

**EG Chairs and ITAs
Twenty third Meeting
Tallinn, Estonia
02 October 2017**

Title	Minutes from the 23 rd EG Chairs & ITAs meeting
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document outlines the main discussion points and decisions made during the 23rd EG Chairs and ITAs meeting.
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 by Ms. Ülla-Karin Nurm, Director of the NDPHS Secretariat, and chaired by Mr. Jürgen Ojalo, the NDPHS Chair Country Representative, Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting **adopted** agenda as submitted in document EG Chairs and ITAs 23/2/1, without the item No. 12 “Any other business”.

3. Implementation of the “PA Health Support 2” project: progress and call for action

The NDPHS Secretariat presented information regarding the implementation of the “PA Health Support 2” project (document EG Chairs and ITAs 23/3/Info 1 and presentation are available on the [meeting's webpage](#)).

The Meeting discussed several aspects related to the training “Capacity Building for EUSBSR stakeholders,” to be organized by the NDPHS Secretariat in cooperation with the Coordinator of the EUSBSR Horizontal Action “Capacity”. Among the matters discussed were: the focus of the training, invited speakers and time of the training. The meeting participants emphasized that the training should be tailored to facilitate developing a common flagship project within the NDPHS. The expert groups were invited to submit their applications to participate in the common capacity building exercise.

The Meeting **took note** of the provided information and views expressed.

4. Briefing of Expert Groups' ongoing and planned activities

All Expert Groups presented their ongoing and planned activities.

The AMR EG informed about its three main work streams. Most of the actual work during last two years has been done within the first work stream - collecting data on AMR in a standardized and organized way (NoDARS and NorthernGLASS projects). The work in two other work streams - surveillance of antibiotic use and raising awareness on the AMR situation – will start from early 2018.

The ASA EG highlighted three main activities of the EG: 1) ASA EG participant countries (Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Latvia and Russia) will continue the work on the development of the project proposal " Prevention Approaches-learning, experience, training – PALET;" 2) The implementation of the project – "Identifying Patients with Alcohol-Related Problems in General Medical Network and Analysis of Forms and Methods of Medical Care Provided to them by Russia and Norway". Project is initiated by the ASA EG and is implemented by the Oslo University Hospital and Moscow Research Centre for Addiction; 3) Preparation of the NDPHS PAC side-event, that will be related to the Alcohol issues.

The HIV, TB & AI EG informed about the following activities: 1) A project with the St. Petersburg Tuberculosis Institute, focusing on training of a younger generation of Tuberculosis specialists and case management; 2) Active participation in the Vilnius Summit on Communicable Diseases taking place on 4-7 October 2017; 3) Active involvement in the EU's Joint Action HA-REACT; 4) Active involvement in the Nordic Council of Ministers-funded Cooperation Programme for Health Promotion and Prevention in the Northwest Russia.

The NCD EG informed that the PYLL project has been successfully finalized and its results have been actively discussed during the PAC side-event and the EUSBSR Annual Forum in 2016, as well as during the NCD EG meetings. The project's results have been published in the Finnish national journal and the PYLL project team plans publishing project results in other national journals. The last NCD EG meeting took place on 25 September 2017 and discussed, among other matters, common progress related to NCD risk factors, mutual possibilities for working together, as well as common projects such as "For Better Health" and "Health literacy: create a platform for health literacy promotion".

The OSH EG informed that it currently has one ongoing project, *Better prevention, identification and reporting of work-related and occupational diseases and emerging risks*, funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). The project started in the beginning of 2017 and will end on 31st December 2018. During the year 2018 results of the questionnaire will be analysed, estimated, reported and disseminated. Another project (still a project idea), *Developing a methodology to assess country needs for competencies and skills in occupational health and safety*, has started slowly, but the Expert Group sees it as very important and all group members support it. The project concept note was accepted in the group meeting in St. Petersburg on 28th September 2017 and OSH EG will continue the project preparation. In St. Petersburg meeting OSH EG together with BSN on OSH did the roadmap to find out a new project ideas as well as need for improvements. The next step is to map the situation of member countries in relation to the expected results. The OSH EG supports the ASA EG's project idea for a horizontal project of NDPHS's Expert Groups. If project is accepted the OSH EG is willing to contribute to it.



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the NDPHS Secretariat and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

The PHC EG informed about the PHC EG meeting held on 29-31 March 2017 in Almaty, hosted by the World Health Organization European Centre for Primary Health Care (WECPHC). The EG and the WECPHC co-organised a workshop on PHC performance in the context of changing health needs back-to-back with the EG meeting. On 19-20 October 2017 there will be a joint PHC EG and PH EG meeting in Moscow. The EG will organize a seminar “Use of indicators for good governance in primary health care in the Northern Dimension area” during the 10th European Public Health Conference to be held on 1-4 November 2017.

The PH EG reported on their progress on a questionnaire on two main issues in the field of Prison Health: namely TB and HIV. The aim of the questionnaire is to get an overview of the situation in the NDPHS countries in order to identify challenges and in a next step make recommendations to policy makers.

