



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs



Folkhälsomyndigheten
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

Stepping up implementation of the Health 2020 vision for health equity and well-being in the Nordic and Baltic States

High-level event on the WHO European Health 2020 policy framework for health and well-being

Stockholm, Sweden, 26–27 October 2016

Chair Summary Conclusions

To promote health equity and well-being and to reduce health inequalities by actions on the social determinants of health, applying a whole-of-society approach, was the core message and outcome of the Nordic and Baltic high-level event and policy dialogue in Stockholm, 26–27 October 2016.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Public Health Agency of Sweden organized the two day meeting, attended by around 100 exclusively invited people from the Nordic and Baltic States. The aim of the event was to support policy-makers inside and outside government organizations, creating an opportunity to exchange knowledge about emerging evidence, policy experiences and practices.

The themes that were discussed were: framing of health equity; implementing whole-of-society approaches to health and; addressing health equity as a fundamental element in sustainable development through the UN's 2030 Agenda. Based on these themes, the concluding Chair Summary from the event is that the core components of the Health 2020 policy framework is a firm basis for action. However, further development and individual adaptations in Member States are needed. Specifically, the following key points were raised:

- **The vital component of "health in all policies" whereas it is of utmost importance to involve other policy sectors towards a more fair and equitable distribution of good health and well-being.**
- **The dynamic interrelation between health and key social determinants (such as early life, education, employment and income) across the life course, where health is an important pre-condition as well as a central value in life**
- **The improvement of people's abilities as well as public systems providing support on social determinants as well as health**
- **Strong mechanisms that makes cross-sectorial governance possible, and in particular stress equity across determinants of health**
- **Involve civil society and the business community in whole-of-society coalitions for equity across the determinants of health**
- **Put health at the core of the work on social sustainability and the 2030 Agenda**

The meeting propelled the on-going Nordic and Baltic policy process on health equity and well-being that started in Helsinki in 2014, to be continued within and between Member States. To reduce inequities in health is at the heart of our common responsibility. Therefore the common Nordic and Baltic collaboration and exchange is a vital component to enable and support all people in achieving their full health potential and well-being. This process is instrumental in realizing the Health 2020 vision and onwards.