

Dear Reader,

While writing these lines in Stockholm winter is still present, yet the signs of spring and rebirth are here.

Rebirth and change are the guiding lights of our Partnership, as we are navigating a new political landscape.

We have all learned during the past year about the empowering confidence of having close allies with shared values. While we are working out how to describe this feeling in our strategic documents and embed it in our work, intuitively we know and have felt the breeze of fresh air – this Partnership already is different, and it is being reborn into a better version of itself.

As we are moving forward, we will build on things that have proven to work well over the years. At the same time, we will experiment with new ways of working and cultivating the flexibility of not only thinking outside the box but also about the boxes themselves and to what extent and in which shape they are needed.

In this newsletter, we focus on our efforts to work across different sectors and with new actors. We are curious to discover how the alchemy of combining new elements can transform the approaches for solving health and social well-being challenges.

Save the dates



The 36th meeting of the NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives (CSR) will be held on **14-15 June 2023** in Stockholm, Sweden. The CSR will be preceded by the **meeting of the Expert Groups' Chairs and ITAs on 13-14 June**.

The 16th ministerial-level Partnership Annual Conference (PAC) will mark the end of the Swedish Chairmanship of the NDPHS and it will be held on **30 November 2023**. The **thematic side-event of the Partnership Annual Conference** will be held on the day before **29 November 2023**.

News from the Expert Groups

- **Anna-Leena Lohiniva** from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Chair of the **Expert Group on HIV, Tuberculosis, and Associated Infections (HIV/TB&AI)**: "Our Expert Group is enhancing intersectoral collaboration and networking and we have kicked off 2023 with the goal of increasing the visibility of the group. To support our goal, we have developed a calendar of HIV and TB-related events, such as Tuberculosis Day, World Hepatitis Day, and World AIDS Day in which group members will take part with a statement, news, or other contributions. The first Expert Group meeting of 2023 – and the first face-to-face meeting after the pandemic – will take place on April 3-4 in Berlin. We will take the opportunity to capitalize on sharing timely and acute information on HIV and TB. The group is planning inter-sectorial collaborations with OSH and AMR to promote learning and best practices across the region.

Finally, it is with mixed emotions that we share the news that our experienced and long-term International Technical Adviser, Mr. Dimitri Titkov is leaving. He will be deeply missed, but we wish him all the best in his new endeavors!"

- **Irene Nilsson Carlsson** from the Swedish National Board for Health and Welfare, Chair of the **Expert Group for Primary Health Care (PHC)**: "We restarted the year with a meeting in Tallinn 31st of January - 1st of February. It was inspiring to meet our members again after a long period without physical meetings. There was a lot of information to share and we started to collect ideas for collaboration. We will continue with prioritizations in the coming meetings. We also had the opportunity to make a field visit to Ülemiste Health Centre in Tallinn and learn about primary health care in Estonia."
- **Owe Österbacka** from the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Chair of the **Expert Group on Occupational Health (OSH)**: "Members were busy at the end of 2022, working on a funding application submitted in January 2023. The Expert Group is focusing on mental health challenges, which have increased significantly in working life. Another topical area to be addressed during 2023 is the impact of remote work, hybrid work, and on-site work for OSH. Work is also ongoing on presenting results from the project: Better prevention, identification, and reporting of work-related and occupational diseases and emerging risks.

During the meeting in March 2023, OSH EG was very happy to welcome a representative from the Swedish Agency for Work Environment Expertise - Annette Nylund, into the fold!"

- **Zaza Tsereteli** from the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services, International Technical Advisor of the **Alcohol and Substance Use Expert Group (ASA EG)**: The priority areas of the group, together with the alcohol issues, will include the emerging topic of novel tobacco and nicotine products and their regulations. The ASA EG is participating in the work of the Technical Advisory Group established under the WHO/EU Evidence into Action Alcohol Project (EVID- ACTION). The ASA EG is discussing with the Nordic Alcohol and Drug Policy Network (NordAN) the ways of strengthening the cooperation

and is invited by the NordAN to hold the EG meeting in parallel with NordAN Annual Conference, which will take place in Tallinn in October 2023.

- **Emily Sellström** from the Public Health Agency of Sweden, International Technical Advisor for the Expert **Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR EG)**: "The group is taking the next steps towards revitalization, in the true spirit of spring. An Expert Group meeting is planned to be held in Stockholm in June in conjunction with the CSR. There are also ongoing dialogues with the HIV/TB & AI and PHC Expert Groups to identify possible collaboration opportunities."

PA Health and Education propose a Flagship for inclusive growth and well-being across EUSBSR actions



The Economy of Well-being of People Flagship - fostering cohesion towards a sustainable working life and ageing.

In 2022 the NDPHS and the [Norden Association Sweden](#), the Policy Area (PA) Coordinators in the EUSBSR conducted a feasibility analysis to establish a cross-policy area flagship for co-creative processes with extended stakeholders' involvement.

The feasibility analysis resulted in an elaborate proposal which has since been taken forward by the two PAs. The partnership brings together a strong consortium in the Baltic Sea Region comprising companies in the health industry, social partners, public and academic institutions, and a planning region. The two Policy Area Coordinators also bring a wide network of stakeholders such as ministries, state agencies, and NGOs.

The partnership has applied for funding to the Swedish Institute's Baltic Sea Neighborhood Program to develop the Flagship concept during 2023/24.

[Read more](#)

The launch of the PA Health cross-sectoral project "Arts on Prescription in the Baltic Sea Region"

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
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RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICES

Arts on Prescription

Together with Odense Municipality in Denmark and other partners from across the region we are announcing a new Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2027 project.

The idea of the project is to prepare a model programme and a practitioner's guide for the implementation of Arts on Prescription schemes in different settings. **The aim of these schemes is to provide people with mental health issues, such as stress or anxiety, with access to artistic and cultural activities, instead of or in addition to therapy and medication.** The "Arts on Prescription" concept has already been successfully tested in the UK, Sweden and Denmark. The project will develop and pilot a model programme that is adaptable to different local conditions and public health systems.

The "Arts of Prescription" project partnership met on 21-22 February 2023 in Odense, Denmark, to get started with the work planned for the next three years. We are happy to engage with partners and practitioners from the region, to raise awareness for the positive impact of art and culture on our health, and to enable public authorities to adapt the programme to their communities.

[Visit project page](#)



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