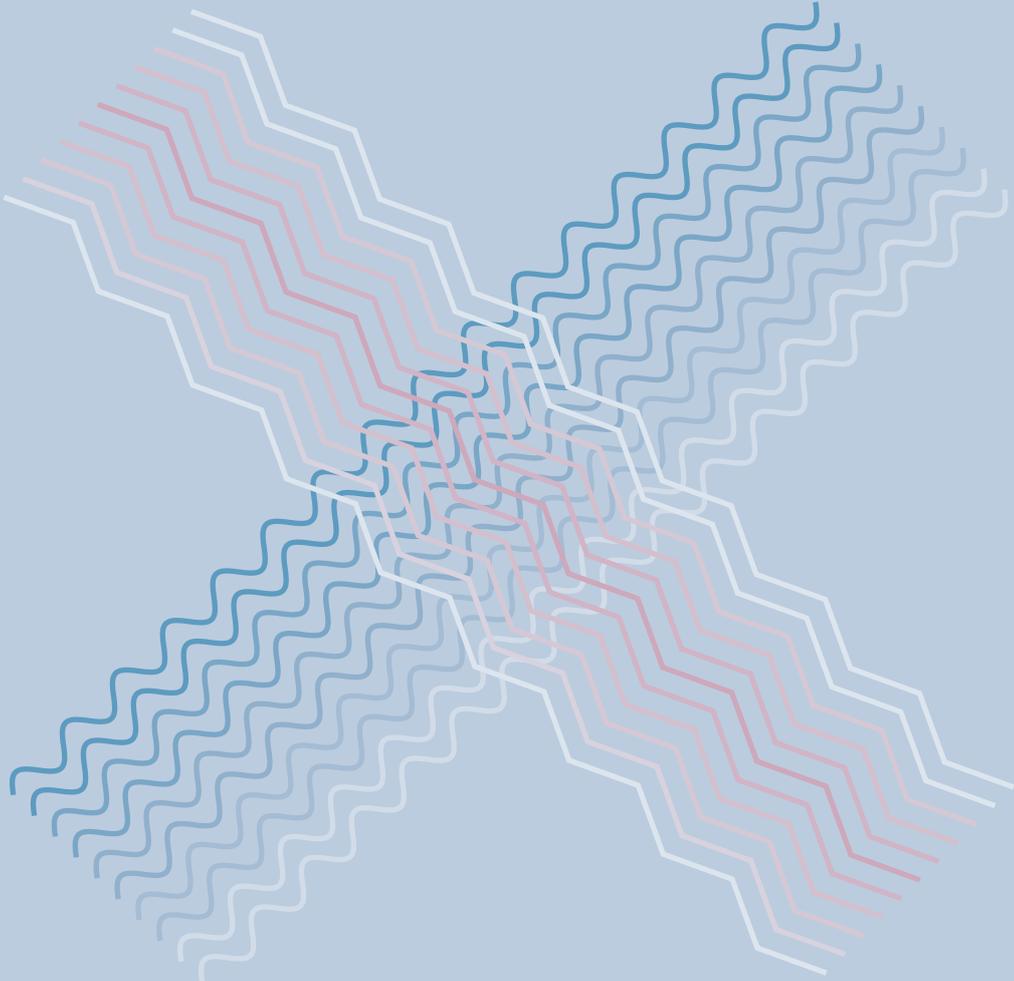


WORK PLAN
2022

Connecting minds
for healthy lives



NDPHS

Northern Dimension
Partnership in Public Health
and Social Well-being

Adopted by the NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives on 5 May, 2022.

List of abbreviations

CSR NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives

EG NDPHS Expert Group:

AMR EG Expert Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

ASA EG Expert Group on Alcohol and Substance Use

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

NCD EG Expert Group on Non-Communicable Diseases

OSH EG Expert Group on Occupational Safety and Health

PHC EG Expert Group on Primary Health Care

PH EG Expert Group on Prison Health

EUSBSR European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

MP Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Establishment of the NDPHS Secretariat

ND Northern Dimension

NDPHS Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being

PAC NDPHS Partnership Annual Conference

WHO World Health Organization

Table of contents

1.	Ambition for 2022	5
2.	NDPHS Actions in 2022	6
2.1.	Connecting minds for healthy lives	6
2.2.	Sharing knowledge	8
2.3.	Learning from each other	11
2.4.	Caring for people	13
2.5.	Telling the NDPHS story	14





1. Ambition for 2022

The ambition of the Partnership in 2022 is to remain an expert level politically neutral regional forum for professional exchanges in the field of health and social well-being.

