

**NCD EG
16th (6) Meeting
11-12th of October, 2018
Moscow, Russian Federation**



Title	Minutes from the 16th (6) NCD EG Meeting
Submitted by	NCD EG Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document outlines the main discussion points and decisions made during the 16th (6) NCD EG Meeting
Requested action	Adopted

11th of October, 2018

Welcome and opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened and chaired by Ms. Galina Maslennikova, the NCD EG Vice-Chair, who welcomed the participants and thanked them for coming to take part in the 16th(6) NCD EG Meeting to discuss the activities carried out during the 2018 according to the NCD EG Work Plan and express our suggestions to be included in the NCD EG Work Plan for 2019.

The Vice-Chair introduced the the hosts of the 16th(6) meeting from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland: Ms. Eeva-Liisa Haapaniemi, the senior officer, the head of the Finnish Delegation and Representatives to the NDPHS, and Ms. Taru Koivisto – the director of the Department of Wellbeing and Services; and the invited speakers: Prof. Pekka Puska, the Member of the national Parliament of Finland representing the Health and Social Affairs Committee and the Education Committee and also a member of the Parliament’s Group for the International Parliamentary Union, and Prof. Tari Haahtela from the Helsinki University and Hospital, Finland.

Introduction of participants

The participants introduced themselves (List of Participants is placed on the Meeting webpage http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki).

Adoption of the agenda

The participants of the meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda with the timetable (submitted as event document -11-12-10-2018-16(6)-02).

Welcome address

The Vice-Chair invited Ms. Eeva-Liisa Haapaniemi and Ms. Taru Koivisto to welcome the meeting.

Ms. Eeva-Liisa Haapaniemi welcomed the participants on behalf of Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland and gave a historical background regarding the meeting place – SÄÄTYTALO (House of the Estates).

Ms. Taru Koivisto welcomed the participants on behalf of the hosting country and told the audience about the Health, social services and regional government reform adopted in Finland mentioning the prerequisites for it. In the presentation, she reviewed cornerstones of health and social services reform, in particular service of integration and clients' freedom of choice. Ms. Taru Koivisto also mentioned about the Agenda and context of the 3rd High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on NCDs that was held on September, 27th, 2018 in New York (the presentation is placed on the Meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki)

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for the discussion.

Discussion:

Dr. Mikko Vienonen, representative in NCD EG from Finland raised a question about using of the concept clients and patients, etc.

Ms. Taru Koivisto explained that since the reform affected not only patients but also the healthy people, it was decided to use the unifying concept 'clients'.

Ms. Marita Friberg representative in NCD EG from Sweden raised a question about involving the companies in healthcare assistance and taxing them in this regard. She clarified that recently they had much discussion about that in Sweden.

Ms. Taru Koivisto explained that there was much discussion on the reform regarding the involvement of private companies in Finland. She noticed that while

the law outlined strong criteria of what private companies provided, the private and public health sectors had the same level of taxation.

Prof. Pekka Puska, invited speaker, added that Region controlled the provided amount of money based on the average sums spent on the specific disease or condition.

The Vice-Chair expressed gratitude for their and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland for agreement to become the host of the meeting and highlighted the importance of their support in the NCD EG activity within the ND Region.

The Vice-Chair invited Ms. Asija Imaeva, ITA NCD EG to read the welcome address from Ms. Ulla-Karin Nurm, the Director of the NDPHS Secretariat (Welcome Address is placed on the Meeting webpage http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki).

The Vice-Chair noticed the significance of the participation of the NDPHS Secretariat in the work of NCD EG and expressed her hope for future collaboration with them.

The invited speaker presentations. Achievements and challenges in NCD Prevention in Finland

The Vice-Chair invited Prof. Pekka Puska, to present the Achievements and challenges in NCD Prevention in Finland. She noticed that Professor Pekka Puska was a well-known in the world scientist and researcher in the field of health promotion, NCD and their risk factors epidemiology, prevention and control.

Prof. Pekka Puska reflected programs and events conducted in the European Region related to NCD prevention. The full presentation is placed on the Meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki

The Vice-Chair remarked that the presentation on the achievements and challenges in NCD Prevention in Finland was very helpful and useful for planning of NCD EG work.

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for the discussion.

Discussion:

Dr. Mikko Vienonen noted the great progress in health and life expectancy over the past 15 years throughout the world.

The Vice-Chair emphasized that Prof. Pekka Puska had the great experience in health promotion, NCD prevention and control. Since Prof. Pekka Puska has had a long-term experience in NCD prevention and control and the heavy luggage behind of it, the Vice-Chair raised a question on the situation if somebody would start to work in NCD prevention and control what Prof. Pekka Puska could advice him?

Prof. Pekka Puska marked that the universal advise was the creation and use of the framework, as for example, the WHO framework on NCD prevention and monitoring targeting specific risk factors in community. The main principle should be a specific adjusted intervention in every community and country. He mentioned that the commercial influence was the big challenge for the specialist that days.

The Karelian Allergy Study – main results and possibilities for future collaboration

The Vice-Chair invited Prof. Tari Haahtela, to present the Karelian Allergy Study – main results and possibilities for future collaboration.

Prof. Tari Haahtela told about the main results of the Karelian Allergy Study and possibilities for future collaboration. The full presentation is placed on the Meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for the discussion.

Discussion:

Ms. Marita Friberg raised a question about possible collaboration with different levels of health care system, particularly with the Ministry of Education and etc.

Prof. Tari Haahtela agreed that changing the lifestyle and environment were needed in the multisectoral interaction.

Prof. Pekka Jousilahti expressed hope for possible cooperation in the field of Karelian Allergy Study.

Ms. Asiiia Imaeva, ITA NCD EG asked Prof. Tari Haahtela' opinion about the use of bottled water, especially for children

Prof. Tari Haahtela answered that bottled water was harmful for everyone and washing the hands was enough. He remarked that we should distinguish the clean dust from the dirty, as a result of urbanization. He also mentioned that specialists needed to be very critical when using antibiotics also.

Ms. Iveta Pudule, Latvia, noted that people prefer not to pick berries and mushrooms, but to buy them in a supermarket.

Dr. Mikko Vienonen agreed with Ms. Iveta Pudule' note

The Vice-Chair raised the question about any connection between microbiota types and aging process.

Prof. Tari Haahtela expressed the opinion that microbiota was associated with lifespan.

Coffee Break

Discussion of the NCD EG Progress Report for 2018

1. Progress Report 2018, main results achieved by the NCD EG.

The Vice-Chair followed the agenda and opened the discussions of the NCD EG Progress Report and Results achieved in 2018.

The Vice-Chair invited the NCD EG ITA to give a short overview of the main results achieved by the NCD EG.

Ms. Asiiia Imaeva in her presentation showed the NCD EG achievements during the 2018 as comprehensive and practical. She briefly highlighted the significant issues of the ongoing activities. The detailed report is available on the meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at:

http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki

The Vice-Chair invited all experts to send their additional suggestions to NCD EG ITA to be included in the NCD EG Progress Report and general NDPHS Report.

2. Preventable premature deaths (PYLL) in Northern Dimension partnership countries 2003 - 2013. Scientific article in the European Journal of Public Health. Next steps forward?

The Vice-Chair following the agenda, opened the discussions of the main results of the PYLL-Project that had been first published in the paper “Potential years of life lost (PYLL) caused by preventable premature deaths in Northern Dimension partnership countries 2003 – 2013” in the Finnish Public Health Journal, and now prepared for publishing in the European Journal of Public Health. Mrs. Galina Maslennikova invited Dr. Mikko Vienonen to introduce the scientific paper that devoted to PYLL-results in Northern Dimension partnership countries 2003 – 2013 and was already approved and now in the process to be published in the European Journal of Public Health. The detailed presentation is placed on the meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at: http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for the discussion.

Discussion:

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz mentioned that earlier there had been a decision to place the whole report on the PYLL-Project-Results on the NDPHS website, while no one could see them.

Ms. Asiia Imaeva, assured that the report would be sent soon to Ms. Silvija Geistarte, senior adviser of NDPHS Secretariat for placing it on the NDPHS website.

Dr. Mikko Vienonen raised a question whether the EU or national funds be able to provide any financial support for the development of strategy and policy actions using the PYLL calculation.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz noted that it had been suggested in 2015 to use PYLL as an official indicator for the measurement of the European Health Strategy effectiveness and progress achieved in the Baltic Sea Region. Therefore, she pointed out, that there could be some foundation for that work.

Dr. Mikko Vienonen added that in 2015 at the CSR-24 in Brussels meeting it had been approved that the only indicator to measure the progress could be PYLLs.

The Vice-Chair concluded that during the next CSR meeting we should announce the suggestions on behalf of NCD EG that PYLL-Study had to be included as an indicator for evaluation of the effectiveness of the EU Health Strategy. She added that it was important to have a continuation of the PYLL-Study and to receive, in a prospective observation, follow-up results on PYLLs in the ND partnership countries.

3. For better health – Practical implementation of HiAP in the municipalities for better health for all in the Baltic Sea Region. Preliminary results and discussion.

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for the discussion of the next project elaborated by the Finnish experts and invited Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz to present the preliminary results of the project “For better health – Practical implementation of HiAP in the municipalities for better health for all in the Baltic Sea Region”.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz in the presentation reported the results of the seed-money Project ‘For better health – Practical implementation of HiAP in the municipalities for better health for all in the Baltic Sea Region’ that finished on August 2018. The detailed presentation is placed on the meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at: http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki.

