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Dear Reader...

For any strategy and action plan to be meaningful, successful implementation is a must. They do not, however, get implemented by themselves, but through committed efforts of people who work together, which is why proper implementation structures are indispensable. Within the NDPHS the main burden of the implementation process rests with its expert groups, whose leaderships we are pleased to introduce to you in this e-newsletter issue. We have also included two articles addressing strategic issues seen from a macro-regional cooperation perspective and an article listing key results of our regional project.

Wishing you an enjoyable reading and a relaxing summer!

NDPHS Secretariat

PA "Health" strengthens the policy-to-project-to-policy cycle

The NDPHS, in its capacity as the Policy Area "Health" Coordinator within the EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region (EUS-BSR), successfully organised yet another event – this time a conference promoting the policy-to-project-to-policy cycle held on 28 April 2016 and hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe at its headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark. The event brought together 35 policy and decision-makers, project implementers as well as representatives of academia and funding organisations – all of them interested in exchanging ideas and discussing the expectations they have one of another regarding regional policy and project-related issues.

Eight presentations and discussions following them addressed and underlined that experts need to keep in mind the importance of tailoring their projects to the politically agreed regional priorities, as well as to ensure that relevant project results be brought to the attention of policy and decision-makers. In addition, representatives of already completed projects shared their experiences on how to ensure both a close link to the policy level throughout the project lifecycle, and the relevance of key project outcomes for policy and decision-makers.

Equally appreciated was the practical information about upcoming funding calls relevant for health-related projects in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond, which was presented by the NDPHS Secretariat and representatives of funding programmes. Those interested in implementing regional projects

additionally benefited from discussing their own project concepts during bilateral consultations with the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 held on the side-lines of the event.



The participants agreed that **the policy-to-project-to-policy approach is indispensable in making meaningful and lasting contributions to systemic improvements in the Baltic Sea Region and, in this way, to successfully addressing regional challenges to health and social well-being.** In this regard the conference offered several interesting insights and pieces of useful advice. Furthermore, the event presented a good opportunity to discuss possible future projects and establish new contacts.

The presentations given during the conference, the Moderator's Conclusions as well as other documents are available from the event's page on the NDPHS website: http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ppp_conference.

We hope the conference will have its follow-up in several successful regional initiatives closely following the event's conclusions, and we sincerely thank the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 and the WHO Regional Office for Europe for their support in making this event possible.

NDPHS Secretariat





Reformed NDPHS Expert Groups kick off. Here are their leaderships

Following the adoption of the new NDPHS Strategy 2020 and its accompanying Action Plan, the NDPHS governing body, the Committee of Senior Representatives, has reformed the previously operating expert-level structures into seven expert groups during its meeting on 21-22 October 2015 in Stockholm, Sweden. The groups have since taken shape and engaged in activities which focus on facilitating and implementing objectives and tasks that have been assigned to them in the above-mentioned Strategy and Action Plan. Each Expert Group has a Lead Partner and co-Lead Partner whose

role is to initiate and lead the group's activities as well as to provide support to prompt activities. Expert Groups are headed by Chairs, who are supported by vice-Chairs and assisted by International Technical Advisers (ITAs). They consist of representatives nominated by countries and organisations being members of the Partnership. External experts are often invited to partake and reinforce the groups' expertise with their valuable contributions.

With this newsletter issue, we are pleased to introduce you to the Chairs and ITAs of our new Expert Groups.

Expert Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR EG)

Lead Partner: **Sweden**

Co-Lead Partner: **Germany**

Chair

Mr Johan Struwe is a MD, PhD and associate professor specialised in infectious diseases. His main area of work is antimicrobial stewardship and surveillance of antimicrobial use, antimicrobial resistance and health-care associated infections. From 2012 to 2014, he was seconded by the Swedish government to WHO, where he participated in the compilation of their first global report on surveillance of antimicrobial resistance.



