

**Committee of Senior Representatives (CSR)
Twenty-eighth Meeting
Bonn, Germany
24 October 2017**

Title	Minutes from the 28 th Meeting of the NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document outlines the main discussion points and decisions made during the 28 th meeting of the CSR.
List of Annexes	Annex 1 – Report on the stakeholder consultation meetings implemented by the NDPHS Secretariat within the framework of the “PA Health Support 2” project Annex 2 – List of participants Annex 3 – List of documents submitted to the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting and welcome

The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Jürgen Ojalo, the NDPHS CSR Chair Country representative, the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia.

Ms. Dagmar Reitenbach, the Host’s representative, German Federal Ministry of Health, welcomed the participants.

Ms. Ülla-Karin Nurm, the new Director of the NDPHS Secretariat, introduced herself.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting **adopted** the Provisional agenda with timetable (submitted as document CSR 28/2/1) with addition of item 14 “Any other business”.

3. Information by the NDPHS Chairmanship and the NDPHS Secretariat

The Chair and the Secretariat informed about various upcoming events of relevance for the NDPHS.

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

With reference to the document CSR 28/3/1 the Meeting discussed the NDPHS’ participation in the CBSS Expert Group on Labour and Employment (EGLE) and:

- 1) **Mandated** the Secretariat to take part in the informal meeting planning the establishment of EGLE to be held on 30 October 2017;
- 2) **Agreed** to postpone the decision regarding the NDPHS’ involvement in EGLE’s work until the next CSR meeting.

4. Information by the NDPHS Partners

NDPHS Partners informed about important national and regional developments of relevance for the NDPHS.

The WHO Europe informed about:

- The priorities of the new Director-General of the WHO, which include working in partnership with other organizations;
- Development of the WHO's 13th General Programme of Work;
- Outcomes of the 67th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe held in Budapest, Hungary, on 11–14 September 2017, including the commitment to strengthen the WHO's cooperation with sub-regional partners;
- Number of WHO Action Plans implemented, including in the areas of alcohol and nutrition.

Germany informed about its global health activities, which is one of the German priorities during its G7 and G20 Presidencies. The priority topics are AMR and pandemic preparedness and Germany has organized the first ever G20 Health ministers' meeting. Among the achievements is a pledge of more than 56 million EUR to support the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP) and Germany invites the NDPHS Partners to support the GARDP as well.

Russia informed about its strategy on HIV/AIDS and strategy on AMR and the Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in the Sustainable Development Era to be held in Moscow on 17-18 November 2017.

Finland informed about its Presidency of the Arctic Council in 2017-2019 and that health and social issues have been included among the Presidency's priorities, such as infectious diseases, One Health approach, mental health, gender equality and occupational safety and health.

Sweden informed about its Presidencies of BEAC and the CBSS, as well as the upcoming Presidency of the NCM.

Norway informed about its co-chairmanship of the BEAC Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues together with the Republic of Komi (Russian Federation).

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

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

With reference to the document CSR 28/5/1 the Meeting discussed the development of a NDPHS joint project involving all Expert Groups and focusing on the topic of health of senior adults and:

- 1) **Expressed** support to the idea and thanked ASA EG for the initiative;
- 2) **Invited** the ASA EG to work towards a more concrete outline of the project with an aim of developing a document for submission to the forthcoming PAC 13 meeting.

In response to a question by Russia, the Secretariat informed that the "Integrated care for senior citizens around the Baltic Sea" (INTEGBALT) project was submitted for funding a few

years ago, but was not successful and, to the Secretariat's knowledge, the project idea was not further pursued by the project partners.¹

Russia informed that the Ministry of Finance of Russia could provide funding for NDPHS projects, but for this purpose it would need to see an overview of concrete outcomes of the NDPHS Expert Groups, such as changes in policy, etc. In general, it would be useful to publish such an overview on the NDPHS website. Furthermore, Russia invited to follow a two-step approach when developing projects: first discussion of concept notes and only after their approval the preparation of full project proposals.

The Meeting **took note** of the provided information and **encouraged** the Expert Groups to provide information requested by Russia if possible and follow the two-step approach in development of the projects.

