

The banner features a blue background with a stylized map of Europe on the right side, composed of a grid of dots. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.

Northern Dimension Future Forum 2020

NORTHERN DIMENSION FUTURE FORUM

**“We are in it together” – Enhancing regional knowledge
exchange to combat COVID-19
3 December 2020, 9:00 – 12:00 CET**

In Spring 2020, the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic swept over Europe. With the virus spreading rapidly around the continent, the Northern Dimension countries had to quickly react and respond without much prior knowledge about the novel virus. Half a year later, Europe is facing the second wave of the pandemic – this time with a lot more knowledge about the pandemic and its impact on public health and healthcare systems. To effectively combat the second wave and to minimise its negative impact to public health and healthcare systems, cross-border knowledge and experience exchange is needed. The ND Future Forum session *“We are in it together” – Enhancing regional knowledge exchange to combat COVID-19* functions as a platform for exchanging knowledge and strengthening collaboration to effectively combat COVID-19 in the Northern Dimension area.

In the session, experts from different Northern Dimension countries come together to explore the challenges faced during the pandemic, the lessons learned and the potential ways forward. The session explores the ways the pandemic has disrupted the healthcare systems and public health in the Northern Dimension region.

The Northern Dimension Future Forum on COVID-19 is organised by Northern Dimension Institute in cooperation with the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing (NDPHS). It consists of two sessions, of which this one is organised by the NDPHS. The other session, *Living the new normal after COVID-19*, focuses on the wider societal impact of the pandemic and is organised by NDI.

Please register [here](#) by 2 December.



Co-funded by
the European Union



PROGRAMME

WHEN? 3 December 2020, 9:00 – 12:00 (CET)

WHERE? Online via Zoom

8:45 Log-in open

9:00 Welcoming words

- Ms. Riitta Kosonen, Director, Centre for Markets in Transition, Aalto University, Program Director, Strategic Research Programs on Security and Urbanisation, Academy of Finland
- Ms. Ülla-Karin Nurm, Director, Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing

9:05 Keynote speech on the Finnish strategy on COVID-19 and the importance of cross-border coordination in crisis preparedness and communication. Pasi Pohjola, Director, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland.

9:30 Knowledge Arena 1: Disruption of health and care system

The Estonian experience in digitalisation and arrangement of remote services in health care. Dr. Maris Jesse, Deputy Secretary General on Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia.

Prevention of COVID-19 among older adults and risk groups in Sweden. Irene Nilsson Carlsson, Senior Public Health Adviser, the National Board of Health and Welfare, Sweden.

The role of perceived efficacy and trust in authorities on mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gerit Pfuhl, Professor, Department of Psychology, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway.

10:30 Break

11:00 Knowledge Arena 2: Disruption of public health

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lifestyle: international and Russian experience and ways to prevent the detrimental effects. Professor Oxana Drapkina, Director, National Medical Research Centre for Therapy and Preventive Medicine, the Ministry of Healthcare, Russian Federation.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on alcohol consumption in Sweden during Spring 2020, compared to the same period in 2019.

Björn Trolldal, Researcher, the Swedish Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAN), Sweden.

COVID-19 is a challenge for the Icelandic mental health care system: Does further cooperation between systems provide the answer to the challenge?

Guðrún Jóhanna Benediktsdóttir, Occupational Therapist & Soffía Erla Einarsdóttir, Project Manager, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, National University Hospital, Iceland.

11:30 Panel discussion

11:55 Concluding words by Bernt Bull, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Department of Public Health, Norway.