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

5. Strengthening regional cooperation in health by developing a new horizontal flagship project

The Meeting discussed the development of a new horizontal NDPHS flagship project initiated by the ASA EG, which would involve all NDPHS Expert Groups. The Chair and the ITA of the ASA EG briefly presented the idea and possible topic of the project. The EG representatives supported the initiative of the ASA EG.

The Meeting **agreed** that the thematic focus of the flagship project would be ageing and **mandated** the ASA EG and the NDPHS Secretariat to update the CSR 28 meeting on the progress.

6. Updating of the current list of the EUSBSR flagships

The Meeting **agreed** to deal with this agenda item in writing¹. The OSH EG suggested a cluster of projects in the field of occupational safety and health for inclusion in the EUSBSR Action Plan as a flagship under the Policy Area “Health”. The matter will be further addressed at the CSR 28 meeting to be held on 24 October 2017.

7. Informal exchange of views on the NDPHS’ role and its impact on public health policies

The Meeting held an interactive exchange of views on the NDPHS’ role and its impact on public health policies. The following is a brief overview of the expressed views:

- The biggest impact of the NDPHS on national level/international level is the networking, exchange of knowledge, use of project results both nationally and internationally (e.g. by EUROSTAT), providing input to national policy documents;

¹ The NDPHS Secretariat sent an email to the participants on 3 October 2017.



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the NDPHS Secretariat and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

- On the national level policy recommendations of the NDPHS Expert Groups have been taken forward by policy makers in the fields of antimicrobial resistance and harmful use of alcohol;
- The major obstacles to achieve results or to make a difference in health and social well-being policy are the lack of interest of policy and decision makers in health issues, as well as the lack of resources and experts' time;
- The NDPHS aims and strategies should be realistic and take into account what is doable and achievable within the mandate and capacities of the Expert Groups. For the Expert Groups it is very important to have a clear message from the NDPHS Partners on their expected results from the NDPHS.

The Meeting **agreed** that the Secretariat would submit to the CSR a summary of conclusions from the discussion.

8. Transferring the results of experts' work and regional projects to the policy level

The Meeting held an exchange of views on transferring the results of experts' work and regional projects to the policy level. The following is a brief overview of the expressed views:

- To achieve a bigger visibility and impact on national health policies and strategic decisions, both Expert Groups and Partners need to communicate more: Partners need to recognize that there are Expert Groups and appreciate their work, and the Expert Groups need to point to the issues that need to be addressed, what are the tools to address them and how the Expert Groups can help.
- There should be a regular communication mechanism established in the countries between the experts attending the NDPHS EG-s and the CSR members.
- In order to improve communication between the experts and policy makers, the CSR needs to take the responsibility for ensuring that experts' recommendations reach the policy level. On the other hand, it is also important that experts nominated to the Expert Groups have connection to the political level.

The Meeting **agreed** that the Secretariat would present to the CSR a summary of conclusions from the discussion.

9. Preparations for the upcoming PAC event and its side-event

Estonia informed that the ministerial PAC 13 will be held in Tallinn on 9 February 2018 and the PAC side-event with a focus on harmful use of alcohol will be held the day before.

The ASA EG ITA informed that the side-event's agenda will focus on the following topics: a) cross-border trade issues, b) somatic diseases and alcohol, c) community-based prevention interventions, d) foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. The ASA EG is working on a declaration to be presented to the ministerial PAC.

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



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the NDPHS Secretariat and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

10. Next EG Chairs and ITAs meeting

The NDPHS Secretariat asked whether the process of determining the hosts of the EG Chairs and ITAs meeting could be made more predictable by, for example, agreeing on the hosts a few years in advance or tasking the Secretariat with organizing the meetings.

The Meeting **agreed** to address this matter at the CSR 28 meeting.

The PHC EG Chair announced that Russia offers to host the next EG Chairs and ITAs meeting.

The Meeting **thanked** Russia and **agreed** to hold the next EG Chairs and ITAs meeting in Russia.

11. Revisions in the Policy Area “Health” in the EUSBSR Action Plan and the Action Plan accompanying the NDPHS Strategy 2020

The Meeting **agreed** to deal with this agenda item in writing². The AMR EG submitted a proposal for updating the Objective 2 of the Action Plan accompanying the NDPHS Strategy 2020. The matter will be further addressed at the CSR 28 meeting to be held on 24 October 2017.

12. EG Chairs and ITAs meeting minutes

The Meeting **agreed** that the meeting minutes could be developed shorter, listing only the discussed items, decisions and critical discussions, verbatim transcriptions are not necessary. Audio recordings from the meetings will be kept for reference for some time after the meeting. The length of time for archiving the recorded audio files is suggested to be five years.

The Meeting **agreed** that the draft of the meeting minutes will be sent to participants on 20 October 2017 with the deadline for comments until 27 October 2017. The revised meeting minutes will be sent to participants on 1 November 2017 and will be adopted if no further comments are received until 7 November 2017.

13. Closing of the meeting

The Meeting terminated at 16:10 hours on 02 October 2017.

² The NDPHS Secretariat sent an email to the participants on 3 October 2017.