

**EUSBSR Policy Area Health Steering Group
Second Meeting
15 June 2023
Stockholm, Sweden**

Title	Adopted meeting minutes from the 2 nd meeting of the PA Health Steering Group
Submitted by	NDPHS Secretariat/PA Health Coordinator
Requested action	This document outlines the main discussion points and decisions made during the 2 nd meeting of the PA Health Steering Group The list of participants is attached as an annex to this document

1. Opening of the 2nd PA Health Steering Group meeting and adoption of the agenda

Mr. Niclas Jacobson, the Chair of the Policy Area Health Steering Group, opened the meeting and welcomed Ms. Blagovestka Riiser, DG REGIO representative, to the meeting.

Ms. Blagovestka Riiser introduced herself, informing that she is the DG REGIO's contact person for the Policy Areas Health, Culture, Spatial Planning, Education and Tourism and that her role is advisory to the Policy Area Coordinators and Steering Groups.

The meeting **adopted** the agenda as submitted in document SG 2/1 and the suggested procedure for approval of the meeting minutes.

2. General updates by the NDPHS Secretariat regarding the EUSBSR and PA Health

Ms. Ülla-Karin Nurm, Director of the NDPHS Secretariat, presented ongoing and planned activities within EUSBSR and PA Health, including (1) an update of the PA EDU PA HEALTH project, (2) newly approved projects contributing to PA Health, (3) participation of the NDPHS Secretariat in various EUSBSR events, as well as (4) organisation of two recent events: an online event "Approaches to culture and health cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region" and a workshop "Supporting health care" during the conference "Fostering sustainable cooperation between the Baltic Sea Region and Ukraine" in Visby, Gotland. The Secretariat welcomed the Steering Group to participate in the 14th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Riga on 4-5 October and the workshop "Economy of Well-being of People – A ground-breaking multi-PA flagship for a prosperous and sustainable region" held in its side-lines.

Ms. Blagovestka Riiser thanked for the information and advised the Policy Area Coordinator to consult a [tool](#) that they have developed for exploring funding opportunities in the Baltic Sea Region.

3. Members and observers for the PA Health Steering Group

The meeting **adopted** the proposal for inviting members and observers to the PA Health Steering Group as presented in document SG 2/3.

4. Projects contributing to the Policy Area “Health”

Ms. Ülla-Karin Nurm presented the Policy Area Health actions and clarified the difference between the NDPHS and the Policy Area Health. The NDPHS offers an institutional structure for implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The EUSBSR Action Plan under the PA Health offers the overarching topic of active and healthy ageing over the life course for the NDPHS and its structures to work on, enables cross-sectoral work and engagement of new stakeholders, as well as opens further opportunities for project funding.

Ms. Saara Rissanen, Project Assistant at the NDPHS Secretariat, and Mr. Yogindra Samant, Co-Chair of the NDPHS Expert Group on Occupational Safety and Health, presented “*Mental Health Matters*”, a project newly approved for funding by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2027. The project tackles psychosocial risks at work, thus aiming at improving the well-being of citizens and the competitiveness and resilience of enterprises and workforce. The Steering Group was requested to help identify national governmental programmes, policies or actions that are relevant to the topic of mental health at work either during the meeting or via email afterwards. The presentation slides are available on the [meeting page](#) on the NDPHS website’s Members Area.

Ms. Dorte Dahl Grønnevet, the Norwegian representative in the Steering Group, highlighted the importance of the topic of mental health and presented the ongoing national and European activities in the field of mental health.

Mr. Imants Gross, Policy Officer at the NDPHS Secretariat, presented “*Economy of Wellbeing of People – fostering cohesion towards a healthy and sustainable working life and ageing*”, a project newly selected for funding by the Swedish Institute. The aim is to establish the first cross-Policy Area flagship in Europe that advocates an inclusive growth and wellbeing agenda in all policies. The project is co-developed and coordinated by NDPHS Secretariat as the PA Health Coordinator and Norden Association Sweden as the PA Education Coordinator. The presentation slides are available on the [meeting page](#) on the NDPHS website’s Members Area.

Ms. Ülla-Karin Nurm revisited the outcomes of the discussions from the 30th meeting of the NDPHS EG Chairs and ITAs and the 36th meeting of the Committee of Senior Representatives. The discussions indicate that the PA Health activities could focus on the following issues in the future:

- Increasing the communication and health advocacy capacity of the NDPHS network.
- Addressing the health needs of the youth, while not forgetting the needs of the older generations. While doing so, utilising the existing structures and platforms, such as the Baltic Sea Youth Forum.
- Increasing collaboration and support to Ukraine through (1) hiring a consultant or a seconded person of Ukrainian background at the NDPHS Secretariat to liaise with the different NDPHS structures, and (2) inviting Ukraine to partake in the regular

meetings of the Partnership, with invitation to join the PA Health Steering Group as an observer proposed.

The meeting **took note** of the presented information and **expressed appreciation** towards the efforts to integrate EUSBSR and PA Health actions in the work of the different NDPHS structures.

5. Joint session with the NDPC Steering Committee

Mr. Niclas Jacobson welcomed the NDPC Steering Committee to join the PA Health Steering Group meeting. Mr. Robert Nilsson, the Swedish Chair of the NDPC Steering Committee, thanked for the invitation and introduced the Steering Committee and its members.

Ms. Krista Petäjäjärvi, Acting Head of the NDPC Secretariat, introduced the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, its mission, and ongoing projects.

Ms. Ülla-Karin Nurm introduced the NDPHS, its institutional structure, vision and values.

Amb. Jari Vilén (Finland/BEAC) expressed gratitude for long-term collaboration with both Partnerships and highlighted their role as the future of the Northern Dimension.

Ms. Wiebke Seemann, Project Manager at the NDPHS Secretariat, presented the “*Arts on Prescription*” project as a practical example of bringing together the health, arts and culture sectors. NDPHS Secretariat is a partner in the project consortium, while NDPC supports as an associated organisation. The presentation slides are available on the [meeting page](#) on the NDPHS website’s Members Area.

The meeting **took note** of the presented information and **encouraged** deeper collaboration between the Partnerships.

6. Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 12:30 CEST on 15 June 2023.

ANNEX
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Estonia

Kaily Susi
Ministry of Social Affairs

Finland

Päivi Karvinen
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Latvia

Elīza Bērzina
Artūrs Oto Kivlinš
Ministry of Health

Lithuania

Radvilė Jakaitienė
Justė Pečeliūnaitė
Ministry of Health

Norway

Dorte Dahl Grønnever
Vibeke Gundersen
Ministry of Health and Care Services

Poland

Ewa Nowacka
Adam Wojda
Ministry of Health

Sweden

Niclas Jacobson
Jörgen Gyllenblad
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

NDPHS SECRETARIAT

Ülla-Karin Nurm
Saara Rissanen
Imants Gross
Zane Vilnīte
Wiebke Seemann

INVITED GUESTS

Sonja Löfmark
Emily Sellström
AMR EG

Bernt Bull
Zaza Tsereteli
ASA EG

Anna-Leena Lohiniva
HIV, TB & AI EG

Päivi Hämäläinen
Yogindra Samant
OSH EG

Iréne Nilsson Carlsson
PHC EG

Pekka Jousilahti
NCD EG

Blagovestka Riiser
DG REGIO

Maija Lummepuro
Zuzanna Przytkowska
Sverre Miøen
Lāsma Krastina-Sidorenko
Matthias Ohnemüller
Robert Nilsson
Krista Petäjäjärvi
NDPC Steering Committee