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| Reference | EG 26/6.1 |
| Title | Roadmap to improve health and wellbeing of ageing population in the BSR: AgeFLAG |
| Submitted by | Secretariat |
| Summary / Note | This document presents a summary of the project application “Roadmap to improve health and wellbeing of ageing population in the BSR: AgeFLAG” that the NDPHS Secretariat has submitted to the Swedish Institute’s Seed Money facility. The Swedish Institute’s decision is expected in May-June 2019. |
| Requested action | For information and decision on further steps |

Project description

Applicant: NDPHS Secretariat, Stockholm, Sweden

Project acronym: AgeFLAG

Project title: Roadmap to improve health and wellbeing of ageing population in the BSR.

Project aim and background

Common challenge or need in the Baltic Sea Region

Increased life expectancy is in general a positive trend in the BSR. However, healthy life-years are not increasing at the same pace as life expectancy. The prosperity of the macro-region is based on its human capital where health is a critical factor. Improving people’s health and social well-being is particularly important in the context of the ageing society. Countries are facing challenges in health and social systems in addressing the demographic shift that creates higher demand for primary health-care, long-term care, and creation of age-friendly environments.

Demographic changes are affecting the political agenda worldwide including the BSR area. Ageing is a cross-cutting theme for all public health issues prioritized in the EUSBSR under Policy Area “Health”. Societies are facing several simultaneous transitions due to population ageing and health and social welfare systems need to be resilient to ensure the social security for all to prevent social inequality and marginalisation of vulnerable population groups.

Multiple segmental initiatives on ageing take place in the Baltic Sea Region, but there is inadequate knowledge about unmet health needs and distribution of interventions among older population groups and lacking of consensus regarding priorities of action.

The purpose of the Seed Funding project is to develop transnational cooperation among Partner countries in the BSR who are all facing challenges of an ageing population. The project will expand the existing stakeholder networks, facilitate learning from others, strengthen the capacity of co-creation and multi-level policy making and most importantly, meet the minds in priorities of action.

The project will contribute to preparing a more extensive transboundary Flagship project with an overall aim to increase the health and well-being of ageing population in the BSR area and improve health promotion, prevention and care services for older population groups.

Why it is important to solve this challenge through transnational collaboration.

From an epidemiological point of view there are similarities in characteristics and there is a geographical overlap between countries of the BSR area. Transnational cooperation in addressing ageing population issues, helps to avoid reinventing the wheel and builds on best practices and expertise of various stakeholders. Overarching problems may require coordinated responses.

Transnational approach will generate new knowledge on how the health and well-being of older people varies across the region and facilitates exchange of information about promising strategies addressing the challenges and opportunities of the demographic shift. The major added value of the transnational collaboration is the co-creation of policies by sharing experiences, making better use of limited resources and by developing new paths for cross-sectoral and transnational collaboration. Multi-level approach helps to improve overall policy-making in the region and offer a platform to seek for consensus in priority areas for action.

Seed Funding will enable the partners capacity building through knowledge exchange, strengthened cooperation and networking among policy-makers, academia and civil society. Project results and replicable measures can be used to scaled up to a broader audience both nationally and internationally.

Joint efforts, increased capacity and engagement of multiple stakeholders will amplify a stronger presence of health and social well-being issues in regional and national strategies, enhance policies addressing the demographic shift in the cross-cutting regional agendas and enable a more appropriate distribution of funds among various sectors.

Previous collaborations within the NDPHS network has proven to be successful over the years and the platform and the structured work is a solid base to further build capacity and knowledge in the region to address the demographic changes.

Overall aim:

Develop roadmap, taskforce and consensus on priorities of action as a foundation for designing the future Flagship on Healthy Ageing to improve health and social-well-being of older people in the BSR.

Objectives:

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| To develop cooperation between the Partner countries to jointly tackle the challenge of population ageing by creating a transnational Taskforce of experts and representatives of relevant parties for development of a future Flagship project on ageing. |
| To identify national needs and priorities of action by mapping and analysing the challenges and priorities on ageing in the Partner countries. |
| To enhance knowledge base and knowledge transfer to policies by <ul style="list-style-type: none">- development of a list of selected topics for future policy briefs based on needs assessment and identifying future areas for policy advice in the BSR;- development of a template for thematic policy briefs- development of a model policy brief on the topic of alcohol and substance abuse among older population groups. |

To build a platform and enhance capacity for preparing a larger transnational intervention on ageing by developing a Roadmap for Flagship.

