



Northern Dimension

Partnership in Public Health
and Social Well-being

NDPHS Progress Report for 2020

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1. BACKGROUND

The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) is a cooperative effort of ten governments, the European Commission and eight international organizations. The overall objective of the Partnership is to promote sustainable development in the Northern Dimension (ND) area by improving human health and social well-being.

The Partnership works according to the **Declaration concerning the establishment of a NDPHS** (the Oslo Declaration),¹ which stipulates that the Partnership shall promote co-operation and internationally coordinated actions in order to fulfill specific objectives within the following two priority areas:

- **Reducing major communicable diseases and prevention of lifestyle related non-communicable diseases**

The main focus shall be on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases and antibiotics resistance. Concerning non-communicable diseases, special attention shall be paid to the determinants of cardiovascular diseases and the risk factors associated with excessive consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use.

- **Enhancing and promoting healthy and socially rewarding lifestyles**

Under this objective, the Partnership shall focus on nutrition, physical activity, creating smoke-, alcohol-, and drug-free environments, the practice of safe sexual behaviors, and supportive social and work environment and constructive social skills.

From the beginning of 2007, the Northern Dimension process is defined by two documents: the **Political Declaration on the Northern Dimension Policy**² and the **Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document**³ – both endorsed at the Northern Dimension Summit on 24 November 2006 in Helsinki, Finland.

The Northern Dimension policy puts a strong emphasis on cooperation between the EU and Russia, with the full participation of the other two partners, namely Iceland and Norway, in matters relevant to the ND. These four partners committed themselves to continuing and further developing cooperation within the framework of the NDPHS, which is a tool to pursue the ND policy objectives of one of the six priority sectors agreed upon in the ND Policy Framework Document, namely “social welfare and health care, including prevention of communicable diseases and life-style related diseases and promotion of cooperation between health and social services.”

During 2015 -2020 the work of the NDPHS is guided by the **NDPHS Strategy**⁴ and its accompanying **Action Plan**⁵, which were adopted by the NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives (CSR) in June 2015 and September 2015. The NDPHS Strategy is based on the national priorities and strategies of the NDPHS Partner Countries and takes stock of global and regional policies, strategies and political agendas relevant for the Northern Dimension area, including e.g. the WHO Europe Health 2020 and the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

¹ www.ndphs.org/?doc,Oslo_Declaration.pdf.

² www.ndphs.org/?doc,Political_Declaration_on_Northern_Dimension_Policy.pdf.

³ [http://www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/Strategic%20political%20docs/ND_Policy_Framework_Document_\(updated_28-05-2015\).pdf](http://www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/Strategic%20political%20docs/ND_Policy_Framework_Document_(updated_28-05-2015).pdf)

⁴ http://www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/About_NDPHS/NDPHS_Strategy_2020.pdf

⁵ http://www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/About_NDPHS/Action_Plan_accompanying_the_NDP_HS_Strategy_2020.pdf

2. INTRODUCTION

This NDPHS annual progress report presents the main activities carried out by the Partnership during the year 2020. Information contained in these documents is provided with reference to the NDPHS Work Plan for 2020 adopted by the Committee of Senior Representatives on 1 July 2020.

Annexed to this report are the progress reports of the six NDPHS Expert Groups (AMR EG, ASA EG, HIV, TB & AI EG, OSH EG, NCD EG and PHC EG).

As regards the action lines, four of them were included in the NDPHS Work Plan for 2020:

- **Action Line 1: Working toward implementing the NDPHS Strategy 2020.**
- **Action Line 2: Development of the NDPHS Strategy for the next term.**
- **Action Line 3: Development and implementation of projects.**
- **Action Line 4: Coordinating and promoting synergies between Health priorities of the NDPHS Partners' strategies.**
- **Action Line 5: Increasing the Partnership's visibility.**

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Initiation, planning, participation in and following up on various regional projects and initiatives:**
 - Continuation and implementation of “AgeFLAG – Roadmap to improve the health and well-being of the ageing population in the Baltic Sea Region”.
 - Development of the new NDPHS Strategy 2021-2025.
 - Preparation and submission and acceptance by the donor of a 1.8 million Euro grant application “Support to the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being in Implementation of the New Strategy 2021-2025” (new project name: MITTENS (“More Impact Together To Empower Northern Stakeholders”)).
 - Participation in the revision of the EUSBSR Action Plan as the Policy Area Health Coordinator.
 - Implementation of the project “Healthy boost – Urban Labs for Better Health for All in the Baltic Sea Region – Boosting Cross-sectoral Cooperation for Health and Wellbeing in Cities”.
 - Enhancing national capacities in strategic OH&S workforce planning and development.
 - Implementation of innovative technologies for patient-oriented medical and social care for elderly people with NCDs.

- **(Co-)Organizing regional events:**
 - Conference “Multimorbidity and Ageing in the Northern Dimension Area”, 22 September 2020, online.
 - Workshop “the Art of Staying Healthy – Can Culture Improve Our Wellbeing?” during the 11th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, 6 October 2020, online.
 - Seminar “‘We Are in It Together’ – Enhancing Regional Knowledge Exchange to Combat COVID-19” during the Northern Dimension Future Forum, 3 December 2020, online.
 - Conference “COVID-19 Implications for HIV and TB Services in the Baltic Sea Countries and North-West Russia”, 17-18 December 2020, online.

- **Publications:**
 - Policy brief “Multimorbidity and ageing in the countries of the Northern Dimension area”. Available in English and Russian on [the NDPHS website](#).
 - *Predictors of tobacco smoking among acutely ill patients in a Moscow hospital: A cross-sectional study*. Tob Prev Cessat. 2020 Mar 6;6:18. doi: 10.18332/tpc/117954. eCollection 2020.
 - *Harmful alcohol use among acutely ill hospitalized medical patients in Oslo and Moscow: A cross-sectional study*. Drug Alcohol Depend. 2019 Nov 1;204:107588. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2019.107588. Epub 2019 Sep 25.
 - *The prevalence of psychoactive substance use among acutely hospitalized patients in Oslo and Moscow - a cross-sectional, observational study*. BMJ Open. 2020 Sept 10:e032572. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2019-032572. BMJ 2020.

- **Collection and dissemination of information:**
 - Elaboration of the “PYLL-2-Study renewed in all the NDPHS countries”.
 - Development and dissemination of a questionnaire on the effectiveness of HIV, TB and AI prevention actions in the Northern Dimension area.
 - Overview of low-threshold services in the NDPHS Countries.
 - A concept paper on palliative care in the Northern Dimension area.

This section of the Progress Report lists the Action Lines that have been included in the NDPHS Work Plan for 2020 and describes the progress towards achieving them in 2020.

Action Line 1. Working towards implementing the NDPHS Strategy 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NDPHS has switched to remote and online working methods. Overall, the transition has been smooth and has allowed the continuation of the NDPHS work. Consistent with their Terms of Reference, the NDPHS Expert Groups have continued to facilitate the implementation of activities and reaching the targets defined in the Action Plan accompanying the NDPHS Strategy 2020.

However, some modifications have been made to the Action Plan due to the COVID-19. Many of the Expert Groups members have been closely involved in the national responses to COVID-19, which has caused some disruptions to the Expert Group work. Most notably, the Expert Group on Prison Health was unable to meet in 2020. Moreover, some activities that were planned for 2020 had to be postponed to a later date due to, for example, restrictions to travelling and public gatherings. The Progress Reports of the Expert Groups (Annexes 1-6) list their progress in detail.¹

Action Line 2. Development of the NDPHS Strategy for the next term

The planning and development of the new NDPHS Strategy has continued throughout 2020. Proving to be one of the last in-person meetings of the year, the first NDPHS Strategy Development Workshop was held in Stockholm on 26-27 February 2020. In the workshop, the participants discussed the priority themes, specific objectives and visions for the new Strategy. This work was continued in the 27th meeting of the Expert Group Chairs and ITAs on 14 October, during which the Expert Group leaders elaborated on the common challenges and needs in the Northern Dimension area along with the target groups and the added value of the NDPHS work.

