

IBS annual report 2014: The Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (JWGHS)

In accordance to the Chairmanship of Sweden and Murmansk, the two meetings of the JWGHS during 2014 were held in Murmansk in April and in Umeå in December. The JWGHS discussed mainly the implementation and results of the three programs on 1) HIV/AIDS, 2) Tuberculosis and 3) children and youth at risk. The new Programme on HIV/AIDS is under development and it will be discussed at the first meeting of 2015. Also general development of health and social status in respective member states and regions were shared within the group. The JWGHS and its three steering committees have been committed to its work and the attendance at the meetings has been very encouraging. The unequal development of health and social welfare between, but also within states, urges for continued cooperation. In addition to presentations of the progress of the three implementation programs, participants also have enjoined several interesting lectures and a site visit to a research centre specialised on rural medicine. Lectures have elaborated on, inter alia, pre-hospital cross border cooperation, antibiotic resistance, virtual health clinics and the capacity of small municipalities to identify and take care of vulnerable children and youth. At the last meeting of 2014, the JWGHS selected countries and regions to be presented at an internal working group, with the task to draft the next collaboration program for the period 2016-2019. The first draft will be discussed at the first meeting of 2015.