6. 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, including on the governing bodies' expectations from the Partnership. The following are examples of the expressed views:

- The expectations from the Partnership should be realistic, e.g., aiming at development of a common policy of NDPHS Partner Countries in most cases might be too ambitious;
- Exchange of information is a very important task of the Partnership and all Partners highly value this aspect of the Partnership's work;
- The potential of PAC and CSR meetings for transferring the results of experts' work and regional projects to the policy level is not fully used, the agendas of the meetings should be adjusted to make full use of the format of the Partnership, with less focus on administrative issues and more on thematic discussions. A guidance from the CSR members regarding the specific topics where they could benefit from the Partnership's expertise would be very useful;
- The Expert Groups' meetings might be made even more useful for participants by, e.g., organizing thematic tour de table, site visits and post-meeting exercises. Work between the Expert Groups' meetings is another area for improvement;
- Two-step approach should be followed when developing projects: first discussion of concept notes and only after their approval the preparation of full project proposals;
- Communication and dissemination of information is a very important component of the Partnership's work.

The Meeting **took note** of the expressed views and:

- 1) **Mandated** the Secretariat to adopt a different approach in preparing the agendas of the CSR meetings, in line with the views expressed during the meeting;
- 2) **Invited** the Secretariat to submit to the next CSR meeting a document summarizing the discussion of the EG Chairs and ITAs 23 meeting regarding the NDPHS' role and its impact on public health policies and transferring the results of experts' work and regional projects to the policy level.

¹ Additional information after the CSR 28 meeting: INTEGBALT project concept note had been submitted by the Project Lead Partner National Health Service of Latvia for funding to the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme in 2015 and was rejected by the donor.

7. Possible review and updating of the regionally agreed objectives in the area of health and social well-being

The Meeting **agreed** to proceed with updating the Action Plan accompanying the NDPHS Strategy 2020 as suggested in the document CSR 28/7/1:

- 1) Those Expert Groups that would like to propose revisions in the NDPHS Action Plan are invited to submit their final inputs to the CSR 29 meeting in spring 2018, one month prior the meeting;
- 2) Those parts of the Action Plan with no revisions proposed will continue until 2020;
- 3) The CSR 29 meeting in spring 2018 approves the Action Plan accompanying the Strategy covering the period of 2018-2020.

Furthermore, the Meeting **approved** the updates in Objective 2 of the Action Plan as presented by the AMR EG in the document CSR 28/7/2.

8. Updating of the current list of the EUSBSR flagships



The OSH EG informed that it would like to suggest 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 Secretariat informed that the BaltCityPrevention project would also like to apply for a EUSBSR flagship status. The project aims at fostering cooperation between health IT SMEs and improving their knowledge on business opportunities to address health needs of chronically ill patients and reduce the impact of NCD-s in the society.

The Meeting **took note** of the information provided and **invited** those concerned to submit, through the Secretariat, the requests for EUSBSR flagship status to the CSR for a decision.

Furthermore, at the proposal of the PHC EG Chair, the Meeting **requested** the Secretariat to prepare and submit to the next CSR meeting information covering a period of several years on all project ideas developed within the NDPHS and whether they were developed into project applications and subsequently granted funding and implemented.

9. Implementation of the “PA Health Support 2” project: progress and further steps



With reference to the document CSR 28/9/Info 1 and following a presentation made by the Secretariat, the Meeting discussed the implementation of the “PA Health Support 2” project.

The Meeting **took note** of the provided information and:

- 1) **Invited** the Secretariat to send to the Expert Groups information about the eligibility criteria, deadlines for application and other crucial information regarding the stakeholder consultation meetings funded by the project;

- 2) **Took note** of the suggestion for the Director of the Secretariat to participate at the forthcoming EUSBSR Annual Forum in 2018 to present the Partnership's contribution to the region, as well as consider making a joint presentation of the NDPHS Expert Groups regarding their contribution;
- 3) **Invited** the Secretariat to submit information about the consultation meeting on the revisions of the TB/HIV, AI and STIs EUSBSR flagship held on 23 March 2017 in Warsaw, Poland (see Annex 1 to the Meeting minutes).

10. NDPHS evaluation

With reference to the document CSR 28/10/1 the Meeting discussed the next NDPHS evaluation, including the following aspects:

- Focus of the evaluation (forward or backward looking);
- Financing of the evaluation (NDPHS Activity Fund as one of the options);
- Time of the evaluation (not earlier than late 2018 and linking it to the development of the new NDPHS Strategy);
- Possibility of performing an internal evaluation, followed by an external evaluation after 2020;
- How to link the evaluation process and the development of the new NDPHS Strategy;
- Creating an *ad hoc* working group to plan the process of the evaluation.