In 2022 we will continue efforts towards the Partnership becoming more efficient in delivering practical outcomes that are useful to Partners for informed public health policies.

At the same time, we will explore and try on new roles as health advocates, opinion leaders, change managers, by being more strategic, consistent, ambitious, and creative in promoting the values of the Partnership.

Finally, in 2022 we aspire to become stronger communicators and to tell the NDPHS story clearly, precisely and in an engaging way.



2. NDPHS Actions in 2022¹

2.1. CONNECTING MINDS FOR HEALTHY LIVES

The Partnership's purpose is connecting minds for healthy lives. A network of like-minded public health enthusiasts, sometimes even described as a family, this is what we enjoy and do best – bringing people together to co-create for the benefit of wider communities. In 2022, we will connect at:

2.1.1. Meetings of the NDPHS Expert Groups

- Six NDPHS Expert Groups – AMR EG, ASA EG, HIV, TB &AI EG, NCD EG, OSH EG, PHC EG - will meet at least twice during 2022.

Deliverables in 2022: at least 12 EG meetings held in total.

Led by:
Expert Group
leadership

- PH EG, without a Chair from 2021, will meet at least once in 2022.

Deliverables in 2022: one PH EG meeting organized.

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The CSR Chair and the NDPHS Secretariat will continue efforts to ensure that a Chair of the PH EG is appointed during 2022.

2.1.2. Meetings of the NDPHS governing bodies

- The CSR and MP will each meet twice in 2022, for a spring and autumn session. The CSR will also continue acting as the Steering Group of the Policy Area “Health” in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The meetings will be held either face to face or virtually or as hybrid events.

Deliverables in 2022: two CSR and two MP meetings organized.

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2.1.3. Closer cooperation with other sectors for promotion of Health in All Policies and economy of well-being

- Since 2009 the NDPHS has been coordinating the Policy Area “Health” in the EUSBSR. The EUSBSR, being a cross-sectoral framework, provides an excellent platform for the NDPHS to advance its efforts in areas such as

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1. Many of the NDPHS activities planned in 2022 were supposed to be financed from two EU funding sources – either MITTENS project or, in one case, a framework contract. The European Commission has decided to suspend these funding sources, since “as a result of the unprovoked and unjustified Russian military aggression against Ukraine, DG NEAR is suspending all planned and ongoing programmes and activities with the participation of Russian public authorities and state-owned enterprises.” The activities planned to be financed from these funding sources have been marked with (*) in this Work Plan. Their implementation is at risk, however, the Partnership will take every effort to ensure alternative funding sources so that planned activities can be implemented, even if with a delay.

promotion of Health in All Policies. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the link between wellbeing, health and the economy, placing the concept of Health in all Policies (HEiAP) at the top of the political agenda. According to the revised Action Plan, the priority in the Policy Area “Health” is “Promoting a Health in All Policies approach with focus on the impact of environmental factors on human health”.

In 2022 the NDPHS Secretariat will explore opportunities for teaming up with coordinators of other Policy Areas to promote the ideas of Health in All Policies/ Economy of Well-being. Deliverables in 2022: two AgeFlag Task Force meetings held.

Deliverables in 2022: at least one project application jointly with a partner from a non-health sector.

2.1.4. Promoting active and healthy ageing

AgeFlag
Task Force;
NDPHS
Secretariat

- The NDPHS AgeFlag Task Force is established to develop cooperation among NDPHS countries in the field of active and healthy ageing. It aims to expand the existing stakeholder networks, facilitate knowledge exchange, learning from others and contribute to improved health and wellbeing of the ageing population. It will meet at least twice in 2022. The Task Force’s work will be guided by the NDPHS Manifesto “Connecting Minds Across the Ages” adopted by the 15th PAC in 2021 and the roadmap of developing the NDPHS flagship “AgeFlag”.

