



Norwegian Ministry  
of Health and Care Services

# **The Nordic-Baltic network on water and health - experiences from the Nordic-Baltic cooperation**

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# What is the Nordic-Baltic network on water and health?

- Initiated by Sweden and Norway.
- Established in 2012 with the purpose of strengthening sub-regional collaboration on water and health.
- The network consists of representatives from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark the Faeroe Islands and Finland. Other countries are welcome to attend if interested.
- The network is supported financially by the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Consists of persons engaged in issues related to water and health, mainly from the public sector.



# What is the Nordic-Baltic network on water and health? (Cont.)

- The work mode is a yearly joint meeting concerning topics of common interest. So far we have carried out seven meetings.
- Norway 2012 and 14, Sweden 2013 and 18, Estonia 2015, Finland 2106, Lithuania 2017.
- This years meeting will be in Riga, Latvia in December.



# Objective

- To facilitate implementation of requirements and recommendations specified in regulations, international agreements and national objectives regarding safe drinking water, bathing water and water for food purposes and sanitation in participating countries.
- Serve as a hub for the exchange of information
- Contribute to informed decisions.
- Endeavour to develop new knowledge that contributes to ensure safe supply of high quality drinking water.



# The work of the network

- Focus on facilitating how countries can cooperate to improve their situation, and that future challenges are handled in collaboration when appropriate.
- Contribute to an effective implementation of the relevant EU legislation for example the Drinking Water Directive, the Bathing Water Directive and the Water Framework Directive and international agreements such as the **Protocol for Water and Health**.
- Contribute to the development of knowledge and dissemination of information about good practices to address current and emerging challenges.
- The work should also seek to identify common challenges and give **recommendations** on how to encounter them.



## The work of the network (2)

- In this event, we share our experience from some of the topics we have discussed and benefitted from.
- Examples of topics through the years are:
  - The Protocol on Water and Health and its program of work
  - The Protocol on Water and Health and small scale water supply and sanitation facilities
  - The Protocol on Water and Health and the EU *acquis communautaire*



# The work of the network (3)

- Examples of topics through the years are (2):
  - Risks for the water supply systems, climate change impacts, Water Safety Plans implementation, health surveillance and combating illnesses caused by polluted drinking water etc.
  - Preparation of drinking water – chemical and microbiological barriers



# Programme

- How the Nordic-Baltic network came to be and what are we doing (Kjetil Tveitan, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Norway)
- Solving tasks under Programme area 2 – how we used the network for preparations for risk-based drinking water surveillance document (Susanne Hyllestad, Norway)
- The Lithuanian experience from the 6th Nordic-Baltic meeting in Vilnius, November 2017 (Natalja Sliachtic, Lithuania)
- Preparedness among water suppliers – a model inspired by Sweden established in Norway (Susanne Hyllestad, Norway)
- Interpretation of the EU Drinking Water Directive – do we think the same? (Anders Bekkelund, Norway)
- Planning for the 8th meeting in Riga





