

“Health is wealth and wealth is health”

– the NDPHS holds a regional event to raise parliamentarians’ awareness of the importance of health and social well-being for the economy and other policy areas

Rockstock-Warnemünde, Germany – on 30 August 2015, the Secretariat of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) organised an event for parliamentarians alongside the 24th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC). Entitled “Health is wealth and wealth is health,” the event aimed at increasing the participants’ understanding of the interlinkages between economic development and health and social well-being of the populations in the Baltic Sea Region.

The event was attended by parliamentarians coming from various countries of the Baltic Sea region, for whom it was mainly organised, as well as other participants. Three expert presentations were delivered – (i) an overall one, clearly demonstrating that richer economies are healthier and healthier economies are richer. A number of interesting examples of policies for better public health and economic performance was presented to that end, as well as the role of governments, parliamentarians, and other policy makers in improving health of people stressed; (ii) a presentation focusing on occupational safety and health, which illustrated the interconnection between health and wealth on concrete examples from this area, and showed the remarkable economic potential for positive returns on investments in health and social well-being, and (iii) a presentation exemplifying this interconnection but focusing on the antimicrobial resistance that threatens the fundamentals of today’s modern healthcare, cuts across many different sectors and features a potentially grave human and economic costs.

The participants shared the view that health and social well-being have a significant impact on the economy and other policy areas. They agreed that tackling the health challenges in the Baltic Sea region requires committed, multi-sectorial, regional initiatives, not least of the parliamentarians and other policy-makers. Health ministries, and the health sector at large, cannot successfully address these challenges alone. Improving health and social well-being of the Baltic Sea societies requires everybody’s efforts and a Health-in-All-Policies approach.

Further to the above, the participants agreed that the following message be forwarded from the NDPHS event to the BSPC annual conference:

“Whereas economic prosperity is good for health, good health outcomes also favour economic growth and development. To that end, one should recognise the importance of health and social well-being for the economy and other policy areas, and vice versa, and consider health aspects in all policies.”

The conclusions of the NDPHS event were received well by the participants of the 24th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and **reflected in several paragraphs of the Conference Resolution, which they adopted today** (the Resolution is available for downloading at www.bspc.net/page/show/785).

The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being is a cooperative effort of nine governments, the European Commission and eight international organisations. The Partnership’s mission is to promote sustainable development of the Northern Dimension area by improving peoples’ health and social well-being. It aims to contribute to this process by intensifying cooperation, assisting the Partners and Participants in capacity building, and by enhancing coordination between international activities within the Northern Dimension area.

Visit our website at www.ndphs.org/?mtgs.health_is_wealth_and_wealth_is_health to download the Moderator’s Conclusions as well as speakers’ reports and presentations. Keep an eye on policy developments and explore the world of the NDPHS – a partnership committed to achieving tangible results!

Further information:

NDPHS Secretariat
P.O. Box 2039
Slussplan 9
103-11 Stockholm, SWEDEN
Phone: +46 73 540 5900
E-mail: secretariat@ndphs.org