

Northern Dimension Institute | Future Forum 2020

ND Future Forum 2020: Combatting COVID-19 in the Northern Dimension Area

Preliminary program

Session 1: “We Are in it Together” – Enhancing Regional Knowledge Exchange to Combat COVID-19

Time: 9:00-12:00 CET

Venue: Online (Zoom)

Organized by the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing, NDPHS

8:45 Log-in open

9:00 **Welcoming words**

Ms. Riitta Kosonen, Director, Centre for Markets in Transition, Aalto University

Ms. Ulla-Karin Nurm, Director, Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing

9:05 **Keynote speech** *The Finnish strategy on COVID-19 and the importance of cross-border coordination in crisis preparedness and communication.* **Pasi Pohjola**, Director, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland.

9:30 Knowledge Arena 1: Disruption of health and care system

The Estonian experience in digitalisation and arrangement of remote services in health care. Dr. **Maris Jesse**, Deputy Secretary General on Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia.

Prevention of COVID-19 among older adults and risk groups in Sweden. **Irene Nilsson Carlsson**, Senior Public Health Adviser, the National Board of Health and Welfare, Sweden.

The role of perceived efficacy and trust in authorities on mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Gerit Pfuhl**, Professor, Department of Psychology, UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

10:30 Break

11:00 Knowledge Arena 2: Disruption of public health

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lifestyle: international and Russian experience and ways to prevent the detrimental effects. Professor **Oxana Drapkina**, Director, National Medical Research Centre for Therapy and Preventive Medicine, the Ministry of Healthcare, Russian Federation.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on alcohol consumption in Sweden during Spring 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. **Björn Trollidal**, Researcher, the Swedish Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAN), Sweden.

COVID-19 is a challenge for the Icelandic mental health care system: Does further cooperation between systems provide the answer to the challenge? **Guðrún Jóhanna Benediktsdóttir**, Occupational Therapist & **Soffía Erla Einarsdóttir**, Project Manager, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, National University Hospital, Iceland.

11:30 Panel discussion

11:55 **Concluding words** by **Bernt Bull**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Department of Public Health, Norway.

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

Session 2: Living in the New Normal after COVID-19

Time: 13:00-15.30 pm (CET)

Venue: Online (live panel discussion streamed to a website)

Organized by the Northern Dimension Institute.

Moderated by **Mirja Kivimäki**.

Opening

Opening words

Prof. **Riitta Kosonen**, Director of the Northern Dimension Institute, Finland

Greetings from the NDI, EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland.

Umbrella topics/questions:

- How did COVID-19 change the world and how permanent will the change be?
- How does this change relate to other societal trends such as digitalization?

Perspectives and panelists

- Mental health and wellbeing: Dr. **Meri Larivaara**, Senior Adviser, MIELI Mental Health Finland
- Economic impact: The case of culture and event industry. **Kati Kuusisto**, Director, the Finnish Event Industry Association.
- Human behavior: Attitudes and values: **Ilkka Haavisto**, Research Manager, Finnish Business and Policy Forum EVA
- Workplace practices: Digitalization: Dr. **Tuomo Alasoini**, Research Professor, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
- Education and learning: Dr. **Mari-Pauliina Vainikainen**, Associate Professor, Leader of Research Group for Education, Assessment and Learning REAL, Tampere University

Conclusion: Mr. **Jari Vilén**, Ambassador for Barents and Northern Dimension, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland