

**EG Chairs and ITAs
Twenty fifth Meeting
Riga, Latvia
16-17 October 2018**

Title	Minutes from the 25 th Meeting of the NDPHS EG Chairs and ITAs
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	Outline of the main discussion points and decisions of the 25 th EG Chairs and ITAs meeting

Attendance:

CSR Chair and Co-Chair: Mrs. Agnese Vaļulīene, Mr. Alvis Bless, Ministry of Health, Latvia; Mr. Marcin Rynkowski, Ms. Kinga Sieńko-Wójtowicz, Ministry of Health, Poland;

AMR EG: Dr. Johan Struwe, Ms. Emily Sellström;

ASA EG: Mr. Bernt Bull, Dr. Zaza Tsereteli;

HIV, TB & AI EG: Dr. Ali Arsaló, Mr. Dmitry Titkov;

NCD EG: Ms. Galina Maslennikova, Ms. Asiia Imaeva, Ms. Iveta Pudule;

OSH EG: Ms. Päivi Hämäläinen;

PH EG: Dr. Marc Lehmann;

PHC EG: Prof. Yulia Mikhaylova, Ms. Iréne Nilsson-Carlsson, Ms. Olga Andreeva;

Invited Guests: Assoc. Prof. Dr. med. Signe Tomsone, Dr. sc. soc. Andrejs Ivanovs, Rīga Stradiņš University;

NDPHS Secretariat - Dr. Ülla-Karin Nurm, Ms. Silvija Geistarte.

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Ms. Agnese Vaļulīene, the CSR Chair, and chaired by Ms. Ülla-Karin Nurm, Director of the NDPHS Secretariat.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting **adopted** agenda as submitted in document EG Chairs and ITAs 25/2/1.

3. Briefing of Expert Groups' ongoing and planned activities

The Secretariat informed about representing the NDPHS at the WHO European Regional Committee in Rome on 17-20 September, closing of the PA Health Support 2 project and starting the new PA Health Support 3 project, as well as about the selection for candidates for the NDPHS internship and announced that the successful candidate, Ms. Olga Andreeva from Russian Federation, will start her internship at the Secretariat in November 2018.

The AMR EG informed that with the completion of NoDARS and Northern GLASS projects the Expert Groups' main focus will shift from Work-stream 1 (More representative and comparable AMR surveillance systems developed for implementation in the NDPHS Partner Countries) to Work-streams 2 and 3 (Improved measurement and monitoring of antibiotic consumption and use in Northern Dimension area and Increased awareness of prescribers and policymakers on the antibiotic resistance situation in the Northern Dimension).

The PH EG presented the challenges in the area of prison health such as changed structure of the inmates population due to influx of migrants and related cultural and language issues; as well as the fact that Hepatitis C has become a curable disease and that the overdose prevention is possible with naloxone nasal spray – both presenting enormous costs, which are not planned in the budgets in most ND countries. The PH EG also voiced concerns about missing representatives from Estonia, Lithuania and Poland in the Expert Group. Among the Expert Group's priorities are dealing with the WHO survey on prison health. The Expert Group has developed efficient cooperation with the WHO and the autumn meeting of the EG will be hosted by the WHO European office in Copenhagen on 25-26 October.

Poland informed that it is working on the issue of representation and expects that a representative will be appointed to the Prison Health Expert Group soon.

The OSH EG informed about the completion of the EU funded project "Better prevention, identification and reporting of work-related and occupational diseases and emerging risks," which aimed at obtaining as realistic and comparable data as possible regarding work-related and occupational diseases and accidents. The final report of the project is to be adopted by the EG at its meeting, which is held in parallel with the EG Chairs and ITAs meeting on 16 October in Riga. This meeting is also discussing ideas for next projects and the Expert Group's future plans in general.

The PHC EG informed about the outcomes of its recent meetings. For example, at the spring meeting it was decided to create a Working Group to discuss the task of systematizing the available data on good practices on integrated care for patients with multi-morbidity and the last meeting's programme was enriched by organizing a site visit to Moscow polyclinic No.180. The last EG meeting discussed the challenges the countries are facing when setting up their e-health systems on the primary health care level and the EG will prepare a paper on a possible project proposal to analyze this topic.

ASA EG informed that it is lacking German representation. Among the Expert Group's current priorities is development of a thematic report on alcohol prevention (with a focus on older people, pregnant women and work place). The Expert Group is also developing a thematic report on cannabis use and is discussing with WHO European Office a possibility of organizing a joint seminar on this topic. The ASA EG is invited to hold the autumn meeting of 2019 in Copenhagen, at the WHO Euro office.