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for the discussion.

Discussion:

The Vice-Chair noticed that during the 15(5) NCD EG meeting there was raised a question about the possibility of organization the side-event within the next PAC for introducing the main results achieved and asked whether the NCD EG members from Finland had taken any decision.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz confirmed the willingness to hold that event, but noted that could be a joint and in coordination with the NDPHS Secretariat side-event. She planned to discuss technical issues of that event with Ms. Silvija Geistarte, senior adviser of NDPHS Secretariat during the next CSR Meeting.

Mrs. Arnhild Bergljot Haga Rimestad, Norway mentioned that the local guidelines on the promoting the public health had also been developed in Norway. A lack of knowledge on public health in all target groups was obtain, and therefore, recently the main task was to educate all sectors on public health issues.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz agreed with that and informed that in October, 2017, before they started the Project, there was a meeting where experts from Norway presented the gaps in public health system.

Ms. Marita Friberg raised a question whether indicators on the budget for public health were included in the questionnaire that was used in the Project.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz agreed that it would be useful to use indicators on the health budget and added that indicators on health and well-being had already been included in the questionnaire.

Dinner

12th of October, 2018

Discussion of the NCD EG Progress Report for 2018 (continued)

4. A Healthy Boost – Urban Labs for Better Health for All in the Baltic Sea Region - boosting cross-sectoral cooperation for health and wellbeing in the cities. Ongoing state.

The Vice-Chair following the agenda, opened the discussion of the projects that were included in the NCD EG Work Plan for 2018. For that, the Vice-Chair invited Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz to introduce the next Project “A Healthy Boost – Urban Labs for Better Health for All in the Baltic Sea Region - boosting cross-sectoral cooperation for health and wellbeing in the cities” that was a logical continuation of the Project on Municipalities. The Vice-Chair informed that the Healthy Boost Project had been approved and received financing support by the decision of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Program and Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz was appointed as the principal investigator for the Project.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz in her report reflected the main statements of the project. The full presentation is placed on the Meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki.

The Chair invited the participants for the discussion.

Discussion:

Dr. Mikko Vienonen raised the questions about the funding of the project and social investment as well.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz answered that the total sum of money was more than 2.5 mln. euro with 15 partners, the co-financing from EU was 75%, other from countries and added that details were reflected in the presentation. She agreed that social investment was a good advice.

Ms. Eeva-Liisa Haapaniemi added that receiving funding was a difficult and long process.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz agreed that the application process for that study was long and had started in 2011 and only that year during the third call of Interreg Baltic Sea Program evaluation process the Project was approved and received a financial support.

Ms. Eeva-Liisa Haapaniemi raised a question about the outcome of the Project that would be obtained as a result of that study.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz answered that there would be a virtual reality meeting place or a residential area park or some other innovative model as the result of the study.

Mrs. Arnhild Bergljot Haga Rimestad commented that the results should be more concrete and added, that, for example in Norway, all the participants had to sign the memorandum that the results would be specific. She suggested that the results should reflect several models and might be sustainable for all sectors.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz agreed with all suggestions.

Mrs. Arnhild Bergljot Haga Rimestad added that each region had their own problems and needed to explore and solve them individually.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz agreed with all suggestions and added that Project team would work on city-specific issues.

Ms. Eeva-Liisa Haapaniemi raised a question whether there would a bilateral partnership between cities or a partnership including all cities.

Ms. Karolina Mackiewicz answered that all cities would have a possibility to collaborate, control and learn from each other. She thanked the NCD experts for questions and comments, and expressed her hope to have an opportunity to discuss the results and findings during the next meetings.

The Vice-Chair concluded that NCD EG Secretariat expected the active participation of all NCD experts in the implementation of the Project.

5. Toolkit to strengthen Health Literacy in the Baltic Sea Region. Ongoing state.

The Vice-Chair invited Ms. Marita Friberg, the principal investigator to present the Project “A Toolkit to strengthen Health Literacy in the Baltic Sea Region”.

Ms. Marita Friberg in her presentation reflected the Ongoing state of the Project and next action steps forward. The full presentation is placed on the Meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki.

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for the discussion.

Discussion:

Dr. Mikko Vienonen asked about the media involvement.

Ms. Marita Friberg agreed that the media played the key role and that commercials forces impacted on groups of people with low health literacy.

Prof. Pekka Jousilahti raised a question about possibilities to receive funding to that project.

Ms. Marita Friberg answered that a reorganization within the EU was observed and therefore the funding opportunities were not resolved yet.

Prof. Pekka Jousilahti asked whether additional partners were planned for that project and what type of them they preferred.