Following these two workshops, the first draft of the new Strategy was presented for comments and elaboration in the 2nd Strategy Development Workshop on 10 November, was subsequently edited and finally presented to the Committee of Senior Representatives during their 33rd meeting on 27 November. The work on the development of the new Strategy continues in 2021.

Action Line 3. Development and implementation of projects

All Expert Groups have been engaged in the development of a common NDPHS flagship project, which for the first time in the NDPHS history involves all NDPHS Expert Groups. This seed money project, “Roadmap to improve health and wellbeing of ageing population in the Baltic Sea Region (AgeFLAG)”, contributes to the process of advancing health and well-being of people in their older age and ensuring enabling and supportive environment for that.

In 2020, project partners in Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden conducted national needs assessments in order to identify the top five national needs for improving the health and wellbeing of older adults. Thanks to additional funding received from the Ministry of Health of Germany, it was possible to include Lithuania as an additional partner in the project. A joint workshop, called the Policy Lab, was initially planned to take place in December 2020 but, due to delays in the implementation of national needs assessments, was postponed to February 2021.

One of the most notable activities in 2020 was the preparation and submission of submitted a 1.8-million-euro EU grant application “Support to the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being in

¹ The opinions expressed in the Expert Groups’ reports are those of the Expert Groups.

Implementation of the New Strategy 2021-2025". Consisting of 9 Work Packages and activities from each Expert Group, the grant application was a joint effort of the NDPHS Secretariat and the Expert Groups. The application was approved on 25 November 2020. The activities will commence on 11 January 2021.

Action Line 3. Coordinating and promoting synergies between the health priorities of the NDPHS Partners' strategies

The role of the NDPHS as the "Health" Policy Area Coordinator within the EUSBSR allows for making health more integrated and inclusive in the regional cooperation. Most of the EUSBSR-related activities are coherent with the NDPHS mission and strategic aims, with the main focus on increased visibility and better influence in processes related to allocation of funding for regional cooperation. The instrument of the EUSBSR enables the Partnership to strengthen the message that improving and promoting people's health and well-being is an important precondition for ensuring sustainable and healthy societies and economic growth.

The implementation period of the EU co-financed project "Support to coordination and implementation of activities within the EUSBSR Policy Area 'Health'" (PA Health Support 3) was supposed to expire on 30 September 2020 but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been prolonged until 31 December 2021. The project contributes to the coordination of the Policy Area "Health" of the EUSBSR, provides funding for full-time employment of the Project Manager at the NDPHS Secretariat during the project implementation and reporting period, and for capacity building and coordination activities.

One of the most prominent EUSBSR-related activities in 2020 was the workshop "The Art of Staying Healthy – Can Culture Improve Our Wellbeing?" organized by the NDPHS Secretariat in cooperation with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture and Taika – Arts Promotion Centre Finland in connection to the 11th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR on 6 October 2020. The aim of the workshop was to explore the health benefits of art and how arts can be used to promote wellbeing.

During the reported period, the NDPHS Secretariat contributed to the revision of the PA Health Section of the EUSBSR Action Plan in cooperation with the NDPHS Expert Groups and the Committee of Senior Representatives.

Action Line 5. Increasing the Partnership's visibility

In 2020, efforts continued to increase the Partnership's visibility by including provisions regarding the NDPHS in relevant high-level and other documents, organizing thematic workshops, and giving presentations at national and international conferences and other events. After a short initial standstill in March, starting from late-Spring, the number of regional meetings relevant to the NDPHS has increased manifold along with the possibilities for participation due to all events being held online.

The NDPHS' visibility was promoted during various online events by delivering presentations and interventions:

- The 29th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, 24 August 2020;
- The WHO 70th Regional Committee for Europe, 14-15 September 2020;
- The NDPHS conference "Multimorbidity and ageing in the Northern Dimension area", 23 September 2020;
- The workshop "The art of staying healthy: Can culture improve our wellbeing?", 6 October 2020;
- The 11th EUSBSR Annual Forum, 20 October 2020;
- The Northern Dimension Future Forum on COVID-19 session "'We are in it together' – Enhancing regional knowledge exchange to combat COVID-19", 3 December 2020;
- The conference "COVID-19 implications for HIV and TB services in the Baltic Sea Region and North-West Russia", 17-18 December 2020.

The NDPHS visibility was further promoted via social media channels and different publications, including in scientific journals, as presented in the individual Expert Groups' Progress Reports.

AMR EGProgress report for 2020

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	NDPHS Objective 2: Contained antimicrobial resistance – through inter-sectoral efforts supporting the implementation of regional and global strategies and/or action plans.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	Not applicable.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	Horizontal result 2. Strengthened support and involvement of other stakeholders in the NDPHS-facilitated activities (WHO Euro, the ECDC)
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	Development of Work Package 8, “Increased general knowledge and understanding about the reasons for and consequences from antibiotic treatment in the elderly”, for the EU gran application “Support to the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being in the implementation of the new Strategy 2021-2025”.
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	The immediate beneficiaries from the results of the project described above are stakeholders concerned with the effects of AMR, especially those developing and implementing treatment guidelines, and thus ultimately the population of the Baltic Sea Region.
<i>Area covered</i>	Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

<p><i>Implementing organization</i></p>	<p>Russia: The Institute of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (IAC), Smolensk State Medical University (SSMU); Latvia: Center for Disease Prevention and Control, the Ministry of Health; Lithuania: Institute of Hygiene and the National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory; Poland: National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene; Finland: National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and the University of Turku; Germany: The Robert Koch-Institute (RKI); Norway: Norwegian Institute of Public Health; Sweden: Public Health Agency of Sweden (PHAS); Estonia: Public Health Department and the Ministry of Social Affairs; Iceland: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, the Directorate for International and Security Affairs.</p>
<p><i>Essential partners</i></p>	<p>Idem as above</p>
<p><i>Budget</i></p>	<p>All expenses incurred by the representatives for attending the Expert Group meetings have been covered by their respective countries or organizations.</p>
<p><i>Financing agency</i></p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

2. Progress in the implementation in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
<p>1. More representative and comparable AMR surveillance systems developed for implementation in the NDPHS Partner Countries</p>	<p>1.1 Each country should have 50% population coverage in the EARS-Net or CEASAR surveillance data.</p>	<p>1.1 Partly achieved. Available in: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.</p>	<p>The implementation of GLASS will support reaching this target eventually, but at a future horizon.</p> <p>No specific activities were undertaken due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>All efforts made within the Workstream 1 contribute to the realization and impact of Objective 2 of the NDPHS Strategy 2020, i.e. contained antimicrobial resistance, through inter-sectoral efforts supporting the implementation of regional and global strategies and/or action plans.</p> <p>Results from the expanded surveillance of AMR will increase the knowledge about the problem in different settings in the region, inform treatment guidelines for common infections that have public health importance, and guide intervention to contain AMR at all levels, ranging from regional to national and local.</p>
	<p>1.2 Data on ESBL carriage rate should be in place.</p>	<p>1.2 Almost achieved. Available in: Norway, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden.</p>		
	<p>1.3 Countries should have data on the resistance levels in E. coli -caused uncomplicated UTIs in place.</p>	<p>1.3 2 Almost achieved. Available in: Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden.</p>		

