

Nordic Welfare Centre

Shared knowledge on
welfare in the Nordic
region



The Nordic Council of Ministers consists of the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation, **ministerial councils** covering different sectors . They are supported by committees of senior officials and a high-level group (digitalisation).



DENMARK



FINLAND



ICELAND



NORWAY



SWEDEN



FAROE ISLANDS



GREENLAND



ÅLAND

NORDBUK=
The Nordic Committee for
Children and Young People

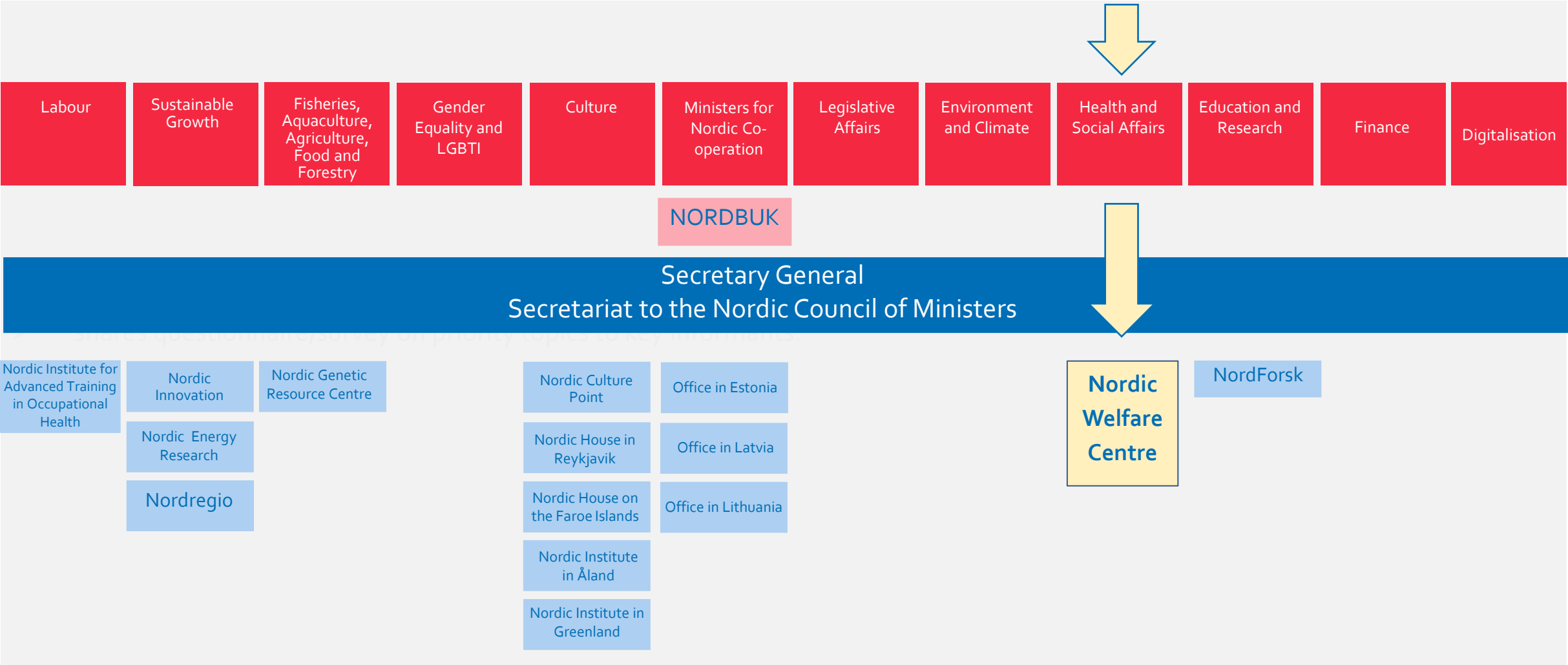


The **Secretary General** is responsible for the day-to-day running of inter-governmental co-operation.



12 Nordic institutions and three Baltic offices

Nordic Council of Ministers



Organizational structure

Nordic Council of Ministers for Health and Social Affairs (MR-S)

Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Health and Social Affairs
(EK-S)

Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat



Nordic Welfare
Centre

The council of the Nordic
Welfare Centre

Nordic working groups, networks etc.

Steering documents

- The Co-operation Programme for Health and Social Affairs is the umbrella and governing document for all activities under the Nordic Council of Ministers for Health and Social Affairs (MR-S).
- Nordic Welfare Centre mandate
- Vision 2030
<https://www.norden.org/en/information/vision-2030-nordic-region-will-become-most-sustainable-and-integrated-region-world>

The main aims of the co-operation programme for Health and Social Affairs



Ensure all citizens have equal access to welfare services and to consolidate the universal welfare model.

Prevent mental health problems, mental illness and involuntary loneliness for all groups in society.



Ensure that all citizens have equal opportunities to live happy and healthy lives.

Deliver early, preventive, health-promoting and sustainable interventions.



Our vision 2030

A **green** Nordic region

Together, we will promote a green transition of our societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy.

A **competitive** Nordic region

Together, we will promote green growth in the Nordic region based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration.



**The Nordic
region will
become the most
sustainable and
integrated region
in the world**

A **socially sustainable** Nordic region

Together, we will promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.



Nordic Welfare Centre

Main responsibilities

- To contribute to policy development in welfare, public health, and social affairs in the Nordic region
- Compile and share Nordic knowledge
- Project lead and Nordic expert networks

Target groups

- Civil servants at ministries and official agencies
- Politicians and other official decision makers
- Civil Society Organisations



Sharing Nordic knowledge and experience

Seminars and conferences

Publications

Nordic networks

Communication



Our offices and focus areas

Kaisaniemenkatu 13, Helsinki, Finland

- *Public Health*
- *Integration*

Svensksundsvägen 11, Stockholm, Sweden

- *Welfare Technology*
- *Children and Young*
- *Older adults*
- *Disability*



News on Nordic Welfare Centre's current work on alcohol (and nicotine)

- NDPHS and Nordic network of senior officials on alcohol
- NAD
- PopNAD
- Long term plan Public Health projects:
 - Guide to guidelines
 - Nordic knowledge development on economic estimations and evaluations in public health
 - Prevention of nicotine use among children and young people



popNAD

- popNAD is a popular science website for Nordic social science research on alcohol, drugs, doping, tobacco and gambling.
- Its mission is to inform and contribute to the public debate and to provide readers with knowledge about current research.
- popNAD is part of the Nordic Welfare Centre and collaborates with the scientific journal Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, NAD.
- <https://nordicwelfare.org/popnad/>



Nordisk alkoholfakta | NVC



En populärvetenskaplig webbplats för forskning inom alkohol- och drogområdet

Välj språk

 Skandinaviska

 Meny 

Nordisk alkoholfakta

Här finns information om konsumtionstrender, statistik och en sammanfattning av de nordiska ländernas alkoholpolitik. Uppgifterna kan variera mellan länderna p.g.a olika länders statistikföring.



