

Northern Dimension Ministerial meeting praises the good progress made by the NDPHS **Recent meetings held by the Partnership bring promising results** **NDPHS Secretariat moves to new premises**

2nd Ministerial meeting of the renewed Northern Dimension

Today, the four Northern Dimension Partners (European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation) met at Foreign Minister or equivalent level to review the progress achieved with regard to the various Northern Dimension (ND) Partnerships and initiatives, and to provide further guidance on future work. Other ND actors, initiatives and bodies, as well as representatives of the USA and Canada, also took part.

The NDPHS delivered a speech¹ and a progress report² detailing the NDPHS' contribution towards successful implementation of the ND policy and addressing several critical issues to the attention of the Ministers.

The Ministers welcomed the new momentum created by the successful reform of the NDPHS structures and the adoption and implementation of the NDPHS Strategy. The Partnership's focus on achieving specific, measurable and time-targeted objectives reflecting regional priorities was commended. The Ministers also praised the good progress made by the NDPHS in several other areas, not least the successful leadership of the NDPHS in the health area of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Action Plan. Finally, they also welcomed the allocation, by Norway, of 9 million NOK to the NDPHS Project Pipeline and invited other donors to follow suit.

NDPHS holds its Annual Conference and a Seminar on project development and funding

On 28 October 2010, the NDPHS held the 7th Partnership Annual Conference (PAC). While approving the NDPHS Progress report for 2010, the PAC concluded that good progress has been made during the first year of the implementation of the new NDPHS Strategy. The Conference also adopted the NDPHS Work Plan for 2011.³

The PAC was preceded by its side event, a Seminar on project development and funding, organized by the NDPHS in cooperation with the INTERACT. It was a regional event aimed at fostering the development, fundraising and implementation of projects contributing to the implementation of the EUSBSR. 50 participants attended it, among them many representatives of financing institutions and EU programmes, as well as project developers, some of them from Russia. Altogether, 11 presentations regarding 18 different financing programmes were made and 13 project concepts were discussed during individual parallel consultations.⁴ It is expected that in the coming months those project concepts will transform into mature project proposals.

NDPHS Secretariat moves to new premises

Thanks to the generosity of the Host Country Sweden, our secretariat has now new, better premises. We are now located in the prestigious Gamla Stan (old town) district. You can find us at the address provided below.

NDPHS Secretariat

Further information:

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¹ Available at www.ndphs.org/?speeches.

² Available at www.ndphs.org/internalfiles/File/About_NDPHS/NDPHS_report_to_2nd_ND_Ministerial_Meeting.pdf.

³ Available at www.ndphs.org/?doc,NDPHS_Work_Plan_for_2011.pdf.

⁴ Further information is available at: http://www.ndphs.org/?mtgs_seminar_on_project_dev_and_funding.