Deliverables in 2022: two AgeFlag Task Force meetings held and an action plan for the flagship process developed.

2.1.5. Increasing stakeholder and institutional capacity to tackle regional health challenges

ASA EG

- An NDPHS network of local municipalities will be established*, focused on prevention work to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs. The aim is to exchange experiences on how to improve cooperation across administrative and disciplinary boundaries.

Deliverables in 2022: one network meeting organized.

2.1.6. A symposium of NDPHS experts

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- In response to a long-standing call of the Expert Groups to provide a forum for exchanges between all NDPHS experts regardless of their membership in a particular Expert Group, a symposium of members of the NDPHS Expert Groups will be organized in autumn 2022 in conjunction with the CSR meeting.

The ambition, scope, agenda and modalities of the event depend on resources available and the epidemiological situation.

Deliverables in 2022: a symposium held.

2.2. SHARING KNOWLEDGE

The PAC 15 re-affirmed that NDPHS is a valuable cooperation platform, and the existing cooperation model shall not be changed. Pandemic brought many changes in science and in society. To make NDPHS countries more resilient at a time of increasing uncertainty it is important for the Partnership to be more efficient in providing more practical outcomes that are useful to the NDPHS stakeholders. One way of responding to this request will be putting more emphasis on producing and sharing (scientific) knowledge, with the aim of supporting informed decision-making:

2.2.1. Organisation of an event at the Annual EUSBSR Forum

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- Yearly EUSBSR Annual Forums have been a tradition since the establishment of the EUSBSR and NDPHS has (co)organized sessions at many of them. EUSBSR Annual Forums provide a good opportunity for connecting with new partners and are helpful for raising the visibility of the NDPHS, therefore, once the themes of the sessions are announced, the NDPHS Secretariat, together with interested Expert Groups, will prepare, and conduct a session at the EUSBSR Annual Forum.

Deliverables in 2022: a thematic session at the EUSBSR Annual Forum on 28-29 September 2022.

2.2.2. Improved measurement and monitoring of antibiotic consumption (AMC) and use (AMU) in the NDPHS countries*

AMR EG

- The ongoing surveillance of AMC and AMU in the NDPHS countries will be mapped in 2022-2023, to obtain a better understanding of the situation in the region and inform possible interventions to reach a more rational use of antibiotics if needed.

Deliverables in 2022: an activity plan developed and approved by the AMR EG.

2.2.3. Increased general knowledge and understanding about the reasons for and consequences from antibiotic treatment in elderly patients*

 AMR EG

- In 2022 – 2023 the existing data sources will be mapped on the situation in the 65+ patients' group regarding antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial use, and occurrence of healthcare associated infections, thus identifying important areas for interventions.

Deliverables in 2022: collection of data started.

2.2.4. Study on alcohol affordability, cross-border trade of alcohol and alcohol-related harm in the ND countries*

 ASA EG

- A report will be produced on alcohol affordability index (AAI) and cross-border trade in alcohol in the ND countries, to study the relationship between alcohol affordability and cross-border trade and estimate the association between AAI and its components and public health outcomes.

Deliverables in 2022: data collection process.

2.2.5. Policy response to the use of Novel Tobacco and Nicotine Products*

 ASA EG

- Another study to be implemented by the ASA EG in 2022-2023 aims to increase the knowledge and awareness among decision makers at national and regional level about public health perspective of tackling challenges related to Novel Nicotine and Tobacco Products. Study report and factsheets will be produced within the project and disseminated through workshops and seminars.

Deliverables in 2022: data collection completed.

2.2.6. Comparative analysis of EMIS data for ND countries*

 HIV, TB & AI EG

- The European Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men Internet Survey (EMIS) was so far conducted twice – in 2010 and 2017 – to collect data in the MSM community throughout Europe about sexual health, behaviors, perceptions, needs, barriers, and interventions with relation to HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

In 2022-2023 the HIV, TB & AI EG will prepare a roadmap (including the research questions and defining the variables for analysis), extract from EMIS

data relevant to the NDPHS countries, conduct analysis, present, and validate results of the analysis at a feedback workshop with representatives of all countries involved in the analysis, prepare and submit a manuscript for publication at a peer-review journal, disseminate the results of the study (a policy brief).