Nordic Welfare
Centre

SVERIGE

NORGE

DANMARK

FINLAND

ISLAND

GRÖNLAND

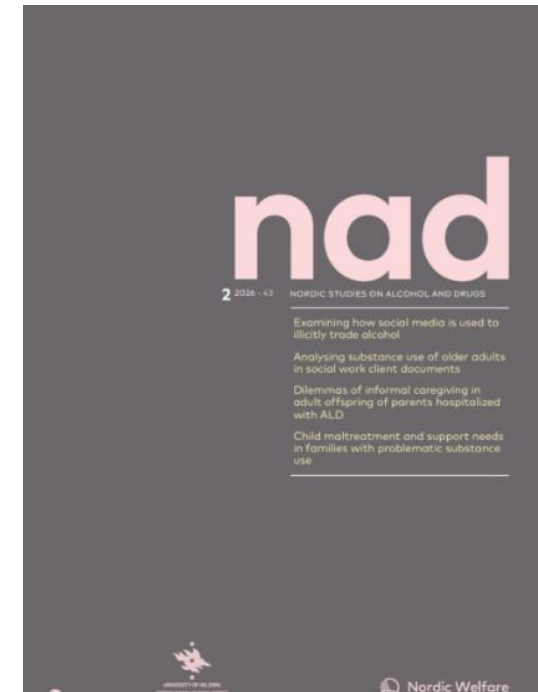
ÅLAND

FÄRÖARNA

Information about the scientific journal NAD

– Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs

- [NAD | NVC](#)
- Established in 1983, published by the Nordic Welfare Centre since 2010
- Has been co-financed by the Nordic countries for many years, but the engagement has slowly faded.
- The Nordic Welfare Centre has terminated its agreements with Uppsala University and Sage as of 31 December 2026.



The future of NAD

- NAD will have a new domicile as of January 1, 2027. The journal's scientific editorial board has worked out a solution that means that a new association is formed as the owner of the journal.
- From 2027, the association will apply for funding from the previous Nordic financiers.
- The Nordic Welfare Centre will continue to publish articles from NAD on the popular science website PopNAD.

A Guide to the Guidelines



Same risk, different guidance

- Alcohol. Same substance, risks and scientific evidence
- The Nordic countries and regions have completely different guidance on risk, communication and recommendations regarding alcohol.
- The Nordics differ in how we look at, communicate about and operationalize "risk"
- The countries' are guiding on risky use, moderate use, alarming limit, high limit, lower limit etcetera
- Some use thresholds, others focus on public health, some avoid numbers altogether.



In short

- Alcohol remains one of our biggest public health problems.
- Today's patchwork of different national models in the Nordics create confusion.
- As more studies show that even low consumption can have a negative impact on us, people need to get information in a clear and accessible ways.
- The Nordic countries would benefit from more synergies and development of clearer and more coherent recommendations and guidelines, especially for the public.



Read
A Guide to the Guidelines
at PopNAD



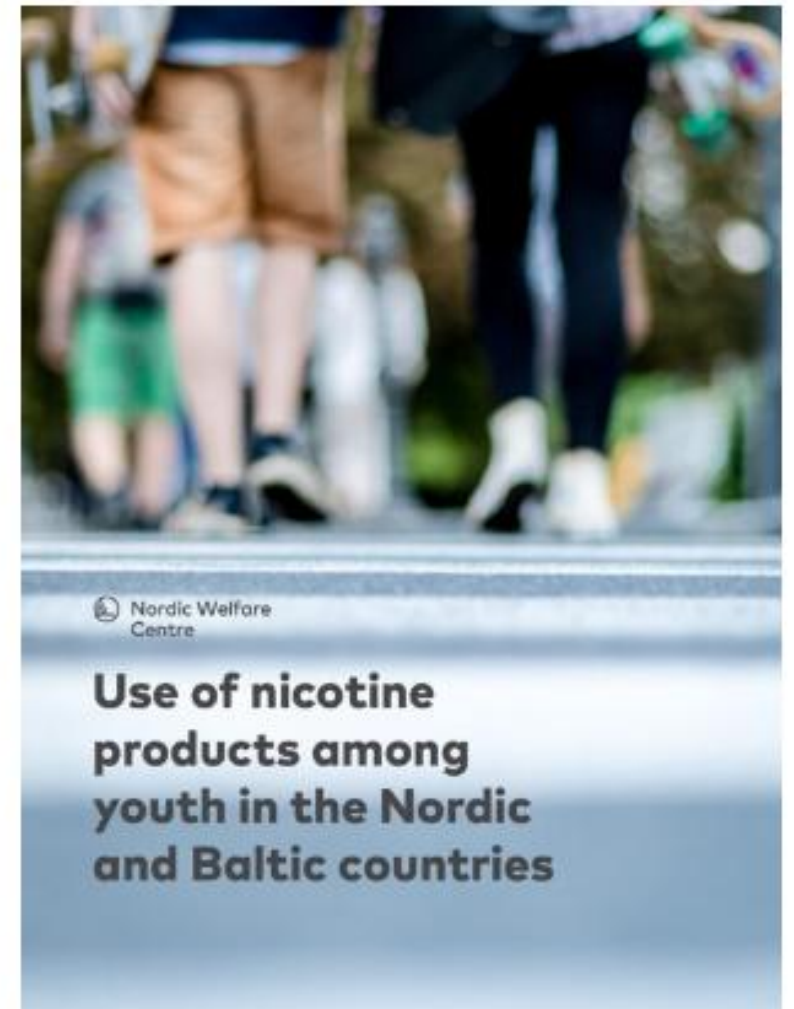
Upcoming project at Nordic welfare centre

