  - The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 applicants in accordance with the “NDPHS procedure for issuing letters of support to projects applying for Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020.”<sup>5</sup>

### Action Line 3. Increasing the Partnership's visibility

Whereas the implementation of the activities foreseen in the Action Plan accompanying the NDPHS Strategy 2020 will contribute to increasing the Partnership's visibility within and beyond the Northern Dimension area, further efforts are needed to raise the awareness about the Partnership, its achievements and possibilities for the Partner Countries to benefit from the cooperation within the NDPHS framework.

#### ➤ Specific actions

- (3.1) NDPHS Partner Countries and Organisations, which have not done so yet: Include the **links to the NDPHS website** on their own websites;
- (3.2) Continue including provisions regarding the NDPHS in **relevant high-level and other documents**;
- (3.3) Continue making **presentations** at national and international conferences and other events;
- (3.4) Continue producing and disseminating **information and PR materials**. These include, but are not limited to the NDPHS website, e-newsletter, e-news, press releases. NDPHS Expert Groups are encouraged to produce both on-line and hard copy information materials;
- (3.5) NDPHS Chair Country: Continue **consultations with the NDPHS Partners**, as necessary, in order to: (i) help improve the visibility of the Partnership in the Partner Countries and Organisations; and (ii) help advance the implementation of the NDPHS Strategy and Action Plan.

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<sup>4</sup> Cf. [http://www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/EUSBSR/NDPHS\\_rules-letters\\_of\\_support-EUSBSR\\_Seed\\_Money\\_Facility.pdf](http://www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/EUSBSR/NDPHS_rules-letters_of_support-EUSBSR_Seed_Money_Facility.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Cf. [http://www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/EUSBSR/NDPHS\\_procedure\\_for\\_issuing\\_letters\\_of\\_support\\_to\\_projects\\_applying\\_for\\_Interreg\\_BSR\\_Programme\\_2014-2020.pdf](http://www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/EUSBSR/NDPHS_procedure_for_issuing_letters_of_support_to_projects_applying_for_Interreg_BSR_Programme_2014-2020.pdf).