Deliverables in 2022: analysis conducted, study report prepared, feedback workshop conducted.

2.2.7. Inventory of approaches to Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) in the ND countries*

HIV, TB & AI EG

- WHO's End Tuberculosis strategy has set the target for TB elimination globally in 2035. The TB elimination is impossible without management of LTBI. The WHO recommends that LTBI be tested and treated in certain risk groups that are susceptible to developing an active TB disease. The aim of the study to be implemented by the HIV, TB & AI EG in 2022-2023 is to gain knowledge of current practices of screening and treating LTBI in the ND countries. The information gathered and analysed together with a published scientific report and workshop held, would be ideally a basis for a wide and practical discussion on how to develop LTBI diagnostics and treatment in ND countries.

Deliverables in 2022: study report and workshop to present study findings.

2.2.8. Publication of the results of the Potential Years of Life Lost 2 (PYLL 2) study

NCD EG

- In 2021 the NCD EG implemented a project "PYLL 2 – Study renewed for evaluation of trends in death rates from major causes in NDPHS Partner Countries," the results of which have been disseminated and discussed at three online seminars held in 2021. To further disseminate the results in a consolidated way, publication in national and international journals are planned.

Deliverables in 2022: at least two publications.

2.2.9. Publication of the results of the “Better prevention, identification and reporting of work-related and occupational diseases and emerging risks” project OSH EG

- “Better prevention, identification and reporting of work-related and occupational diseases and emerging risks” project was implemented by the OSH EG in 2017-2018. Several conclusions and recommendations were made based on the study, which should be disseminated more widely, but it was delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic and will be undertaken in 2022.

Deliverables in 2022: one publication in an international journal.

2.3. LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

During the PAC 15 it was especially emphasized by many NDPHS Partner Countries that providing a platform for learning from each other is one of the main roles of this Partnership. Cooperation and exchange of knowledge allows for a more refined analysis, broader understanding and leads to a better-informed decision making. In 2022 we will promote learning from each other through:

2.3.1. Mobilizing new stakeholders and engaging local and civil society actors All NDPHS structures

- The NDPHS structures at all levels recognize that the Partnership is not a closed club and benefits from diversity and engaging with new cooperation partners. This includes reaching out to local actors, municipality authorities, promoting people-to-people contacts, advancing the Health in All Policies approach, and giving voice to under-represented society groups.

Deliverables in 2022: there is no measurable target, but this is an underlying principle of work for all NDPHS structures.

2.3.2. Sharing best practices from the World Antibiotic Awareness Week AMR EG

- To tackle the AMR successfully, a One Health approach involving all sectors is necessary, and we need to learn from each other how to achieve it. Sharing good examples and experiences from the World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2022 (WAAW) may serve as an inspiration to communicate across the sectors and raise awareness of professionals other than those working for health.

Deliverables in 2022: one AMR EG meeting devoted to sharing best practices from WAAW.

2.3.3. Improving systematic cooperation between somatic health services and addiction treatment services ASA EG

- The University hospital in Oslo is running a larger study on prevalence of patients with a high alcohol consumption among patients undergoing acute somatic related deceases. The aim is to improve cooperation with addiction treatment institutions and encourage preventive measures to reduce consumption level. The work has been reported to ASA EG. It has a general interest and may show significant cost reduction results while disseminating methods to develop such inter disciplinary cooperation.

Deliverables in 2022: publications in scientific magazines.

2.3.4. An event on a HIV, TB and Associated Infections related topic HIV, TB & AI EG

- In the last few years, the HIV, TB &AI EG has organized annually an international event to discuss topics related to pressing issues related to HIV, TB or Hepatitis C. It is planned to organize such event also in 2022, in cooperation with another regional cooperative structure or network (e.g., Barents HIV/TB programme).

Deliverables in 2022: an event organized.

2.3.5. Identification of best practices in organisational health literacy NCD EG

- A project implemented by the NCD EG in 2022-2023 will identify best practices on organizational health literacy policy, actions and activities, barriers, and enablers at different levels in the Northern Dimension area.