	1.4 All countries should have registered for GLASS.	1.4 Almost achieved. All countries apart from Estonia have registered.		
	1.5 All countries should upload data to GLASS.	1.5 Almost achieved. All countries apart from Estonia have uploaded data.		
2. Improved measurement and monitoring of antibiotic use in the Northern Dimension area.	80% of the NDPHS Partner Countries should have national data on antibiotic consumption gathered according to international standards (e.g. ESACNet/ WHO ESAC Working group methodology).	Achieved by all countries.	No specific activities were undertaken due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	As for the AMR surveillance, coordinated and harmonized surveillance of antibiotic use and antibiotic consumption according to standard indicators is essential for identifying the areas for intervention needed nationally and regionally. Findings will help to guide interventions to reach a more prudent use of antibiotics in the region, thereby hopefully reducing the speed at which AMR is increasing.
3. Increased awareness of prescribers and policymakers of the antibiotic resistance situation in the Northern Dimension area and specific measures to be taken.	3.1 80% of the NDPHS Partner Countries should have a dedicated governmental budget where AMR prevention and control is	3.1 The target has partly been achieved, as all partner countries have developed national strategies aligned with the WHO Global Action Plan to contain AMR. Most countries also	No specific activities were undertaken due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	The NDPHS can provide an opportunity to create a forum, or a platform, for sharing and agreeing on some guidelines for diagnosis and treatment (and when to refrain from treatment) of common infections in primary care.

	acknowledged and supported.	have corresponding action plans, but the financing of these action plans is still an issue for some countries.		Good examples of how to develop, implement and follow-up compliance to treatment guidelines can promote a prudent use of antibiotics in the region.
	3.2 All countries should have a national action plan on AMR.	3.2 Almost achieved. Present in: Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, the Russian Federation and Sweden.		
	3.3 All countries should have authorized treatment guidelines which are based on relevant national resistance data.	Project in progress.		

ASA EGProgress report for 2020

Policy document/project name: Surveillance of Alcohol and drug use among hospitalized somatic patients

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Reduced social and health harm from alcohol, tobacco and illicit use of drugs – through strengthening and promotion of multi-sectoral approaches.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	Health equity and social cohesion in all actions. Innovative approaches and technologies.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	Strengthened support and involvement of other stakeholders in the NDPHS-facilitated activities. Increased and strengthened policies to improve health and social well-being through regional cooperation. Increased and strengthened project-to-policy cycle approach in regional cooperation in the area of health and social well-being.
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	Collect and analyze data on the incidence of problematic alcohol use among hospitalized patients admitted to hospital in Oslo (Norway) and Moscow (Russia). Develop suggestions for a simple approach to reveal problematic alcohol use among acutely admitted patients and for intervention programs.

	Develop a project report, publish peer-reviewed articles on the project results, present findings at conferences and disseminate findings among the partner countries (including the NDPHS webpage).
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	Immediate beneficiaries: National health authorities; hospital and primary health care institutions. Ultimate beneficiaries: Patients treated for a somatic illness in hospitals.
<i>Area covered</i>	Norway and Russia
<i>Implementing organization</i>	Oslo University Hospital (OUH), Lovisenberg Diaconal Hospital (Norway), Moscow Research and Practical Centre on Addictions (MRPCA), Moscow Hospital #68 (Russia)
<i>Essential partners</i>	ASA EG, experts from OUH and MRPCA
<i>Budget</i>	2.3 million NOK
<i>Financing agency</i>	The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
<p>1.Improved implementation of early identification and brief intervention programs/ measures to reduce alcohol- and drug use-related harm.</p>	<p>Two countries with drafted/adopted national guidelines on early identification and brief intervention.</p>	<p>Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Sweden, Poland.</p>	<p>The main activities in 2020 were the analysis and comparison of the results, and the preparation of the final report and the planned publications.</p> <p>The project members produced several scientific articles that have been published:</p> <p>1) <i>Predictors of tobacco smoking among acutely ill patients in a Moscow hospital: A cross-sectional study</i>⁷.</p> <p>2) <i>Harmful alcohol use among acutely ill hospitalized medical patients in Oslo and Moscow: A cross-sectional study</i>⁸.</p>	<p>1) For the first time, correlations were established between groups of patients with different diagnoses and their levels of alcohol consumption, providing for more targeted approach in early detection and prevention among the people with somatic illnesses and problematic alcohol use.</p> <p>2) The project results were used by the WHO office in Moscow in the validation of the AUDIT test for the Russian Federation. As a result, a single standard test will be introduced for the whole of Russia.</p>

⁷ Tob Prev Cessat. 2020 Mar 6;6:18. DOI: 10.18332/tpc/117954. eCollection 2020.

⁸ Drug Alcohol Depend. 2019 Nov 1;204:107588. DOI: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.

			<p>3) <i>The prevalence of psychoactive substance use among acutely hospitalized patients in Oslo and Moscow - a cross-sectional, observational study</i>⁹.</p> <p>The results of the project were presented in several international conferences and discussed and presented at the NDPHS ASA EG meetings. Two Norwegian and two Russian researchers carried out their PhD theses based on the study data.</p> <p>Comment: A new proposal for the continuation of the project was submitted to the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services and subsequently approved.</p>	
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⁹ BMJ Open. 2020 Sept 10:e032572. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2019-032572. BMJ 2020.

Policy document/project name: Development of the NDPHS strategy 2020 - 2030

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 - 2030 objectives</i>	Reducing the negative consequences of substance use for individuals and society.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 - 2030 cross-cutting themes</i>	Healthy Ageing, Digitalization, Integrated care.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	<p>Strengthened and more visible role of health and social well-being in the regional agenda in the Northern Dimension area.</p> <p>Increased and strengthened project-to-policy cycle approach in regional cooperation in the area of health and social well-being.</p> <p>Increased visibility of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries.</p>
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	Develop the inputs of the ASA EG towards the new Strategy of the NDPHS.
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	<p>Immediate beneficiaries: Policy-makers of the Partner Countries, healthcare professionals, local and regional administrations, experts.</p> <p>Ultimate beneficiaries: General population</p>
<i>Area covered</i>	Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Russia, Germany
<i>Implementing organization</i>	ASA EG

<i>Essential partners</i>	
<i>Budget</i>	
<i>Financing agency</i>	

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments.	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
The NDPHS Strategy 2020 - 2030	Strategy document prepared.	The first draft of the document prepared.	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the development of the new NDPHS Strategy has been delayed. The deadline for presenting the final version and the adoption by PAC was extended to the end of the year 2021. The Chair and the ITA of the ASA EG have participated in the Strategy Work Group. The ASA EG members have commented and given inputs towards the draft strategy document.	The overall goal of the NDPHS is to contribute to three key UN Sustainable Development Goals. The three objectives of the WHO European Program of Work, 2020 - 2025 "United Action for Better Health in Europe" form an essential part of this work. The work of the ASA EG will aim at reducing the negative consequences of substance use for individuals and the wider society.

Policy document/project name: Contribute to improved policy response to the use of Cannabis and Novel Tobacco and Nicotine Products (NNTP)

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Reduced social and health harm from alcohol, tobacco and illicit use of drugs – through strengthening and promotion of multi-sectoral approaches.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	
<i>Horizontal results</i>	<p>Strengthened and more visible role of health and social well-being in the regional agenda in the Northern Dimension area.</p> <p>Increased and strengthened project-to-policy cycle approach in regional cooperation in the area of health and social well-being.</p> <p>Increased visibility of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries.</p>
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	A study report, a seminar and workshops, development of policy recommendations for (a) the emerging new responsibilities of the health authorities, (b) the tools to counter tobacco industry arguments and interferences, and (c) the public health arguments in debates about the laws prohibiting or permitting cannabis use.
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	<p>Immediate beneficiaries: Policy-makers of the Partner Countries.</p> <p>Ultimate beneficiaries: General population.</p>
<i>Area covered</i>	Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Russia

Implementing organization	ASA EG
Essential partners	ASA EG members, NCM, WHO, EMCDDA
Budget	95 000 EURO
Financing agency	EU

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments.	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
To increase knowledge and political awareness of decision-makers at the national and regional levels in order to emphasize the public health position and to strengthen the public health perspective in the cannabis debate as well as to ensure that the challenges posed by Novel Nicotine and Tobacco Products (NNTP) are tackled.	To develop a project proposal.	The project proposal was developed and submitted for the EU grant application.	After alcohol, cannabis is the most common intoxicant in the Nordic and the Baltic States, and cannabis use is increasing among young adults in most countries. In some countries, policy discussions are related to promoting more robust health perspective and less punitive approach to drug use, including enforcing less legal punishments without legalizing the use and possession for personal use. There is increasing pressure	The studies will collect and document information on 1) drug policies, epidemiological situations, treatment and early intervention offers and legislation issues related to cannabis, collected from the health professionals, policymakers, researchers and through literature review, and 2) the legal cases on NNTP, arguments and facts brought at those cases to get the NNTP under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) regulation in the ND countries, collected through the health officials and parties involved in the disputes.

