

Rules of procedure for approval of new NDPHS Partners and Participants

Adopted at the 11th Meeting of the NDPHS CSR
in Warsaw, Poland, on 27-28 March 2007

In accordance with the *Declaration concerning the establishment of a NDPHS* adopted in Oslo on 27 October 2003, NDPHS eligible Partners are “the Founding Partners, EU Member States and Northern Dimension Partner Countries, the European Commission and other relevant EU Institutions, regional co-operation bodies, international organisations and financing institutions. Eligible participants are interested sub-national administrative entities in the Northern Dimension area. Other countries or organisations associated with the Northern Dimension may become Partners or Participants of the Partnership in accordance with national legislation or statutes and through a procedure to be established by the Committee of Senior Representatives.”

Countries and international organizations, which meet the corresponding conditions spelled out above, and are willing, able, and pledge to substantially contribute toward the objectives and aims of the *Declaration concerning the establishment of a NDPHS* through participation in the NDPHS meetings, projects and other activities, are welcome to apply for a Partner or a Participant status with the NDPHS. When applying, the following procedure will be adhered to:

1. The applicant country or organization will submit its letter of application, through the NDPHS Secretariat, to the NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives (CSR).

If the applicant is an international organization, it will additionally provide information explicitly validating the following:

- A long-term commitment to promoting sustainable development in the Northern Dimension area through improving human health and social well-being;
- A competence relevant to the NDPHS;
- Its international character (an organization will be deemed international in its character if it has members, branches or affiliated bodies in at least five countries);
- That it is authorized by its founding agreement to represent and speak for its members through its representatives.

2. If the application meets the above criteria, the Head of the NDPHS Secretariat will, in agreement with the CSR Chair, forward the application to the forthcoming CSR Meeting for decision.

3. If the application does not meet the above criteria, the Head of the Secretariat will, on behalf of the CSR Chair, inform the applicant about any possible requested revisions. After any necessary revisions are made by the applicant and the revised application is accepted by the CSR Chair, the Head of the Secretariat will forward the application to the forthcoming CSR Meeting for decision.

- 4.** The CSR Chair will invite the applicant country or organization to attend the said CSR Meeting to enable the applicant to more broadly introduce ideas for its participation in and contribution to the NDPHS before the CSR takes decision.
- 5.** Notwithstanding the above, in order to expedite the decision-making process, the CSR Chair may decide that the Head of the NDPHS Secretariat will forward the application to the CSR for decision through a written (silent) procedure.
- 6.** The Head of Secretariat will, on behalf of the CSR Chair, inform the applicant in writing about the decision taken by the CSR.

These rules of procedure will be amended by the CSR when deemed necessary.