

EUSBSR Policy Area Health Steering Group
Fourth meeting
25 November 2024
Online

Title	Minutes from the 4 th meeting of the EUSBSR Policy Area Health Steering Group
Submitted by	NDPHS Secretariat/ PA Health coordinator
Summary/note	This document outlines the main discussion points and decisions made during the meeting.

4th meeting of the EUSBSR Policy Area Health Steering Group

1. Opening of the PA Health Steering Group

The meeting was opened and chaired by Elīza Bērziņa, Ministry of Health of Latvia (the EUSBSR Policy Area Health Steering Group segment).

Dr. Ülla-Karin Nurm, the Director of the NDPHS Secretariat, welcomed the participants.

The participants introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting **adopted** the agenda as submitted in document SG 4/2 and agreed that the draft minutes from the meeting will be sent to participants in December for adoption during January 2025.

3. Review of the EUSBSR Action Plan

The NDPHS Secretariat presented the process and current state of the review of the EUSBSR Action Plan and more specifically, the review of the Policy Area “Health” (with reference to document SG 4/3).

The Meeting **agreed** that the Policy Area “Health” in the EUSBSR Action Plan will focus on two Actions:

- Increase the resilience of people by improving mental and physical health.
- Increase stakeholder and institutional capacity to tackle regional health challenges.

The Meeting accepted the suggested procedure of approving the detailed description of the Policy Area “Health” aiming to finalize the input until 31 December 2024. However, the deadline for submitting of the Policy Area inputs was subsequently prolonged by the EUSBSR governing bodies until 31 January 2025 and therefore it is not needed to follow the originally agreed tight timeline.

4. Updates from the NDPHS/PA Health projects

The NDPHS Secretariat presented updates from the NDPHS/PA Health projects Economy of Well-being, Mental Health Matters, Solutions for Age-Friendly Employer (SAFE), LTBI Inventory Project, Arts on Prescription, and Effectively Prepared in Crisis (EPIC). The presentation is available on the NDPHS website, on the [meeting page](#) (Members-only access).

The Meeting **took note** of the information and **appreciated** the variety and importance of the topics addressed through the presented projects, especially highlighting the sustainability aspect, as some of the projects build on the results of the previously implemented work.

5. Updates from the Partner Countries

The Director of the Secretariat presented updates regarding strengthening collaboration with Ukraine under the PA Health umbrella.

Ukraine will be invited to participate in the next meetings of the EUSBSR Policy Area Health Steering Group in Vilnius.

Good working contacts have been established with the Kolomyia city council. The EUSBSR, which is heavily focusing on working with Ukraine, provides a good forum for developing the collaboration further.

The Meeting **took note** of the provided information.

6. Next meetings of the EUSBSR PA Health governing bodies

The Meeting **agreed** that the next meetings of the NDPHS/EUSBSR PA Health governing bodies will be held on 3-4 April 2025 in Vilnius.

9. Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 11:05.

ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTNER COUNTRIES

Estonia

Agne Nettan-Sepp
Helen Söber
Ministry of Social Affairs

Finland

Pasi Korhonen
Päivi Karvinen
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Latvia (EUSBSR PA Health Steering Group Chair)

Elīza Bērziņa
Artūrs Oto Kivliņš
Ministry of Health

Lithuania (NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives Chair)

Jurgita Kinderienė
Ministry of Health

Norway

Anne-Camilla Hilton
Ministry of Health and Care Services

Sweden

Jörgen Gyllenblad
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

EXPERT GROUPS

Alcohol and Substance Use

Jelena Talačkienė, Interim Chair

Antimicrobial Resistance

Sonja Löfmark Behrendtz, Chair
Emily Sellström, ITA

HIV, TB and Associated Infections

Tuula Vasankari, Chair

Occupational Safety and Health

Owe Österbacka, Chair
Päivi Hämäläinen, ITA

Primary Health Care

Iréne Nilsson Carlsson, Chair

BALTIC SEA STRATEGY POINT

Tom Schumacher

NDPHS SECRETARIAT

Ülla-Karin Nurm
Silvija Geistarte
Zane Vilnīte
Saara Rissanen
Wiebke Seeman