Swedish main applicant (coordinator)

NDPHS Secretariat

Project Partners

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| Estonian Institute for Population Studies, School of Governance, Law and Society, Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia, academic institution | Participation in the Steering group of the project and Taskforce on ageing, organization and conduction of the national workshop with policymakers, academic and civil society representatives; Contribution to the development of the Roadmap. |
| Rīga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia, research institute | Participation in the Steering group of the project and Taskforce on ageing, organization and conduction of the national workshop with policymakers, academic and civil society representatives; Contribution to the development of the Roadmap |
| The National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Warsaw, Poland (research and medical services) | Participation in the Steering group of the project and Taskforce on ageing, organization and conduction of the national workshop with policymakers, academic and civil society representatives; Contribution to the development of the Roadmap. |
| Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen) | Participation in the Steering group of the project and Taskforce on ageing; Contributing to the organization and conduction of the national workshop on needs assessment; Contribution to the development of Roadmap; Participating in the development of policy brief template and thematic brief on alcohol and substance abuse among older people. |
| Federal Research Institute for Health Organization and Informatics of Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russia | Participation in the Steering group of the project and Taskforce on ageing, Organization and conduction of the national workshop with policymakers, academic and civil society representatives; Contribution to the development of the Roadmap |
| National Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki, Finland, research and development institute under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health | Participation in the Steering group of the project and Taskforce on ageing; Contribution to the development of the policy brief template and the Roadmap; Creation of the policy brief on alcohol and substance abuse among older population groups. |
| Northern Dimension Institute, a university network in the ND area coordinated by Aalto University, Finland. | In collaboration with the ongoing EC DG NEAR co-funded project "Development of Think Tank functions of the Northern Dimension Institute," project partners will contribute working time and attend the project events including co-creation workshops and co-creating policy briefs to support decision- and policy-making in the BSR. |

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| Praxis Centre for Policy Studies | Developing methodology for the Co-design workshops (“Policy Lab”) to enable end-users, researchers and policy makers to come together use their collective wisdom to develop options and prioritize together. Contribution to the development of the Policy Brief template (structure and format) Contribution to the development of the Roadmap. |
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Workplan

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| Sept. 2019 – February 2021 | Stockholm/ Sweden | 1. Project administration: planning, implementation and project management including reporting and accounting | NDPHS Secretariat | NDPHS Secretariat |
| January-February 2021 | Stockholm/ Sweden | 1.1. Audit of the project | External audit | NDPHS Secretariat |
| Q4 Autumn 2019-Q1 2020 | Stockholm/ Sweden + Partner countries | 2. Development of the communication plan for the project | NDPHS Secretariat Steering Group | NDPHS Secretariat |
| Kick off meeting: Sept. 2019 Meeting 2: Q1 2020 Meeting 3: Q3 2020 | Stockholm/ Sweden | 3. Steering group from the project partners and NDPHS representatives for shared decision making within the project 3 meetings: 1 face to face and 2 online meetings | NDPHS Secretariat + all partner organizations + selected NDPHS actors | NDPHS Secretariat |
| June 2020 – November 2020 | Sweden, Stockholm | 4. Creation of the NDPHS Taskforce on ageing. Scope of the Task Force is to design, implement and follow up the future Flagship on Ageing. 4.1 Development of Terms of reference for the Taskforce 4.2 Identification of relevant experts, representatives and members 4.3 Assist in the establishment of the Taskforce and conduct the meeting. 4.4 Identification of the further funding for the future work of the Taskforce | Steering Group Representatives of the NDPHS Expert Groups; Partner organizations. | NDPHS Secretariat |
| Q3 2019-Q1 2020 | Stockholm, Sweden | 5. National workshops Scope of the workshops: Needs assessment mapping of challenges and priorities of action in the area of health and well-being of ageing population. Workshops will be carried out by national partner organizations with involvement of national decision makers, academia, NGO-s and end-user representatives. | Steering Group | NDPHS Secretariat + |