			<p>from the tobacco industry that e-cigarettes and novel tobacco and nicotine products, in general, should not be treated the same way as tobacco products under the FTCT. They should be subject to a separate set of regulatory measures, permitting communication of product information, attributes and relative risks for adult.</p> <p>Comment: The NDPHS EU grant application was accepted, and the ASA EG will start working on the project according to the plan.</p>	<p>Seminars and workshops organized based on the reports and focusing mainly on how to place emphasis and how to promote the health sector's position in the debate on the revision of policies related to cannabis and NNTP. Participants: National and local authorities, public health specialists, research community, and NGOs.</p> <p>The ASA EG will disseminate the study reports, workshop conclusions, policy briefs and articles through the NDPHS web page and the NDPHS Partner Countries' Health Ministries.</p>
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Policy document/project name: Affordability and cross-border trade of alcohol in the Baltic Sea Region – implications for prevention

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Reduced social and health harm from alcohol, tobacco and illicit use of drugs – through strengthening and promotion of multi-sectoral approaches.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	Health equity and social cohesion in all actions. Innovative approaches and technologies. The ‘Health in All Policies’ approach.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	Increased visibility of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries. Increased and strengthened policies to improve health and social well-being through regional cooperation.
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	To produce a report on alcohol affordability and cross-border trade in alcohol in the NDPHS Partner Countries, including recommendations to policymakers on evidence-based measures to reduce alcohol harm. The long-term aim is to promote local supportive environments, sustainable development and equality in health.
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	Immediate beneficiaries: Policymakers of the member countries. Ultimate beneficiaries: General population.
<i>Area covered</i>	The NDPHS
<i>Implementing organization</i>	Consortium selected by the EU

Essential partners	ASA EG, WHO, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL, Finland)
Budget	n/a
Financing agency	EU

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
Increased knowledge and awareness of the public health impact of cross-border trade on alcoholic beverages.	No. of countries with relevant policy measures.	Five (Norway, Latvia, Sweden, Estonia, Finland)	<p>Cross-border trade of alcoholic beverages is a common phenomenon in the Northern Dimension area. It is crucial to map the size, structure and dynamics (including the trade routes) of the region's market for alcohol smuggling. Focus is put on the countries where reliable data is available. A concept report, including recommendations, is to be produced, and the results to be disseminated to the target group.</p> <p>Comment: The consultant team selected by the EU has started working on the project. Three on-</p>	<p>The report can facilitate increased knowledge and awareness among decision-makers at the national level of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The public health impact of cross-border trade of alcoholic beverages; - Affordability as a possible driving force for cross-border trade, and; - Evidence-based public health promotion and socially sustainable interventions targeting cross-border trade in alcohol.

			<p>line meetings between the consultant team and the ASA EG have been organized. The first draft of the alcohol affordability part of the report was developed and shared with the ASA EG members. Unfortunately, the consultants have not managed to establish working relations with the ASA EG members, e.g. follow up on the members' key concerns, ask for clarifications or missing information, and consider the country-specific input from the ASA members. The ASA EG has shared their concerns with the NDPHS Secretariat.</p>	
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Policy document/project name: Prevention Approaches – learning, experience, training (PALET)

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Reduced social and health harm from alcohol, tobacco and illicit use of drugs – through strengthening and promotion of multi-sectoral approaches.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	
<i>Horizontal results</i>	Strengthened and more visible role of health and social well-being in the regional agenda in the Northern Dimension area.

	<p>Increased and strengthened project-to-policy cycle approach in regional cooperation in the area of health and social well-being.</p> <p>Increased visibility of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries.</p>
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	Network meetings, meeting reports.
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	<p>Immediate beneficiaries: Policymakers of the member countries.</p> <p>Ultimate beneficiaries: General population.</p>
<i>Area covered</i>	Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Russia.
<i>Implementing organization</i>	ASA EG
<i>Essential partners</i>	ASA EG members, NCM, WHO,
<i>Budget</i>	45 000 EURO
<i>Financing agency</i>	EU

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
<p>To establish a network of local municipalities focused on preventive work to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs for the purpose of exchanging experiences and learning from one another's approaches, activities and outcomes.</p>	<p>To develop a project proposal.</p>	<p>Project proposal developed and submitted for the EU grant application.</p>	<p>Harms caused by alcohol and illicit drug use create severe health problems both for individuals and the population at large. It is already a common experience in the countries involved that authorities with different purposes and goals often address the same people. Social workers, police, school authorities, community workers and health authorities of various kinds may all address the same group of people through their separate paradigms. Lack of cooperation leads to ineffective use of public resources and diminishes the effects of preventive activities.</p> <p>Comment: The NDPHS EU grant application was accepted, and the requested funds allocated. The ASA EG will start the project activities according to the timeframe of the project.</p>	<p>a. Clearly defined long-term indicators for improved implementation of policy and prevention activities.</p> <p>b. The creation of arenas for cooperation across administrative and disciplinary boundaries, including in the public sector at national and regional levels as well as in the private sector.</p> <p>c. Effective local alcohol and drug prevention policies.</p> <p>d. The establishment of local public health coordinators, local trainers and peer training among youth will serve as the indicators for the implementation of long-term sustainable prevention work.</p> <p>e. Local public health coordinator positions and local trainers along with peer training among youth will serve as the indicators for the implementation of long-term sustainable prevention work.</p>

HIV, TB and AI EG
Progress report for 2020

Activity name: Regular meetings of Expert Group on HIV, TB and AI

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Objective 1: Reduced impact of HIV, TB and associated infections among key populations at risk, including prisoners, through strengthened prevention and access to treatment.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	Health equity and social cohesion in all actions. Inclusion of people in vulnerable situations in all actions of relevance.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	Increased visibility of the NDPHS and of the Expert Group in the Partner Countries.
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	Country overviews or presentations prepared by general or specialized experts. In their meetings, the EG may discuss and decide about actions/assignments to be implemented by the EG experts before the next meeting, including the preparation of special material (articles, overviews, briefs, posts, etc.). The EG meetings are also use as a tool for establishing links to other EGs or networks working on the same questions.
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	The EG members; The NDPHS CSR members;

	Policymakers from the NDHPS area.
Area covered	The NDHPS Partner Countries.
Implementing organization	The EG on HIV, TB and AI
Essential partners	The EG experts
Budget	Travel and participation costs by the experts and the host organization.
Financing agency	None

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
1. Enhanced international and multi-sectoral stakeholder cooperation on HIV, TB and AI -related issues in the Northern Dimension area, with inclusion of NGOs and broader community representatives.	2-3 more HIV, TB and AI stakeholder cooperation platforms involving NGOs and representatives of other sectors.	The regular meetings of the EG constitute a well-functioning platform and offers opportunities to raise, discuss and agree on the participation in other relevant platforms.	In February 2020, at a face-to-face meeting of the EG, which was held in Poland, a wide representation of Polish experts was present. The COVID-19 pandemic forced to shift to the online working format.	Despite the pandemic, most experts continued to actively participate in the work of the group. The EG, as a human resource, can be better and wider used for small-scale events, such as conferences or studies, either initiated by external actors or the EG itself.

			<p>Advantages: virtual meetings are easier to organize, save time for travels, and are more flexible.</p> <p>Disadvantages: virtual meetings cannot be longer than 2-3 hours; no opportunity for discussions or one-on-one talks outside the meeting; the virtual format does not allow study visits.</p> <p>Lithuania nominated a new expert, who actively stepped in.</p> <p>The Norwegian experts have been very busy with COVID-19 -related tasks and have skipped all the meetings in 2020.</p> <p>The Estonian expert does not participate in the EG's work.</p>	
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Activity name: Overview of low-threshold services in ND Countries

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Reduced impact of HIV, TB and associated infections among key populations at risk, including prisoners, through strengthened prevention and access to treatment
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	Health equity and social cohesion in all actions. Innovative approaches and technologies. Inclusion of people in vulnerable situations in all actions of relevance.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	Increased visibility of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries. Increased and strengthened policies to improve health and social well-being through regional cooperation.
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	Updated information about the availability and arrangements of low-threshold services in the ND countries. An overview of the services by selected indicators. Preparing an article or a post.
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	Immediate: the EG experts, policymakers. Ultimate: people living with HIV, TB and AI, and populations at risk.
<i>Area covered</i>	The NDPHS Partners
<i>Implementing organization</i>	The EG experts. The overview process is coordinated by the EG leadership.
<i>Essential partners</i>	Providers of low-threshold services in the ND countries.
<i>Budget</i>	No earmarked budget.
<i>Financing agency</i>	Not applicable.

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
Improved effectiveness of the HIV, TB and AI preventive actions in the Northern Dimension area.	Support to national preventive actions.	<p>A questionnaire form was drafted by the EG leadership, commented and approved by the EG members.</p> <p>The questionnaire was disseminated to the EG members, filled out and returned in 2020.</p>	<p>The analysis of the returned replies showed gaps in the questionnaire design.</p> <p>The definition of the “low threshold service” was missing and therefore respondents interpreted the questions inconsistently, which affected the result. The questionnaire requires clarification and a re-launch.</p>	<p>The low-threshold services are primarily designed for groups at risk for HIV-infection. The at-risk groups stay in the center of the EG’s attention, and, therefore, knowledge and updated information about the state of the play with the availability and accessibility of low-threshold services being important to the EG. Approaches to and policies for low-threshold services arrangements vary among the ND countries and depend mainly on the epidemiological, political and financial situations.</p>

Activity name: International Zoomference “COVID-19 implications for HIV and TB services in the Baltic Sea Region”, 17-18 December 2020

1. Summary of activity

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Reduced impact of HIV, TB and associated infections among key populations at risk, including prisoners, through strengthened prevention and access to treatment
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	Inclusion of people in vulnerable situations in all actions of relevance. Innovative approaches and technologies.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	Increased and strengthened policies to improve health and social wellbeing through regional cooperation. Increased visibility of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries.
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	Sharing information, practices and experiences about the re-arrangement of HIV and TB services and the changes in clients’ needs in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region.
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	Immediate: health authorities and healthcare professionals, HIV and TB services, NGOs and patient groups. Ultimate: HIV and TB service providers and their clients/patients.
<i>Area covered</i>	Baltic Sea Region: Finland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Northwest Russia, WHO European Office.
<i>Implementing organization</i>	The Consulate of Finland to St. Petersburg
<i>Essential partners</i>	The Expert Group on HIV, TB and AI;

	<p>The General Consulate of Finland to St. Petersburg;</p> <p>Barents HIV/TB Program;</p> <p>The WHO European Office;</p> <p>Regional health authorities in NW Russia.</p>
Budget	About 6,000 euros (costs for Zoom platform, simultaneous interpretation, and translation of presentations)
Financing agency	The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
<p>Enhanced international and multi-sectoral stakeholder cooperation in HIV, TB and AI -related issues in the Northern Dimension area, with inclusion of NGOs and broader society representatives.</p> <p>Improved evaluation of interventions, monitoring,</p>	<p>At least 2 monitoring and best practice reports produced and disseminated to decision-makers and the general public.</p>	<p>The conference was organized in close collaboration with the General Consulate of Finland to St. Petersburg. Funding was provided by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The EG leadership was responsible for the</p>	<p>The material of the conference can be used for overviewing and analyzing the situation, as well as for updates, articles and posts.</p> <p>The continuation of collaboration with the Finnish Consulate is under a question mark</p>	<p>The tradition of collaboration in organizing events dedicated to HIV and associated infections has continued for four years between the General Consulate of Finland and the EG.</p> <p>The online format enabled enlarging the geography of the event, which normally would include North-West Russia and a few Nordic Countries.</p>

<p>data collection and reporting on the HIV, TB and AI situation among the key populations at risk, and the policy/action responses in the Northern Dimension area.</p>		<p>event's content, the invitations of speakers and audience, and the working methods.</p> <p>This was the fourth event organized jointly by the General Consulate of Finland to St. Petersburg and the EG on HIV, TB and AIs.</p> <p>Materials and outputs of the conference were collected, translated and uploaded to the meeting's webpage. Broadcasts from the conference are available on the Finnish Consulate's YouTube channel in Russian and English.</p>	<p>because the Consul of the Social and Health Issues left their post and a new Consul will only be appointed during Summer 2021.</p>	<p>The online conference helped establish new contacts, e.g. with an NGO from Estonia, Russia, Germany, etc.</p> <p>Overall, in times of pandemic it is crucial to maintain contacts and keep each other updated.</p>
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NCD EGProgress report for 2020

1. Summary of activity of the NCD EG

Policy document NCD EG.

Goal: to reduce the impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – through strengthening prevention and addressing lifestyle -related risk factors.

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Objective: 3. To reduce the impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – through strengthening prevention and addressing lifestyle -related risk factors.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health equity and social cohesions in all actions. 2. Innovative approaches and technologies. 3. The “Health in All Policies’ approach”. 4. Inclusion of people in vulnerable situations in all actions of relevance.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	<p><u>Horizontal result 1.</u> Strengthened and more visible role of health and social well-being in the regional agenda in the Northern Dimension area.</p> <p><u>Horizontal result 2.</u> Strengthened support and involvement of other stakeholders in the NDPHS-facilitated activities.</p> <p><u>Horizontal result 3.</u> Increased and strengthened policies to improve health and social well-being through regional cooperation.</p> <p><u>Horizontal result 4.</u> Increased visibility of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries.</p>

	<p><u>Horizontal result 5</u>. Ensured coherence and mutual support in addressing regional challenges and opportunities in the area of health and social well-being through a successful leadership of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region's Health Policy Area.</p>
Immediate objectives	<p>Development and dissemination of the NCD EG work plan for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the project “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” within the participating countries (2019-2021); • Elaboration of the project “PYLL-2-Study renewed for evaluation of trends in death rates from major causes in NDPHS Partner Countries” received funding from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Baltic Sea-Barents-Arctic program; • Preparatory work on the Project “Northern Dimension Countries exploring ways to enhance their human potential inspired by updated analysis of premature losses of life (PYLL)” that received funding from FWC SIEA 2018 LOT 4: Human Development and Safety Net. EuropeAid/138778/DH/SER/multi: Providing Support to Implementation of the NDPHS Strategy; • Participation in the 27th NDPHS Chairs and ITAs’ meeting (Online), the 32nd and the 33rd Committee of Senior Representatives meetings (Online), the 16th World Congress on Public Health, and the conference "Northern Dimension Business's response to COVID-19 Challenges"; • Increased level of activity in between the meetings through different means of communication, such as telephone and video conferencing, Skype, etc.
Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries	<p>Immediate beneficiaries: the public, politicians, stakeholders at various levels, including national or regional and local communities, administrators and health care providers.</p> <p>Ultimate beneficiaries: general population who avoided the development of NCDs.</p>
Area covered	Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, and Sweden.
Implementing organization	<p>The Russian Federation as a Lead Partner, and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Geographically Distant Office on Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, as a Co-Lead Partner.</p> <p>The NCD EG Secretariat: Prof. Rafael Oganov (Russia) – Prof. Oxana Drapkina (Russia) – Chair</p>

	Mr. João Breda – Co-Chair Ms. Galina Maslennikova (Russia) and Dr. Anna Kontsevaya (Russia) - Vice-Chair Dr. Asiia Imaeva (Russia) – ITA
Essential partners	Finland – National Institute for Health and Welfare; the University of Eastern Finland; Latvia – The Ministry of Health; Cross-Sectoral Cooperation Unit, Department of Public Health; Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Lithuania – The Ministry of Health; Centre for Health Education and Disease Prevention; Institute of Hygiene Norway – The Department of Public Health; the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services Poland – The Department of Public Health, the Ministry of Health; Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine Russia – National Medical Research Centre for Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation Sweden - Public Health Agency of Sweden WHO – WHO Regional Office for Europe, Geographically Distant Office on Prevention and control of Non-communicable diseases in the Russian Federation WHO-RUS-GDO
Budget	Each partner provides the funding for the NCD EG activities, including participation in the NCD EG meetings.
Financing agency	The Russian Ministry of Health provides funding for the activity of the NDPHS NCD EG Secretariat.

2. Meetings of the NCD Expert Group

19 (9) NCD EG meeting in 2020	Carried out in an online format on the 23-24 th of March 2020 https://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_19
20 (10) NCD EG meeting in 2020	Carried out in an online format on the 20 th of November 2020 https://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ncd_eg_20_via_zoom

3. Progress in the implementation of activity in January 2020 – December 2020

<p>Expected result</p> <p><i>“Objectives” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Target</p> <p><i>“Methods” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Progress toward target</p> <p><i>“Planned deliverables” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Further action required, obstacles, comments</p>	<p>Sustainability and expected long-term impact</p>
	<p><i>At least 3 more evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle-related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national actions.</i></p>	<p><i>No. of evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle-related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national action.</i></p>		
<p>1. Better implementation of Health-in-All Policies (HiAP) at all levels (local, regional and national) for more effective prevention of non-communicable diseases. Horizontal results laid down in the NDPHS Action plan 2020.</p> <p>1.1 Increased visibility of the NDPHS NCD EG in the Partner Countries.</p>	<p>Promoting NCD prevention programs, including good practices, through intersectoral collaboration in the prevention of NCDs.</p> <p>Develop and integrate comprehensive, sustainable and transparently monitored measures, including, if appropriate, cross-sectorial measures for</p>	<p>Project “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” is implemented within the participating countries.</p> <p>The ND Partner Countries (Russian Federation, Latvia, Sweden) have agreed on the project “Health literacy for general population”, which was included in the EU grant</p>	<p>The elaboration of the Project based on the new Strategy.</p> <p>Defining interested organizations from the Partner Countries for the project implementation.</p>	<p>Implementation in the NDPHS region.</p> <p>Project development and adaptation.</p>

<p>1.2 Strengthened national stakeholder, politician and decision-maker involvement in cost-effective NCD prevention and reduction measures.</p>	<p>tackling NCD risk factors, in the ND Partner Countries' National Action Plans.</p>	<p>application. Sweden has agreed to be the Lead Partner of the Project.</p> <p>The elaboration of the Project "PYLL-Study renewed in all the NDPHS countries (BLR, EST, FIN, GER, ICE, LVA, LTU, NOR, POL, SWE)" received funding from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Baltic Sea-Barents-Arctic program.</p>	<p>Approved for funding; reaching agreement among the Partner Countries on the project preparation and justification.</p>	<p>Project development, justification and implementation.</p>
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<p>Expected result</p> <p><i>"Objectives" as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Target</p> <p><i>"Methods" as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Progress toward target</p> <p><i>"Planned deliverables" as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Further action required, obstacles, comments</p>	<p>Sustainability and expected long-term impact</p>
	<p><i>At least 3 more evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle - related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national actions.</i></p>	<p><i>No. of evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle-related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national action.</i></p>		

<p>2. Work together with all the stakeholders, under the leadership of public health authorities, to prepare, strengthen and review initiatives for preventing lifestyle - related risk factors through integrated and multi-sectoral activity.</p>	<p>Discussing the role and contribution of professional organizations and private sector actors (i.e. non-state actors) in the counseling and monitoring of preventive measures for NCDs and their risk factors throughout the life course.</p> <p>Identifying the structures and agencies to participate in an integrated and multi-sectoral activity for preventing lifestyle-related risk factors (harmful use of alcohol, tobacco use, low physical activity and unhealthy nutrition) in various target groups in the population.</p> <p>Discussing legislative and other regulative initiatives (advertising, prices, taxes, age and time limits for sales, etc.) for reducing harmful use</p>	<p>Common indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of stronger involvement of stakeholders, NGOs and private sector actors (i.e. non-state actors) in the prevention of lifestyle-related NCD risk factors are under adaptation.</p> <p>Project “Northern Dimension Countries exploring ways to enhance their human potential inspired by updated analysis of premature losses of life (PYLL)” received funding from FWC SIEA 2018 LOT 4: human development and safety net. EuropeAid/138778/DH/SER/multi: providing support to implementation of the NDPHS Strategy.</p> <p>Joint activity with the ASA EG members.</p>	<p>Future agreement.</p> <p>Three workshops within the project framework are planned to be organized in 2021.</p> <p>A joint meeting is planned to be organized in 2021.</p>	<p>Implementation within the NDPHS Partners.</p> <p>Implementation within the NDPHS Partners.</p>
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	of alcohol and promoting adequate health -enhancing physical activity and a nutritionally balanced diet in various population target groups, as well as discussing the instruments for monitoring their effectiveness within the ND region.			
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Expected result <i>“Objectives” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i>	Target <i>“Methods” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i>	Progress toward target <i>“Planned deliverables” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i>	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
	<i>At least 3 more evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle -related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national actions.</i>	<i>No. of evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle -related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national action.</i>		

<p>3. More comprehensive national health care system responses to reduce the NCD burden in the ND area.</p>	<p>Active discussion of the challenges for the needed resources (professionals, structures, agencies, funds), their distribution and use in the primary and secondary NCD prevention (including the use of evidence-based high-tech and digital applications) in primary health care and social rehabilitation services.</p>	<p>Participating and giving presentations in the 16th World Congress on Public Health and the Northern Dimension Future Forum on COVID-19.</p>	<p>Including the possibility of conducting surveys in the Work Plan.</p>	<p>Implementation within the NDPHS Partners.</p>
<p>4. Obtaining and promoting mutual interests for collaboration with the other NDPHS Expert Groups.</p>	<p>Finding areas of mutual interest with at least 3 other NDPHS EGs for effective preventive measures for reducing NCDs and their risk factors.</p> <p>Identifying the best structures, agencies and funds within and outside of the health care systems for interagency, cross-sectoral cooperation.</p> <p>Searching for financial and human resources for operational activities.</p>	<p>Agreeing on the areas of mutual interest for effective preventive measures for reducing NCDs and their risk factors with the ASA EG and the PHC EG representatives during the NCD EG meetings and the Conference “Multimorbidity and ageing in the Northern Dimension area”.</p>	<p>The discussions on the practical aspects of collaboration are ongoing.</p>	

<p>Expected result</p> <p><i>“Objectives” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Target</p> <p><i>“Methods” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Progress toward target</p> <p><i>“Planned deliverables” as specified in the NCD EG Work Plan 2020.</i></p>	<p>Further action required, obstacles, comments</p>	<p>Sustainability and expected long-term impact</p>
	<p><i>At least 3 more evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle - related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national actions.</i></p>	<p><i>No. of evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle - related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national action.</i></p>		
<p>5. Streamlining the adjustment of the NCD EG Action Plan for 2017-2020 according to the suggestions and additions issued by the Partner Countries.</p>	<p>Continue the discussion of project ideas for the strategic period 2017-2020; the adoption of the Progress Report for 2020 and the Action Plan for 2021.</p> <p>Discuss the structure of the NCD EG Action Plan for 2017-2021.</p> <p>Define the NCD EG Action Plan priority objectives for 2017-2020 that are agreed between the NDPHS Partner Countries.</p>	<p>Agreed on the adoption of the draft NCD EG Action Plan for 2017 – 2020.</p> <p>Participation in the development of the new NDPHS Strategy 2021 and thereafter.</p>	<p>Discussion on the future activities, projects and agreed strategic documents (guidelines, recommendations, policy declarations, other educational material).</p> <p>Identifying interventions and their target groups and populations.</p>	

The table below summarizes the progress towards reaching the targets defined in the NDPHS Action Plan 2020 prepared, based on the NCD Work Plan 2020.