Prevention of nicotine use among children and young people



Background

- In March 2025, NVC published a report on [the use of nicotine products among youth in the Nordic and Baltic countries](#) showing that the use of nicotine products among young people is increasing – particularly among girls.
- Denmark and the Faroe Islands hold the presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2026. The [presidency programme](#) highlights the topic.
- Also, the [Nordic Arena for Public Health Issues](#) highlights the topic as an important area where Nordic co-operation can provide significant added value and that there is a need for a shared knowledge base. The main objective of Nordic public health policy is a high level of protection, and there should be incentives and prerequisites to find a common Nordic approach to nicotine prevention.

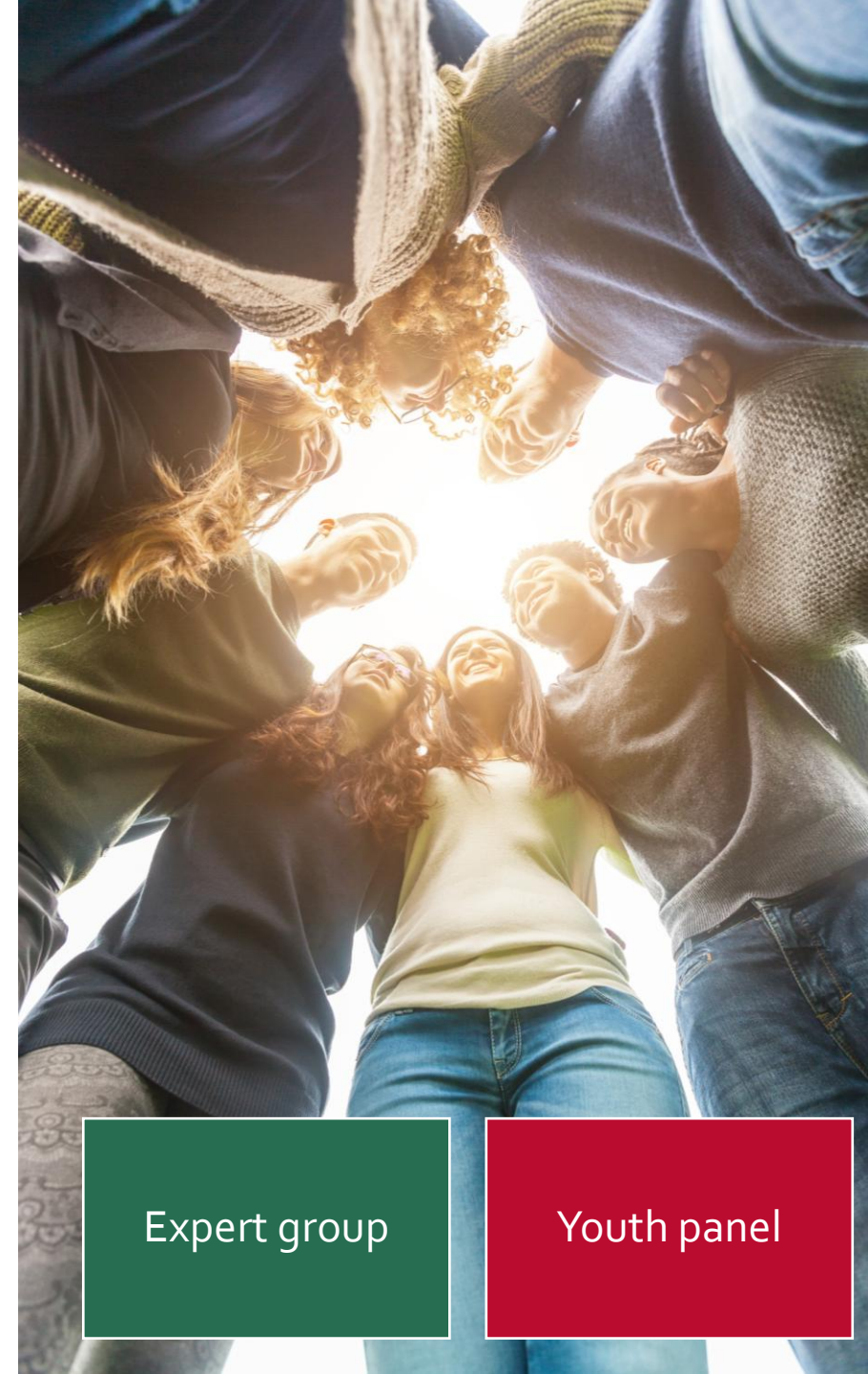


RAPPORT - FOLKHÄLSA | 19 mar 2025

**Use of nicotine products
among youth in the Nordic
and Baltic countries – An
overview**

Objective

- NVC will conduct a survey of structural preventive work against the use of nicotine products among children and young people in the Nordic countries.
- A Youth panel and an Expert group will be included in the project to anchor the results both among the target group and experts in the field.
- The Expert Group will formulate recommendations on how the Nordic countries can continue working with nicotine prevention among young people.
- The aim is to gather a knowledge base to support continued work and decision-making.
