

**EG Chairs and ITAs
Twenty second Meeting
Gdańsk, Poland
24 February 2017**

Reference	EG Chairs and ITAs 22/3.7/Info 1
Title	Stakeholder consultation meetings
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document explains the purpose of the above-named meetings, which are part of the ongoing “PA Health Support 2” project, and invites the EG Chairs and ITAs to take advantage of the funding available from the NDPHS Secretariat, through this project, for this purpose. In doing so it partly reiterates the relevant information from document EG Chairs and ITAs 21/4.1/Info 1.
Requested action	For information

Background

The NDPHS Secretariat is currently implementing a EU Interreg BSR project “Support to coordination and implementation of activities within the EUSBSR Policy Area "Health" (PA Health Support 2).”¹ The **project’s policy and strategic aims** include, but are not limited to:

- “1. Facilitate policy discussions on the PA Health activities, targets and indicators. The discussions will assess progress made, as well as take into consideration strengths and weaknesses of the process, and lay the foundations for future work to ensure smooth coordination of the PA Health.
2. Increase commitment of relevant stakeholders in the region to the EUSBSR to ensure successful implementation of the Action Plan.
3. Facilitate the development and implementation of actions and flagship projects defined under the PA Health, inter alia, by building capacity among regional stakeholders to develop and implement projects.
4. Convey relevant results and recommendations of ongoing and completed flagship projects to the policy level and identify what project-based activities are needed for reaching the regionally agreed goals through facilitating the dialogue between policy-level decision makers (among others representatives of Ministries of Health in the steering committee) and stakeholders implementing activities on the ground.

¹ See also document EG Chairs and ITAs 21/4.1/Info 1, Information about the “PA Health Support 2” project.

5. Further strengthen basic knowledge about the PA Health and the regionally agreed health and social well being objectives and priorities among relevant actors (policy and decision makers, as well as regional networks, health agencies, universities, local authorities, regional expert networks and NGOs active in the field of health and social well being) and the public at large by ensuring communication and visibility of the PA Health.
6. Further strengthen the engagement of relevant regional stakeholders (regional networks, health agencies, universities, local authorities, regional expert networks and NGOs active in the field of health and social well-being) by holding direct dialogue (stakeholder consultations) and providing them with better-targeted communication, which is tailored towards their demands. For the latter to happen, it is necessary to increase the understanding of their needs.
7. (...)
8. Continue the previously taken promising efforts to increase the awareness and understanding among various key stakeholders of the connection between health and social well-being and other policy areas, in particular the economy.
9. Liaise and cooperate with other (relevant) Policy Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Coordinators in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of actions in the EUSBSR implementation.”

The **project's objectives and results**, which are supposed to be achieved to help attain the above policy and strategic aims, include amongst others:

- Objectives: (i) stakeholders relevant for the work of the PA Health are systematically mapped out and, when needed, met with; (ii) they are surveyed about how the PA Health Coordinator can support them in their EUSBSR work; (iii) the results of the survey are used to develop more effective communication in the future. Therefore, (iv) a larger group of relevant regional stakeholders is reached; (v) provided with information about the EUSBSR PA Health and regional cooperation on health, and the benefits of being engaged in it and the support and tools that can be offered by the EUSBSR and the PA Health Coordinator; (vi) consultation meetings between the NDPHS Secretariat/NDPHS expert-level representatives and several regional stakeholders are held; and (vi) the latter are invited to relevant PA Health events and activities.
- Expected results: better understanding of the PA Health among stakeholders and better support provided by the PA Health Coordinator targeting their needs. Also, a stronger commitment of the already engaged actors and new actors engaged in regional cooperation in health, and specifically the PA Health.

It should also be recalled that, as stipulated in the EUSBSR Action Plan, "the **tasks of the policy area coordinator include**:

Facilitating the involvement of and cooperation with relevant stakeholders from the entire macro-region and in close cooperation with those:

(...)



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3. Facilitating policy discussions in the Baltic Sea region regarding the policy area concerned.
 4. Facilitating the development and implementation of actions and flagships defined under the policy area.
 5. Conveying the relevant results and recommendations of the on-going and completed flagships to the policy level.
 6. Ensuring communication and visibility of the policy area.
- (...)"

Consistent with the above, one of the project work packages is "Stakeholder consultation meetings." **The proposed stakeholder consultation meetings aim to:** (i) help exchange information and expertise between various NDPHS structures and other organizations in the region, which would help increase the latter's understanding of, engagement in, and commitment to the EUSBSR and the PA Health; (ii) help pool regionally available resources for implementation processes; (iii) help avoid duplication of work among regional stakeholders in their EUSBSR-related activities; (iv) help identify regional activities (incl. projects) that require cooperative efforts to develop and implement; and (v) to help identify relevant project results that should be transferred to the policy level.

To that end, the **project offers support for the interested NDPHS structures, and more specifically their efforts to help achieve the project's aims listed above, by providing funding for them to:**

- Participate in meetings held by relevant stakeholders relevant for the EUSBSR Policy Area "Health";
- Visit the organizations and institutions of stakeholders relevant for the EUSBSR Policy Area "Health" to bilaterally discuss joint collaboration within the EUSBSR context;
- Invite external stakeholders to participate, at the NDPHS' expense, in meetings of the interested NDPHS Expert Groups to discuss joint collaboration within the EUSBSR context.

Funding is available for the three above-named types of consultation trips – in the first two cases representatives of the NDPHS Expert Groups can have their trips funded by the NDPHS Secretariat, in the third case regional stakeholders invited by Expert Groups can have their trips funded by the NDPHS Secretariat to participate in EG meetings. Altogether 10 trips can be funded. The representatives of the NDPHS Expert Groups are invited to apply to the NDPHS Secretariat for funding for their own trips as well as trips of their visitors (please note that the funding beneficiaries are required to deliver a brief mission report from each their trip).



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