Objective 3: Reduced impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - through strengthened prevention and addressing lifestyle-related risk factors				
No	Target (2020) as specified in the NDPHS Action Plan	Achieved	In progress	No progress reported in 2020
1	At least 3 more evidence-based measures addressing lifestyle-related risk factors and health implications developed in the project pilot sites in addition to national action	✓	✓	
2	At least 3 more evidence-based measures in preventing overweight and obesity among school age children involving stakeholders in the project pilot sites in addition to national action			✓
3	At least 2 more NDPHS Partner Countries with assessed health system response to NCD outcomes based on the 2014 WHO Europe assessment guide principles		✓	
4	Possible collaboration with at least 3 other NDPHS EGs	✓	✓	
5	Streamlining the adjustment of NCD EG Action Plan for 2020 according to suggestions and additions issued by Partner Countries		✓	

OSH EGProgress report for 2020

Objective 6: Strengthened occupational safety and health and well-being at work - through information and reporting systems, workplace activities and occupational health services.

Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020.

Expected results	Target	Progress toward target	Work done in 2020 Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
1. Tripartite situational OSH analysis for better decision-making basis for addressing OSH challenges in the Northern Dimension area	10 countries One additional ratification	No. of countries with developed/revised national OSH profiles. Ratified ILO Conventions.	No additional ILO ratification.	The ratification of the ILO Conventions assures that countries have OSH policies and that workers have access to occupational health care. Tripartite cooperation at the national level.
2. Coordinated national policy frameworks for health and safety at work and for the provision of working conditions conducive to health and well-being.	At least 7 countries	No. of countries with developed / updated program documents		The NDPHS seldom has a possibility to directly impact national policy frameworks, but we want to emphasize their importance by setting this as an expected result. In the pursuit of a safe and healthy working environment for all workers, each country has to develop an effective national OSH system as a collaborative effort between the government and its social partners. Such a system should

				consist of various elements, including legislation and compliance assurance mechanisms as well as training and information networks. The system needs to be continuously improved through formulating and implementing national OSH programs, as guided by the ILO Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No.187) and Recommendation (No.197).
3. Coordinated special national programs for the development of occupational health services for all working people: - Improve the quality of occupational health service systems further in countries with an operational system. - Develop basic occupational health system concepts for countries in need of improved services. Concept to be approved at the highest political level.	At least 4 countries NOTE! To achieve the final target smaller steps are needed.	No. of countries with programs including action plan NOTE! To achieve the final target smaller steps are needed.	The Expert Group has taken part in the planning and development of the OSH EG aims and objectives for the EU grant project Work Package 7, <i>Updating the core competency of OSH professionals in the changing world of work.</i>	The OSH EG has discussed the challenges of occupational health services in the Partner Countries. Psychosocial challenges and challenges for supporting work ability are emerging in all the countries. Work ability of the ageing workforce (demographic change), the changing working life, digitalization and AI present new OSH challenges. The OSH EG will focus on all of these during the next strategic period.
4. Higher national commitment to the prevention of occupational hazards.	At least 3 countries	No. of countries reporting high-risk sector actions/campaigns.	The EU member countries and Norway are taking part in the EU OSHA Healthy Workplaces campaigns. The 2020-22 campaign focuses on the prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders	The OSH EG should not work in the same theme as the EU OSHA but can utilize the results. Healthy Workplaces -campaign aims to disseminate high-quality information on the subject, encourages an integrated approach to managing the problem, and offers practical

			(MSDs). Norway and Russia have several other campaigns.	tools and solutions that can help at the workplace level.
5. Strengthened training framework for OHS staff in the Northern Dimension area.	One regional training event per year.	No. of organized multi-country events and/or developed curricula.	<p>The ongoing project <i>Enhancing national capacities in strategic OH&S workforce planning and development</i> partly tries to respond to this situation. It is Estonian pilot study for the EU grant project.</p> <p>The Expert Group has taken part in the planning and development of the OSH EG's aims and objectives for the EU grant project.</p>	Updating the core competencies of the OSH professionals in the changing world of work.
6. Better practical implementation of policies through improving information dissemination.	<p>3 Barents Newsletter editions per year.</p> <p>NOTE! Finished the publication.</p>	Increased sharing of practical information.	<p>The OSH EG was not active partly due to the COVID-19 situation. The better prevention project article/executive summary was not written. The project leader was expected to do this, as he has all the results. The Chair tried to reach the project leader several times without answer.</p>	<p>1) Information and communication should be continuous, but group members do not have the resources to continuously communicate alongside their official role.</p> <p>2) Increase visibility and possible cooperation with other parties.</p> <p>The results are meaningful to all the NDPHS countries as well as to the EU and global level actors. Some of the interested users of the results are Eurostat, EU OSHA, ILO and WHO. The NDPHS Partner Countries will in due course re-evaluate their data collection and recording systems related to occupational and work-related diseases.</p>

Other activities done in 2020

Meetings

- The EG OSH 11th Meeting was held on 02 - 03 April 2020, online meeting
- The EG OSH joint meeting with the BSN on OSH was on 20 November 2020, online meeting

Developing the new strategy and accompanying action plan for next NDPHS strategic period

- The EG OSH Chair Riitta Sauni and Owe Österbacka are members of the Strategic Steering Group and they attended meetings.

Cooperation with Baltic Sea Labor Forum (BSLF)

- The EG OSH is collaborating with the project of the Baltic Sea Labor Forum (BSLF) concerning age management and working conditions. BSLF is in charge of the project plan and a representative of OSH EG is involved in the group.
- Two online meeting and one workshop during 2020.

AgeFlag Project Steering Committee

- The Russian representative Nina Rubtsova participated on behalf of the OSH EG in the meetings.

PHC EGProgress report for 2020

Policy document/project name: Development of the NDPHS strategy and action plan in the field of Primary Health Care.

1. Summary of activity.

<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 objectives</i>	Objective 5: Adequately addressed health and social needs related to chronic conditions and the demographic change – through strengthened integration and coordination of care and prevention throughout the life course at the primary care level.
<i>NDPHS Strategy 2020 cross-cutting themes</i>	2.1. Health equity and social cohesion in all actions; 2.3. The ‘Health in All Policies’ approach.
<i>Horizontal results</i>	<p>Horizontal result 1. Strengthened and more visible role of health and social well-being in the regional agenda in the Northern Dimension area.</p> <p>Horizontal result 2. Strengthened support and involvement of other stakeholders in the NDPHS-facilitated activities.</p> <p>Horizontal result 3. Increased and strengthened policies to improve health and social wellbeing through regional cooperation.</p> <p>Horizontal result 4. Increased visibility of the NDPHS in the Partner Countries.</p>
<i>Immediate objectives</i>	<p>Continue effective dialogue between knowledge providers and policymakers in the field of people-centered, integrated care for patients with multi-morbidity, with strengthened coordination and networking between the WHO and national stakeholders in the Northern Dimension area through the organization of Annual Public Health Forum (Autumn 2020, Moscow, Russia);</p> <p>Initiate communication with the NDPHS Secretariat for the organization of a PAC Side-event on PHC and multimorbidity in 2021.</p>