The NCD EG informed that the PYLL-study results were published in the European Journal of Public Health. The NCD EG Vice-Chair made the suggestions on behalf of NCD EG that PYLL-Study had to be used as an indicator for evaluation of the effectiveness of the EU Health Strategy. Also she added that it was important to have a continuation of the PYLL-Study, in order to receive, in a prospective observation, follow-up results on PYLLs in the ND partnership countries. Another success is the decision by Interreg to fund the Project "Healthy Boost - Urban Labs for Better Health for All in the Baltic Sea Region - Boosting Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Better Health and Well-being in the Cities". While, unfortunately, another project proposal submitted by the NCD EG, "A platform to strengthen health literacy in the Baltic Sea Region," was not successful at this call.

The HIV, TB & AI EG informed about its shift of focus on hepatitis C and a workshop to be organized on 3-4 December for experts in North-West Russia. The Expert Group is continuing contributing to the NCM programme on HIV and Associated Infections as well as the EU Joint Action HA-REACT; both programmes will come to an end this year. Another priority, which is currently being discussed, is increasing synergies with the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation.

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

4. Template for the Expert Groups' annual progress reports

Following the discussion initiated at the last EG Chairs and ITAs meeting, the Meeting discussed the future reporting style. Some of the views expressed were:

- Limited human resources should be taken into account, a web-based reporting could be considered.
- Different type of information is needed for various levels of audience: for the EGs for their internal monitoring of the work, messages for the CSR and for the external communication.
- A reporting template is necessary, but preferences and ways of work are different – some prefer tables, others more descriptive format and thus the optimal solution could be a combination of both.
- The CSR meetings should be used for two-way communication between the EGs and CSR and effective information exchange about thematic and overall strategic issues, instead of detailed one-way reporting on the groups' everyday work.

The Secretariat offered to further elaborate on applicable ways of reporting and information exchange and submit ideas for the next EG Chairs and ITAs meeting.

The Meeting **agreed** to continue discussion at the next EG Chairs and ITAs meeting in 2019 based on the draft ideas on the progress report submitted by the Secretariat prior the meeting.

5. Development of a horizontal flagship project on ageing population

The Secretariat briefly introduced the state of play with development of the NDPHS flagship project on ageing population.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. med. Signe Tomson and Dr. sc. soc. Andrejs Ivanovs made a presentation of the ageing surveys in Latvia for the last 10 years, followed by a presentation of SHARE (Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe) project. The presentations are available on the NDPHS website on the meeting page¹. The presenters assured that they are interested in helping to use the SHARE data if the Meeting finds it useful for the project.

The Meeting **agreed** that the presented data is interesting and collaboration with SHARE would be beneficial in the framework of the NDPHS ageing project. A possibility to organize a joint seminar with the NDPHS and SHARE coordinators from the whole Baltic Sea region will be sought, to exchange further knowledge and identify fields of interest for collaboration.

The discussion on development of a horizontal flagship project on ageing population continued during a workshop held on 17 October in the morning, led by the ITA of the ASA EG and the Chair of the HIV, TB & AI EG.

The participants of the workshop of 17 October agreed on the following:

- Institutions, not EGs, should implement the project. The leading partner is an institution. Support from the NDPHS Secretariat is needed for further development of the project/programme proposal.
- The project/programme is a framework that might be long lasting, for example 5-10 years and might be used for the NDPHS strategy development for the next term. Some parts of the project/programme could be separately applied for various types of funding.

Based on the discussion the following statement/structure were formulated:

¹ http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,eg_chairs_&_itas_25_riga.

Overall Objective (Goal):

- 1) Improved health promotion, elderly care and service system
- 2) Increased health and wellbeing of elderly in the NDPHS Region

PURPOSE: Increased knowledge and strengthened capacity of relevant decision makers to improve elderly situation

Ultimate beneficiaries: Elderly people, ageing workforce and care providers in ND countries

Main beneficiaries: Relevant decision and policy makers and budget holders

6. EG Chairs and ITAs meeting minutes

The Meeting **agreed** that the draft of the meeting minutes would be sent to participants on 5 November 2018 with the deadline for comments until 12 November 2018. The revised meeting minutes will be sent to participants on 14 November 2018 and will be adopted if no further comments are received until 21 November 2018.

7. Closing of the meeting

The Meeting terminated on 16 October 2018 at 17:00 hours.