Deliverables in 2022: study implemented, and final report prepared.
Suspended until further notice.

2.4. CARING FOR PEOPLE

The NDPHS' vision is to contribute to sustainable and inclusive societies with equal opportunities for good health and well-being for all people throughout their life course without any discrimination. In 2022, we will undertake the following actions aimed at good health and well-being for all:

2.4.1. The Art of Being Healthy*

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- In 2022 piloting of methodologies for better utilizing arts-based interventions to improve health and well-being on the local level will continue. This activity is implemented together with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture. Altogether six projects have been funded, among them "Fairy tales as a tool for formation of motivation for healthy lifestyles," a project implemented by the NCD EG that is supposed to assess the impact of fairy tales on the formation of healthy lifestyles among primary schoolchildren (7-9 years old) in four schools in Vologda and Tver Region, Russia. This project is suspended until further notice.

Deliverables in 2022: continued implementation of five projects supported.

2.4.2. Updating the core competency of OSH professionals in the changing world of work*

OSH EG

- A project implemented by the NCD EG will generate evidence-based information on existing gaps between the current and required OSH taskforce. Current and foreseeable shortages in competences and skills will be detected, followed by identification of the means that are already available to address these possible shortages strategically in education and training.

Deliverables in 2022: study on national profiles and best practices completed, competency gap analysis completed.

2.4.3. Study on remote services in primary health and social care*

PHC EG

- A project implemented by the PHC EG in 2022-2023 will map mechanisms and forms of remote health and social care provision in the ND countries, its facilitators, and barriers. The project will also map existing best practices and identify gaps in provision of remote health and social care services for older people and people with chronic conditions and develop recommendations for future steps.

Deliverables in 2022: methodology workshop organized; data collection started.

2.5. TELLING THE NDPHS STORY

The NDPHS is highly valued among its stakeholders as an expert level professional network but is not widely known beyond the NDPHS family. Given the abundance of various cooperation networks in the region, it is important to strengthen and improve the NDPHS' communication, to increase the visibility of the Partnership and its value added. The NDPHS' communication needs to be clear, precise, and engaging, and we need to shift the focus from reporting to storytelling, so that our voice stands out. This is how we will become stronger communicators in 2022:

2.5.1. NDPHS Communication strategy

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- A new NDPHS Communication strategy will be presented to the NDPHS actors for consultation and adoption in 2022. The Communication strategy will provide a framework, guidance, and tools for telling the NDPHS story – a story of collaboration and commitment to a better health for all.

Deliverables in 2022: NDPHS Communication strategy adopted

2.5.2. New NDPHS website and maintaining the website of EUSBSR Policy Area “Health”

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- Internally, the NDPHS website is recognized as a great resource. However, improvements are needed to provide better information for external audiences, making the website dynamic, intuitive, easily operated from the administrators' side, and with a visual design that is more modern and current. Development of the new website and transition to it is planned during 2022, so that in 2023 the new website is fully operational. In 2022, the Secretariat will continue maintaining the website of the EUSBSR Policy Area “Health”.

Deliverables in 2022: new NDPHS website launched, the EUSBSR Policy Area “Health” website maintained.

2.5.3. Presence on social media

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- We will continue to strengthen the NDPHS presence on social media and explore how we can become better at producing unique and engaging quality content. The Expert Groups' engagement in this activity is important, as the Secretariat does not have the capacity to produce all the thematic content. The Secretariat will explore, together with the Expert Groups, the best ways to jointly prepare content for the NDPHS social media channels.

Deliverables in 2022: agreement on distribution of tasks between the EGs and the Secretariat regarding creating content for the NDPHS social media.

2.5.4. Speaking in one voice

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- We will initiate a discussion on how various NDPHS actors could contribute to delivering a consistent, strong, and united NDPHS message at various national, regional, and international fora. Ideally, every member of the NDPHS network – PAC, CSR and EG representatives - would have it on their agenda that they are a voice of and for the NDPHS. To achieve that, we need a clear understanding on NDPHS priorities, values, and positions to take.

Deliverables in 2022: discussion paper prepared and discussed with the CSR and EGs.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE
LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER
CARING FOR PEOPLE

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