The Meeting **took note** of the provided information and:

- 1) **Requested** the Chair Country and the Secretariat to work towards establishment of an *ad hoc* working group, as soon as possible, to plan the process of the evaluation and prepare the scope for the next CSR meeting;
- 2) **Requested** the *ad hoc* working group to prepare a document presenting in detail the different options for the next NDPHS evaluation, including the Terms of Reference of the Evaluation Team and tasks for possible external evaluator, and submit this document to the next CSR meeting for discussion and decision.

11. NDPHS Work Plan for 2018

With reference to the document CSR 28/11/1 the Expert Groups and the Secretariat presented draft NDPHS Work Plan for 2018.

The Meeting **took note** of the presented information and **agreed** that the finalized draft NDPHS Work Plan for 2018 will be adopted through a written procedure together with the minutes of the meeting.

12. Preparations for the forthcoming ministerial-level PAC and its side-event

12.1 PAC 13

With reference to the document CSR 28/12.1/1 the Chair presented the provisional agenda of the PAC 13 to be held on 9 February 2018 and invited the participants to submit any comments together with the minutes of the meeting.

The Chair further presented the procedure and timeline for the development of the PAC Chair's conclusions:

End of November 2017: draft sent to the CSR for comments;

December 2017: collecting feedback from the CSR;
January 2018: finalization of the conclusions, in two written consultation rounds if necessary.

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

12.2 PAC 13 side-event

With reference to the document CSR 28/12.2/1 the ASA EG Chair informed about the preparations for the PAC side-event to be held on 8 February 2018 and informed that the aim is to send the draft declaration for comments within a few weeks.

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

12.3 Future NDPHS Chair and Co-Chair

Latvia confirmed that it will assume the NDPHS Chairmanship after Estonia the day after the PAC 13 and Poland confirmed that it will assume the co-Chairmanship.

The Meeting **took note** of the provided information and **agreed** that the future Chairmanships will follow a two-year cycle and will change in November, as has been the routine in the past.

13. Future non-ministerial PAC, CSR and EG Chairs and ITAs meetings

With reference to the document CSR 28/13/Info 1 the Meeting **discussed** introduction of a more systematic way of determining the hosts of the non-ministerial PAC, CSR and EG Chairs and ITAs meetings.

Latvia offered to host one EG Chairs and ITAs and one CSR meeting in 2018.

The Secretariat informed that it will be hosting the next CSR meeting partly funded by the “PA Health Support 2” project. The meeting venue could be the premises of the CBSS and NDPHS Secretariat in Stockholm, provided the issue about the premises will be solved soon.

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

- 1) **Agreed** to establish non-binding lists of the hosts of the non-ministerial PAC, CSR and EG Chairs and ITAs meetings and **invited** the Secretariat to prepare a list for 2018-2020 and present it to the next CSR meeting;
- 2) **Thanked** Latvia for its offer and **decided** to hold one EG Chairs and ITAs and one CSR meeting in 2018 in Latvia.

14. Any other business

Germany:

- Encouraged the Partners currently leading various regional councils to approach Denmark regarding its participation in the NDPHS;
- Requested the Secretariat to either remove or update the NDPHS leaflet from the website as it does not mention Iceland as a Partner Country;
- Reminded about the document [CSR 24/9.3/Info 1 “How the NDPHS provides strategic added-value to the development of public health policies”](#).

The Meeting **took note** of the above and **agreed** to refer to the document CSR 24/9.3/Info 1 “How the NDPHS provides strategic added-value to the development of public health policies” during the preparation process of the NDPHS evaluation.

15. Adoption of the CSR 28 meeting minutes

The Meeting **agreed** that the meeting minutes will be developed shorter, listing only the discussed items, decisions and critical discussions, verbatim transcriptions are not necessary. Audio recordings from the meetings will be archived for reference for five years after the meeting.

The Meeting **agreed** that the draft of the meeting minutes will be sent to participants on 14 November 2017 with the deadline for comments until 21 November 2017. The revised meeting minutes will be sent to participants on 23 November 2017 and will be adopted if no further comments are received until 30 November 2017.

16. Closing of the meeting

The Participants **thanked** Germany for excellent hosting of this meeting and Mr. Jürgen Ojalo for excellent chairing of the MP and CSR meetings during the Estonian NDPHS Chairmanship.

The Meeting terminated on 24 October 2017 at 16:00 hours.