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| | | 5.0. Development of methodology for the national workshops; structure for report for national workshops. Joint report will be compiled by the project coordinator. | | |
| Q4 2019- Q1 2020 | Stockholm, Sweden | 5.1 Workshop in Sweden: 5.1.1. Identification of relevant policy makers, academia and NGO representatives; recruit participants 5.1.2. Conduct national workshop. 5.1.3. Compile report on the workshop outcomes. | National stakeholders, NDPHS Secretariat | Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare |
| Q4 2019- Q1 2020 | Estonia | 5.2. Workshop in Estonia: 5.2.1. Identification of relevant policy makers, academia and NGO representatives; recruit participants 5.2.2. Conduct national workshop. 5.2.3. Compile report on the workshop outcomes. | National stakeholders, NDPHS Secretariat | Estonian Institute for Population Study |
| Q4 2019- Q1 2020 | Latvia | 5.3. Workshop in Latvia: 5.3.1. Identification of relevant policy makers, academia and NGO representatives; recruit participants 5.3.2. Conduct national workshop. 5.3.3. Compile report on the workshop outcomes. | National stakeholders, NDPHS Secretariat | Rīga Stradiņš University |
| Q4 2019- Q1 2020 | Poland | 5.4. Workshop in Poland: 5.4.1. Identification of relevant policy makers, academia and NGO representatives; recruit participants 5.4.2. Conduct national workshop. 5.4.3. Compile report on the workshop outcomes. | National stakeholders, NDPHS Secretariat | The National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation |
| Q4 2019- Q1 2020 | Russia | 5.5. Workshop in Russia: 5.5.1. Identification of relevant policy makers, academia and NGO representatives; recruit participants 5.5.2. Conduct national workshop. 5.5.3. Compile report on the workshop outcomes. | National stakeholders, NDPHS Secretariat | FRIHOI |
| Q4 2019- Q1 2020 | Finland | 5.6. Workshop in Finland: 5.6.1. Identification of relevant policy makers, academia and NGO representatives; recruit participants 5.6.2. Conduct national workshop. 5.6.3. Compile report on the workshop outcomes. | National stakeholders, NDPHS Secretariat NDI | THL |
| Q2 2020 | Stockholm, Sweden | 5.7 The results of the workshops are aggregated into a common needs assessment report listing national priorities and existing initiatives in the area of health and well-being of ageing population in the BSR. The Report will provide input to the | Steering group NDPHS Secretariat | NDPHS Secretariat |

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| | | Roadmap. | | |
| Q2-Q3 2020 | Sweden, Finland | 6. Knowledge transfer to policy making. 6.1. Developing of a list of priority topics for thematic policy briefs based on the Partners' needs and common challenges in the region. | Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, Northern Dimension Institute, Praxis | NDPHS Secretariat, Steering Group, Taskforce |
| Q2 2020 | Estonia, Finland, Sweden | 6.2. Developing a prototype for future thematic policy briefs. | NDPHS Secretariat, Steering group, THL, Northern Dimension Institute | Praxis |
| Q2-Q3 2020 | Finland | 6.2.2. Preparation and drafting a thematic policy brief on the topic of alcohol and substance abuse among older population groups. | External expert; Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare; Northern Dimension Institute | THL |
| Meeting Q3 2020 | Estonia | 6.3. Developing a methodology for the national needs assessment and for the future Co-design workshops ("Policy Lab") | NDPHS Secretariat | Praxis |
| Online meetings Sept - Oct 2020 Face-to-face (f2f) meeting: Dec 2020 | Stockholm, Sweden | 7. Roadmap for Flagship will be developed by the project coordinator, Steering group and Taskforce throughout the project activities and meetings (Skype, 1 f2f) 7.1 Further development of the matrixes, problem and objective trees based on preparatory work in 2017-2019 and the outcomes of the national workshops. 7.1.1. Analysis of the outcomes of the national workshops 7.1.2. Finalization of the planning matrixes (Log frame matrix, WPM matrix work plan, Problem tree, Objective tree) 7.2 Preparation of the Roadmap structure and timeline 7.3 Consulting the Roadmap with NDPHS Expert Groups and CSR. 7.4 Identification of potential funding sources. 7.5 Finalization of the Roadmap. | Steering Group Task Force NDPHS Secretariat | NDPHS Secretariat |