Ms. Marita Friberg noticed that there could be different partners, for example different agencies on local and regional level might be involved.

Prof. Pekka Jousilahti mentioned that in the Ms. Karolina's Healthy Boost project, for example, many different organizations were indicated.

Mrs. Arnhild Bergljot Haga Rimestad commented that there was no interactions between general care practitioners and other specialists in public health.

Dr. Mikko Vienonen noticed that in his opinion it would be helpful to prepare short description of the Project and distribute it within different organizations.

The Vice-Chair invited all members of NCD EG to participate in the development and implementation of the Project and expressed hope that the Project would be approved and receive a financial support.

Coffee Break

Upcoming events and proposed plans for 2019.

The Vice-Chair invited all participants for the discussion Agendas of the next CSR meeting to be held on the 17-18th of October, 2018 in Riga, Latvia and the second workshop on the Flagship NDPHS Project on the Aging population to be held on the 24th, 2018 of October in Oslo, Norway. The Vice-Chair invited Ms. Asiiia Imaeva to present participation of the NCD EG in the CSR meeting. The full presentation is placed on the Meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki.

The Vice-Chair introduced suggestions on "Rationale and opportunities for NCD EG group participation in the NDPHS Flagship Project on the Aging Population". Also the Vice-Chair presented the study SHARE that would be discussed during the CSR meeting and the second workshop on the Flagship NDPHS Project on the Aging population. The Vice-Chair invited NCD EG members to participate in the second workshop on roundtable discussion on the possibilities of each NDPHS EGs participation in the Flagship Project on Aging.

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for the discussion.

Discussion:

Ms. Marita Friberg raised a question whether the SHARE Project results would be discussed with other NDPHS EGs.

The Vice-Chair answered that the SHARE Project Results would be presented on the NDPHS meeting for the first time. She shared her opinion that the presenters of the SHARE Project would try to involve other ND countries to participate in the Project.

Dr. Mikko Vienonen commented that the results of the SHARE Project would be very useful for all EGs and participation of Partner Countries in the Project – very helpful also. He raised the questions about definitions of aging and NCD EG role in that Project.

The Vice-Chair answered that definitions of the aging population could reflect the biological and physiological process. She added that the rate/speed of the aging process was different in each country and that should be considered when we planned our interventional activity and resources for that.

Dr. Mikko Vienonen offered to involve various organizations, particularly NGOs representing older population.

The Vice-Chair answered that it would be a good idea to involve NGOs, especially when they represent the older population. She added that in that case we would aware such population needs and requirements, and those issues would be discussed during the CSR meeting also.

Ms. Iveta Pudule, shared her experience, when she participated in the study of Healthy Cities where the specialists studied the needs of elderly by the questionnaires, the main thing was the understanding of what type of help such population needed.

Ms. Marita Friberg commented that in Sweden they had several organizations for retire population, including NGOs. She expressed that primary role of NCD EG should be health promotion and NCD prevention.

The Vice-Chair invited all experts to send their suggestions on the previous items to NCD EG ITA.

Suggestions from NCD EG to be included in NCD EG Work Plan 2019

The Vice-Chair invited all participants for the discussion of the suggestions that would be included to the NCD EG Work Plan 2019 and for that invited Ms. Asija Imaeva to present those suggestions. The full presentation is placed on the Meeting webpage in the post-event documentation at http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_16_helsinki. The Vice-Chair invited all experts to send their suggestions to NCD EG ITA.

Proposals:

Dr. Mikko Vienonen expressed suggestions about further promoting NCD Activities and importance of continuation of the PYLL-Study.

Next NCD EG meeting, proposals of dates and place, dates for meeting minutes.

The Vice-Chair invited the participants for discussion of dates and places for future NCD EG meetings. She reminded that during the previous meetings it was decided to have one meeting in Moscow in April or in May and another one – in the other Partner country. She asked the NCD EG members to express their wishes, in on-line connections, to carry out the 18th(8) NCD EG meeting in their country.

Closure of the meeting.

The Vice-Chair thanked all the participants for the fruitful work during the Meeting, and expressed a hope for the effective long-term collaboration in the future. She reflected, that discussions and suggestions that were made during the Meeting would give the NCD EG to strengthen activity in order to reduce the NCD burden in each country and in the ND region as a whole. The Vice-Chair also thanked the invited speakers for their excellent presentations that inspire new directions in NCD EG activity. She promised to ask the NDPHS secretariat to provide, support and use PYLL calculations as official indicators for the measurement of the EU Health Strategy effectiveness and progress achieved in the Baltic Sea Region on the permanent basis, for example every 5 years. The Vice-Chair invited to keep in touch between the meetings to discuss activities, achievements, and obstacles that possible could be overcome in working together.