



EG on Antimicrobial Resistance
8th Meeting
Stockholm, Sweden
13 June 2016

Title	Minutes from the 8 th Meeting of the NDPHS Expert Group on Antimicrobial Resistance
Submitted by	Lead partner, Sweden
Summary / Note	This document outlines the main discussion points and decisions made during the 8th meeting of the AMR-EG

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Agenda:

- 1. Opening of the meeting and welcome**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda**
- 3. Work Plan 2016**
 - Potential projects:
 - a. Other project ideas
 - b. Northern-GLASS
- 4. Northern-GLASS Project**
 - Updates on WHO GLASS
 - Project Outline
 - a. With funding
 - b. Without funding
- 5. How to receive political support, to enable active participation in the group's activities**
- 6. NDPHS Updates**
 - Structure/Timeline
 - Meetings
 - New documents
- 7. Any other business**
- 8. Next AMR-EG meeting**
- 9. Closing of the meeting**

Minutes:

The presentations from the meeting can be found in Appendix 1.

- 10. Opening of the meeting and welcome:** The AMR-EG meeting was opened by Johan Struwe-chair, who offered a general welcome to members, a short round of introductions were made. Malin Grape, head of unit for antibiotics and infection control at the Public Health Agency, came by to welcome the group and emphasized the importance of future collaboration and implementation of GLASS.
- 11. Adoption of the agenda:** The agenda was adopted without any changes
- 12. Work Plan 2016**

Johan presented the expected results listed under antimicrobial resistance in the NDPHS Strategy and Action Plan 2020 and the activities planned to reach them.

The results are:

- More representative and comparable AMR surveillance systems developed for implementation in the NDPHS Partner Countries.
- Improved measurement and monitoring of antibiotic use in the Northern Dimension area.
- Increased awareness of prescribers and policymakers on the antibiotic resistance situation in the Northern Dimension area and on specific measures to be taken.

What to be done during 2016:

The AMR-EG is responsible for seeing that these results are reached and that the activities are followed through. The group has up till now focused most of its effort on the first work stream related to AMR surveillance, one example is the NoDARS project and more recently the discussion of initiating the Northern-GLASS project.

It was agreed during the teleconference in April to start developing the project idea: "Early implementation of the WHO global AMR surveillance system (GLASS) in the Baltic Sea Region- Northern-GLASS"

There was a discussion, using the tables in the action plan, on what could be done during 2016 to reach the other two expected results listed.

It was noted that the baseline in table 2 needs to be updated.

Lithuania reported an interest in taking the lead in making a small survey for updating the table according to the present status. Lithuania will ask the assistance of Latvia.

Poland and Sweden will be responsible for making a survey to update the table for the 3rd result.

Action: Lithuania, Poland and Sweden will in a coordinated manner send the two surveys to the members of the AMR-EG, with the request for replies from the group by the end of August.

A question on which area to focus on in the future will also be added to the email. It is clearly desirable that other countries in the group take the lead in these two areas, respectively.

The result of the surveys and the question will be used when deciding on future activities of the AMR-ER.

Action: Emily Sellström-ITA will contact the secretariat to ask why the year 2017 is listed after targets in tables concerning a strategy that is supposed to end in 2020.

The group have until Friday 2016-06-17 to comment on the Work Plan 2016, if no comments have been submitted to the chair or ITA it will be considered approved.

Sofia Ny from the Public Health Agency of Sweden updated on the NoDARS project. The most recent update of which is that Norway left the collaboration in April 2016, due to technical/bureaucratic reasons.

Some of the challenges that have been encountered in the project:

No strategy on how to reach the GPs and make them follow through on their commitments (which has been proven hard to do)

The structures between the systems in the countries differ, making it hard to harmonize communication strategies

Bureaucracy

Different systems for collection of samples and consent from patients

It is important to have a continued dialogue between the NoDARS project and the AMR-EG since the experience from the NoDARS project is important for the implementation of Northern-GLASS.