- The goals of the dissemination activities are to reach a broad target group and create discussion on the importance and prerequisites for nicotine prevention.

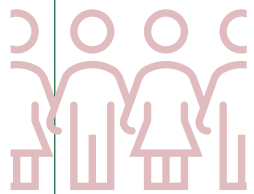


Expert group

Youth panel

Scope

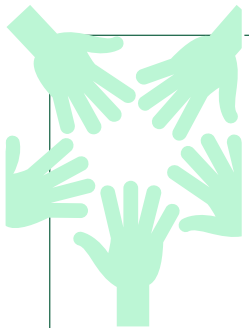
- An external partner is commissioned to collect data, analyse it and produce a report.
- NVC further develops the plan together with the partner and the target group (Nordic Arena for Public Health Issues, the Nordic Tobacco Network).
- The report will include:



An overview of the current research knowledge of the health effects of nicotine to highlight the importance of prevention among children and young people.



Up-to-date information on the prevalence of nicotine product use among young people, as well as on national legislation and regulation (update of the data presented in the NVC-report from 2025).



Best practice-examples of Nordic initiatives for structural prevention to reduce nicotine use among young people.

A
discussion
on

- what the Nordic countries can learn from each other regarding nicotine prevention among young people, including gender-stratified prevention.
- opportunities for improving collection and sharing of data on the prevalence of nicotine use to facilitate comparison and co-operation across the Nordic countries.

Do you want to know more?

- [Nordicwelfare.org](https://nordicwelfare.org)
- Facebook: Nordens välfärdscenter
- LinkedIn: Nordic Welfare Centre
- [Newsletters](#)



A popular science website for research in the area of alcohol and drugs

- [PopNad | NVC](#)



Thank you for your attention.

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