ITA

Ms Emily Sellström holds a MSc in Molecular biology from the Stockholm University. In 2004, still during her studies, she was part-time employed at the Public Health Agency of Sweden (formerly the Swedish Institute for Communicable Disease Control). She enjoyed working there so much that she has stayed with the Agency until now, with a short break for living in Hong Kong. She has been working with the antibiotic resistance and infection control issues since 2013.



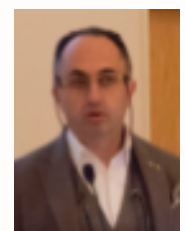
Expert Group on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ASA EG)

Lead Partner: **Norway**

Co-Lead Partner: **Russia**

ITA

Mr Zaza Tsereteli, graduated from Tbilisi State Medical University with the Honored Diploma and holds MPH in the International Health Care Development from the Royal Tropical University (KIT), Amsterdam, Netherlands. He is a public health specialist working for the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services. Dr. Tsereteli's knowledge and competencies are built on 25 years of experience in different positions and at different levels both with the national government, and international agencies. He served at various times as an International Technical Advisor for the Expert Group on HIV/AIDS, Prison Health, and Primary Health and Prison Health Systems of the NDPHS. He was a coordinator of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme within for the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. Currently he coordinates the TB Programme under the Barents Cooperation. Dr. Tsereteli worked also for UN organisations. He was the EPI/Disease Control Officer at UNICEF/Georgia in early 90's, and during 2006-2008 he served as a Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinator for UNODC in Ukraine and Moldova. His areas of expertise include the design and development of programmes in the areas of prevention of HIV/AIDS, alcohol and substance abuse, TB and prison health; collaboration and coordination at international and national level with multilateral and bilateral organisations; reviewing of programme/grant proposals, including for the Global Fund.





2 ▶ Reformed NDPHS Expert Groups kick off. Here are their leaderships

Expert Group on HIV, TB and Associated Infections (HIV, TB & AI EG)

Lead Partner: **Finland**

Co-Lead Partner: **Poland**

Chair

Mr Ali Arsalo, MD, PhD, is a practising physician and a specialised surgeon, nowadays working in the field of occupational health care and living in the Finnish Lapland. After his studies he worked in rural Senegal as the doctor of a wide programme, targeted for developing both primary health care and basic secondary level services. After returning to Finland, he worked for several years in a private surgical polyclinic, and subsequently as a senior expert for international development collaboration in a governmental centre for development of health and social welfare (Stakes). He also worked in Namibia, after which he returned to Stakes to take up a position of the director of the unit for international development collaboration. During his latter assignment, he contributed to developing and implementing cross-border collaboration between Finland, Baltic Region and North West Russia, including chairmanship of the Expert Group on Primary Health Care of the Baltic Sea Task Force on Prevention of Communicable Diseases. Finally, he participated, as a sector representative, in a national working group on the Northern Dimension, in the development of the initiative that led to the establishment of the NDPHS.



He has wide experience in project planning management and evaluations, especially in the use and training of the Logical Framework Approach (LFA), in Finland, Baltic Region, Africa and Asia.

ITA

Ms Paula Tanhuanpää holds M.Sc. in Health sciences and is a Registered Nurse. Currently, she is employed as a Development Manager at the Centre for International Affairs at the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland. She has made her career as a home office leader, manager and coordinator of international health and development projects. During 2006-2013, she served as a secretariat member and project manager for the International Association of National Public Health Institutes, IANPHI, and was directing more than 20 IANPHI grant program projects, primarily in Africa. She currently serves also as main advisor on health and population issues and HIV/AIDS in a THL team providing expert advisory services for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.



She is a member in the Global Health Network of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and in the 'Friday group' of the Finnish All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, which convenes Finnish parliamentarians, civil servants and NGOs interested in promoting global sexual and reproductive health and rights issues. Her areas of expertise include global health, public health, essential public health functions, public health institutes as well as development policy and development cooperation.