	<p>Plan, organize and conduct a conference on multimorbidity and ageing (June 2020) within the framework of the EU funding for multimorbidity and ageing with national decision-makers participating in order to share experiences in the field of integrated care for the elderly with multimorbidity; develop political responses.</p> <p>Collect and disseminate evidence and best practices in the field of integrated care for the elderly; prepare a publication on multimorbidity and integrated care.</p> <p>Prepare a concept paper on palliative care in the Northern Dimension countries.</p> <p>Facilitate the AgeFLAG -project and provide EG advice for the development of a roadmap to improve health and well-being of aging population of the Baltic Sea Region. Involvement of the PHC EG members in the following activities:</p> <p>Participation in the Project Steering Group;</p> <p>Participation in the NDPHS Taskforce on Healthy Ageing;</p> <p>Participation in the national needs assessment workshops;</p> <p>Contribution to the development of the roadmap;</p> <p>Conduct analysis of the patients' survey results from the Kaliningrad project "Assessment and development of recommendations to improve medical and social outpatient care for patients with chronic non-communicable comorbidity in Northwest Federal District of the Russian Federation in cooperation with other countries operating within the Northern Dimension Partnership in public health and social well-being".</p> <p>Gather best practices on teamwork in PHC – members, multidimensional care, areas of actions and responsibilities for each member, coordination of all activities in PHC teams, useful tools for daily teamwork.</p> <p>Prepare a publication on multimorbidity and integrated care with realistic adapted solutions along the lines of thinking presented in CHRODIS report. The publication should include best practices on strengthening the role of patients and their families in the implementation of integrated care plans.</p> <p>Exchange experiences within the NDPHS Partner Countries, discussion of good practices in:</p> <p>Resource allocation and possible incentives supporting an integrated and better-coordinated care for patients;</p> <p>E-health: digital tools for medical consultations, digital connections between patients and PHC, specialists, and social and healthcare professionals, as well as e-tools for prevention and health promotion.</p> <p>Discuss the economy of ageing in the PHC EG meetings based on the Kaliningrad project experience.</p> <p>Cooperate with relevant regional and international actors to include NDPHS-facilitated health and social well-being items on the regional cooperation agenda in the Northern Dimension area.</p> <p>Include provisions regarding health and social well-being, the importance of the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach, the focus on health inequalities, as well as the Partnership's role in relevant high level and other documents.</p> <p>Work with other relevant stakeholders towards the achievement of the health-related actions and targets as spelled out in the NDPHS Action Plan.</p> <p>Contribute to the development of the AgeFLAG project.</p>
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	<p>Cooperate with relevant stakeholders to communicate the results of the NDPHS projects and/or the NDPHS-facilitated projects to the policy level in the Northern Dimension area, including organization of or participation in appropriate events, such as national and international conferences, forums, and seminars.</p> <p>Approach and encourage stakeholders to communicate, when relevant, the results of interregional projects to the policy level by using the NDPHS structures.</p> <p>Continue dialogue with the NDPHS Partner Countries and Organizations by highlighting current information about the NDPHS work on the home pages.</p> <p>Facilitate the development and implementation of actions and flagship projects defined in the Policy Area Health.</p> <p>Monitor and report the implementation progress within the Policy Area Health.</p> <p>Review the relevance of the Policy Area Health, as described in the EUSBSR Action Plan regularly.</p>
<i>Immediate & ultimate beneficiaries</i>	Policymakers, local authorities, primary health care authorities, public health specialists, NGOs dealing with health and social development issues, general population.
<i>Area covered</i>	Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden
<i>Implementing organization</i>	PHC EG, Partner Countries and Organizations, NDPHS Secretariat, CSR
<i>Essential partners</i>	WHO, IOM, relevant organizations in the partner countries
<i>Budget</i>	Work of the Chair, Co-Chair, ITA, organization of two online Expert Group meetings (26 May 2020 and 12 November 2020) and the organization of the online conference “Multimorbidity and ageing in the Northern Dimension area” (23 September 2020).
<i>Financing agency</i>	<p>The Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation</p> <p>The Ministry of Health and Social affairs of Sweden</p> <p>The European Union</p>

2. Progress in the implementation of activity in 2020

Expected result	Target	Progress toward target	Further action required, obstacles, comments	Sustainability and expected long-term impact
<p>1. Increased awareness among national health policy makers of the increasing prevalence of multimorbidity among the elderly population, and of the effective policy responses.</p>	<p>At least 3 of countries with approved policy documents addressing multimorbidity.</p>	<p>Steps taken to achieve this target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online conference “Multimorbidity and ageing in the Northern Dimension area”, which was financially supported by the EU, was organized on 23 September 2020. The NDPHS EG and national decision-makers were widely represented in the audience. - A policy brief on multimorbidity and ageing in the Northern Dimension area was prepared following the online conference. - A concept paper on palliative care in the Northern Dimension countries was prepared. - The PHC EG representatives participated in the 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) for the program “New Technology and Methods in Health Care in sparsely populated areas” of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) - Materials for the WP 6 of the EU grant application, “Remote services in primary health and social care”, were developed and submitted. - Participation in the AgeFLAG Project activities, including participation in the Project Steering Group, the NDPHS Taskforce on Healthy 	<p>Strengthened coordination and networking between WHO and national stakeholders in the Northern Dimension area through the organization of side events or presentations.</p> <p>Inclusion of palliative care in the NDPHS Strategy after 2020 and in the NDPHS Working Plan 2021.</p>	<p>National strategies and actions are influenced by the results of the PHC EG’s work.</p>

		Ageing, and the national needs assessment workshops, as well as contribution to the development of the roadmap.		
2. Better understanding and commitment of national policy makers to strengthening the role of patients and their families in the implementation of integrated care plans.	At least 3 countries where active role of patients and their families is recommended for inclusion in the integrated care plans.	<p>Steps taken to achieve this target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materials for the <i>WP 6: Remote services in primary health and social care</i> of the EU grant application were developed. - Online conference “Multimorbidity and ageing in the Northern Dimension area” was organized with financial support from the EU on 23 September 2020. The NDPHS EG and national decision-makers were widely represented in the audience. - Policy brief on multimorbidity and ageing in the Northern Dimension area was prepared following the online conference. 	Overview of the best practices in the provision of remote health and social care services, and identification of the existing gaps from the perspective of service users and providers.	Models of integrated care plans, developed by the PHC EG, which will be used by national policy-makers.
3. More in-depth knowledge among health and social care administrators on the resource allocation and incentives to support integrated and coordinated care for patients with multi-morbidity.	3 countries with revised resource allocation and introduced incentives.	<p>Steps taken to achieve the target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The joint project, "Development and implementation of innovative technologies for patient-oriented medical and social care for elderly people with NCDs in cooperation with other countries of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being", continues to be implemented. The project is supported by Russia. - The exchange of experiences between the NDPHS Partner Countries during the PHC EG meetings. The EG discussed good practices in: 	<p>Workshop on the project results is planned for 2021 as a side event for a PHC EG meeting.</p> <p>Discussion on the economy of ageing during the PHC EG meetings based on the Kaliningrad project findings.</p>	National strategies and actions are influenced by results of the EG PHC work.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resource allocation and possible incentives for supporting integrated and better-coordinated care for patients. ○ E-health, including e-tools for medical consultations, e-connections between patients and PHC, specialists, and social and healthcare professionals, e-tools for prevention and health promotion. 		
4. Better identification of psychosocial causes of NCD-related risk behavior among children and adolescents for the purpose of developing adequate preventive measures	3 countries introducing new methodologies and/or models for identification of psychosocial causes.	No progress in 2020.		

Leadership and coordination in the Partnership EGs

(Up to 31 December 2020)

NDPHS Partners	AMR EG	ASA EG	HIV, TB & AI EG	NCD EG	PH EG	PHC EG	OSH EG
Estonia							
Finland			Chair; ITA				Chair; ITA
Germany	Vice-Chair				Chair; ITA		
Iceland							
Latvia					Vice-Chair		
Lithuania							Vice-Chair
Norway		Chair; ITA					
Poland			Vice-Chair				
Russia		Vice-Chair		Chair, Vice-Chair, ITA		Chair, Vice-Chair, ITA	
Sweden	Chair; ITA					Co-Chair	
BEAC							
CBSS							
EC							
ILO							
IOM							
NCM							
UNAIDS							
WHO				Co-Chair			

 - denotes Lead Partner
 - denotes Co-lead Partner