- **Additional potential projects:**
 - c. **Other project ideas:** There were no other project ideas

13. Northern-GLASS Project

- Updates on WHO GLASS: Sonja Löfmark from the Public Health Agency of Sweden presented the present status of WHO GLASS.
Poland requested a clarification from WHO to the ministries that the surveillance system mentioned in the WHO Global Action Plan is the same as GLASS. Rolanda suggested that this might be done through the national WHO offices.
Johan will Contact Danilo Lo FO Wong, WHO EURO, with this request. Johan will also ask Danilo to write letters that the members of the groups can use in their work to push for GAP and enrollment in GLASS.
The question was raised whether there is a discussion in the WHO to have a lighter version of the GLASS implementation material, maybe one that focus on the third world countries. According to Sonja Löfmark there are no such plans.
- Project Outline: The outline of Northern-GLASS is to look into how implementation of GLASS works in reality but on a smaller scale. What structures are needed, what are the bottle necks, how to communicate best (both on a national scale but also on an international scale).
2) Evaluate the available supporting material, including the implementation manual. The implementation and evaluation-“test” on a smaller scale and the fact that the preconditions in the countries participating in the project are rather good will be of value to WHO GLASS since the challenge will be even harder in other countries globally.
 - c. With funding: The Swedish Institute will hopefully announce the result of the application for Seed Funding by the end of July 2016. If the application is granted the first project meeting will be held in January 2017.
 - d. Without funding: The project will still be carried out, but on a smaller scale, with less meetings. Germany kindly offered to host one of the project meetings in Berlin. If no funding is received the first project meeting will be held in January 2017. Emily will send a Doodle request regarding a date for the meeting.

The first international workshop should include a focus group discussion on all available material that is to be used in the implementation process. **Action:** It was decided that that material should be sent out for comments and feed-back before the workshop. A compilation of the comments (to be used for discussion during the meeting) will be done by Emily, the format of which depend on the originating materials. **Action:** Emily and Johan will also be responsible for drafting a project communication plan before the first international workshop.

Action: The members of the AMR-EG should investigate what data can be submitted by their country. It is important to note that representativeness is not important at this stage.

It was suggested that we should invite “memory-level” (non-politically nominated) personnel from the ministries to the workshops, for more sustainable impact.

14. How to receive political support, to enable active participation in AMR-EG activities: The result of the discussion was that this is first and foremost a national issue and that there is no outside organization or body that has the ability to influence this at the moment. Funding of travel and accommodation has previously been put forward by members as a reason for not being able to participate, but during this discussion another important factor was mentioned and that is lack of personnel. The person/persons are too few to be able to attend all meetings arranged, they have to prioritize.

15. NDPHS Updates

- Structure/Timeline: meetings relevant for the AMR-EG is the upcoming EG-chair and ITA meeting on the 25th of August in Moscow, that Johan and Emily will attend. And the 7th Annual forum of the EUSBSR on the 8-9 November in Stockholm, Emily will forward the information received regarding this meeting to the group. There are no planned PAC or CSR meeting at the moment.
- Meetings: Uga Dumpis (LV) and Emily attended a policy-to-project-to-policy conference on the 28th of April in Copenhagen, it was arranged by the NDPHS secretariat together with WHO Europe. Uga and Emily had the opportunity to have a meeting with Ilze Ciganska and Marta Ślęzak-Warszycka, Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region to discuss possible seed funding of the Northern-GLASS. They were very positive to the project idea in its original form, the only change they wanted to make was to add on the delivery of national implementation plans for the participating nations.
 - the amount is 50 000 EUR
 - the co-financing is 15%
 - the funds will be paid upon delivery of three different reports, although no financial report, so no matter how much we spend we will receive 50 000 EUR if we have performed our activities and achieved what we aimed to do.

The AMR-EG will decide on how to proceed with this once the Swedish Institute has informed their decision.
- New documents: Please see the attached PP-presentation

16. Any other business

17. Next AMR-EG meeting: There will be a telephone meeting in August, the details will be communicated later.

Emily will have another look at the doodle for the physical autumn meeting after a request from Tim Eckmanns who is not able to participate on the 3rd of October.

18. Closing of the meeting