ITA

Mr Dmitry Titkov currently works at the Centre for International Affairs at the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland. He started working for international development cooperation programmes back in the late 90's when he lived in Russia, Republic of Karelia. He specialises in planning, implementation and coordination of development and technical assistance projects in the Northwest Russia and Central Asia. He managed several projects focused on prevention and control of HIV and associated infections in general population and vulnerable groups. During 2011-2015, he worked as the International Technical Advisor for the Expert Group on Non-Communicable Diseases.





3 ▶ Reformed NDPHS Expert Groups kick off. Here are their leaderships

Expert Group on Non-communicable Diseases (NCD EG)

Lead Partner: **Russia**

Co-Lead Partner: **WHO Europe**

Chair

Dr. Rafael G. Oganov, M.D., Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor Cardiologist, Academician of Russian Academy of Sciences, is a Major Scientist and Head of the Department of Comorbidity Condition Prevention of the National Research Center for Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation. Prior to holding these positions, since 1982 and up to 2011, he worked for the National Research Center for Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation. Dr. Oganov R.G. was appointed as the General Expert on Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation (2006-2011) and as the Chairman of the Expert Council on Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion under the Academy of Medical Sciences of the Russian Federation (2000-2010). Further, he was a director and coordinator in a variety of cooperative international programs on epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases in the USSR and Russia such as CINDI (National director, 1985-2011), MONICA (coordinator, 1983-2001), Intergovernmental Russia-USA cooperation on "Epidemiology and prevention of cardio-pulmonary diseases" (coordinator, 1988-1998).



ITA

Ms Oksana V. Stefanyuk, M.D. in Biological Sciences, is a research associate at the Department of Biochemical Markers of Non-Communicable Disease Research of the National Research Center for Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation.

Prior to this position Ms Stefanyuk headed the Department of International Scientific Collaboration and Medical Information at the Central Scientific Research Institute for Gastroenterology under the Ministry of Health of Moscow (2009-2013). She was involved as a technical coordinator in a number of cooperative national and international projects, multicenter epidemiological studies. She is the Executive Director of Gastroenterological Scientific Society of Russia and a publishing manager of the Experimental and Clinical Gastroenterology Journal (since 2010).



Expert Group on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH EG)

Lead Partner: **Finland**

Co-Lead Partner: **Lithuania**

Chair

Mr Wiking Husberg is a Ministerial Advisor on OSH in the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Department of OSH. He started working on OSH in 1973 as a safety engineer with the Finnish Government. He was cooperating with the Nordic and European countries concerning machine safety, standardisation and market surveillance in the 70's. Consultancy work has taken him in the 80's to the Eastern European countries, which more recently joined the EU. He was Chief Technical Advisor at the ILO in English-speaking Africa and a Team Leader within the European Union's TACIS Programme in Russia in the 90's. He spent nine years as the Senior occupational safety and health specialist in Moscow with the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia before returning to Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in 2012, where he deals with international issues and OSH.



ITA

Ms Päivi Hämäläinen currently works in the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Department for Occupational Safety and Health. Her responsibilities include the national and international analysis of the research information, statistics and different reports as well as the future forecast in the field of occupational safety and health. Before she started working at the ministry, she was a researcher for almost 20 years and defended her doctoral thesis in 2010. Her field of specialisation are international occupational safety situation and statistics, safety and risk management, as well as well-being at work.





4 ▶ Reformed NDPHS Expert Groups kick off. Here are their leaderships

Expert Group on Primary Healthcare (PHC EG)

Lead Partner: **Russia**

Co-Lead Partner: **Sweden**

Chair

Dr. Yulia Mikhaylova is a full member of the International Informatization Academy, which is an associated member of the United Nations, and a Russian Federation State Duma expert on health care. She is also the head of the scientific project on the quality assessment in primary health care of the Ministry of Health Russian Federation. Mrs Mikhaylova is working on a wide range of scientific issues, such as: health care strategy development in Russia, primary health care development, health care in prisons, medical and social care in socially significant diseases, health care system economics, human resources for healthcare etc.



Currently, Dr. Mikhailova is the First deputy director of the Federal Research Institute for Health Organisation and Informatics of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation. She is an author of more than 300 scientific articles on health care system, health organisation and public health.

ITA

Ms Zulfia Izhaeva is a pharmacist and holds PhD in sociology. She worked on a wide range of scientific issues, such as sociological research in public health, health workforce retention and improving the quality of mother and child care. Ms Izhaeva was a volunteer in the WHO Headquarters, completed an internship at the WHO Regional Office for Europe and worked at the WHO Country Office in Moscow.



Currently she is a head specialist at the International Cooperation Department of the Federal Research Institute for Health Organisation and Informatics of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation as well as the Deputy Chair of the Ethics Committee for Sociologic Research in Health Care System of the Federal Research Institute for Health Organisation and Informatics.

Expert Group on Prison Health (PH EG)

Lead Partner: **Germany**

Co-Lead Partner: **Latvia**

Chair

Dr. Marc Lehmann studied medicine in Cologne during a 17-year military officer career in the German Navy and Army. He specialises in general medicine and acquired several diplomas, e.g., occupational medicine, emergency medicine and in additional medicine. Subsequently, he was the leading medical officer in the biggest German prison for juveniles. During that time, he led a 14-state project on electronic medical prison health records. He was, subsequently, employed as medical adviser at the German Ministry of Justice of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and, since 2009, he is the head of the Berlin state prison medical services and the chief medical officer of the Berlin Prison hospital. He wrote several scientific publications on prison health and is member of professional bodies.



ITA

To be appointed.



Macro-Regional Development and the Health Economy

A new publication from the H2020 project DanuBalt, "Macro-Regional Development and the Health Economy: Practical Experiences, Models and Concepts for Macro-regional Collaboration between Regions and Clusters,"¹ presents models and concepts for collaboration between regions and clusters with a focus on health and the health economy.

A key issue is how to enhance national/regional public-private investments in the health economy while ensuring alignment with the priorities and opportunities available from various EU funds (like ESIF, Horizon2020) in order to make progress on the road towards smart specialization.

The report draws from experiences gained in ScanBalt BioRegion since 2001 and seeks to explore the value lessons learned for the Danube Area. Its intent is to inform a toolbox or process that can be applied in the Danube Area – or any other macro region for that matter.

Closer clinic-industry collaboration pivot

In order to further exploit the potential of the market and meet the societal challenges a process in 2014 was initiated aiming for the "Baltic Sea Region as one test site for development of health care products and services".

One major gap specifically targeted is the lack of close clinic-company collaboration. SMEs often miss access to existing clinical infrastructure in other countries e.g. to validate diagnostic tools and processes. Additionally, clinicians are burdened by increasing clinical routines and thus rarely can commit to generating and then (more critically) following through the development of innovative ideas from "bench to bedside" or vice versa.

The Baltic Fracture Competence Centre

A concrete project assisting to close the gap is The Baltic Fracture Competence Centre (BFCC, Interreg Baltic Sea Region) initiated 2016 and coordinated by Life Science Nord. BFCC will respond to the challenges within fracture management by aiming at accelerated and effective transnational collaboration for innovation within fracture management in the Baltic Sea Region.

The BFCC develops and implements a transnational fracture registry platform of 6 hospitals from Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, allowing a

Macro-Regional Development and the Health Economy:

Practical Experiences, Models and Concepts for Macro-regional Collaboration between Regions and Clusters

A publication from the DanuBalt project (www.danubalt.eu) financed by Horizon 2020



Authors: Peter Frank, ScanBalt® fmba; Katalin Kurucz, Bay Zoltán; Andreea Constantin & Mădălin Ioniță, FM Management Consultancy SRL; Hicham Abghay and Verena Neubauer, Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum; Frank Graage, Steinbeis Team Northeast; Petr Rychtecký, St. Anne's University Hospital Brno; Jonathan Watson, HealthClusterNet.

comparison of the process and outcome quality across institutions and countries. This transnational research and innovation infrastructure will foster the evidence based identification of clinical best practice and needs for innovation.

For further information please contact the author of the article at pf@scanbalt.org.

*Peter Frank, PhD
General Secretary
ScanBalt® fmba*

¹ Peter Frank, ScanBalt® fmba; Katalin Kurucz, Bay Zoltán; Andreea Constantin & Mădălin Ioniță, FM Management Consultancy SRL; Hicham Abghay and Verena Neubauer, Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum; Frank Graage, Steinbeis Team Northeast; Petr Rychtecký, St. Anne's University Hospital Brno; Jonathan Watson, HealthClusterNet (May 2016): Macro-Regional Development and the Health Economy: Practical Experiences, Models and Concepts for Macro-regional Collaboration between Regions and Clusters (DanuBalt financed by H2020).



“PA Health Support” project coming to an end. Results widely appreciated



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION

POLICY AREA ‘HEALTH’



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FUND

Although it feels as if it started only yesterday, 14 months have passed since our “PA Health Support” kicked off and is now coming to an end. Implemented by the NDPHS Secretariat with the highly appreciated co-financing from the EU’s Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020, the project strengthened the capacity of the NDPHS as the Policy Area “Health” Coordinator within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and greatly contributed to the Partnership’s efforts aimed to ensure coherence and mutual support in addressing regional challenges and opportunities in the area of health and social well-being.

More specifically, the project activities focused on achieving the following objectives:

- 🔧 Increasing awareness among regional policy and decision makers of the importance of health and social well-being for the economy and other policy areas and thereby strengthening the understanding of the Health in all Policies (HiAP) approach;
- 🔧 Increasing understanding of the policy-to-project-to-policy cycle among relevant decision makers and project implementers in the field of health in the Baltic Sea Region;
- 🔧 Fostering dialogue between EU and non-EU countries in the Baltic Sea Region, as well as NDPHS and non-NDPHS actors about the possibilities to develop joint regional interventions addressing shared challenges;
- 🔧 Strengthening basic knowledge about the Policy Area “Health” and the regionally agreed health and social well-being objectives among relevant stakeholders;
- 🔧 Increasing engagement of regional actors in the Policy Area “Health.”

The project delivered many well-received results, which helped achieve the above objectives, the most interesting being (please explore the NDPHS website for further details):

- 🔧 A study and a report on “The Importance of Health and Social Well-being for the Economy and Other Policy Areas” (<http://www.ndphs.org/?database,view,paper,98>) complemented by an information leaflet (<http://www.ndphs.org/?database,view,paper,114>), both of which have been widely disseminated and presented during various events such as the one named immediately below;
- 🔧 A “Health is wealth and wealth is health” event organised by the NDPHS Secretariat on the sidelines of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference’s annual event (http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,health_is_wealth_and_wealth_is_health);
- 🔧 A workshop organised alongside the 6th EUSBSR Annual Forum (http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,eusbsr_annual_forum_2015_workshop);
- 🔧 A regional policy-to-project-to-policy conference (http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs,ppp_conference);
- 🔧 Several meetings which brought together EU and non-EU stakeholders who discussed joint regional activities and led to the development of several project concepts.

You can find a general information about the project at: <http://www.ndphs.org/?database,view,project,1470>.

While thanking all those many stakeholders for working with us and making the project a success, we are pleased to announce that the NDPHS Secretariat has been granted new funding by the same donor, which will allow us to continue our EUSBSR-related efforts. We look forward to working with all interested actors – please contact us after summer holidays if you want to join in!

NDPHS Secretariat

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While the contributions received for this issue are highly appreciated, it should be noted that the views and opinions expressed by the contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

We plan to publish the next issue in autumn 2016.

Contributions are encouraged and welcome. If you are interested, please contact us at the NDPHS Secretariat.

NDPHS Secretariat
P.O. Box 2039
103-11 Stockholm, Sweden
E-mail: secretariat@ndphs.org
Website: www.ndphs.org
Visiting address:
Slussplan 9
111-30 Stockholm