

NordAN Action Plan 2027

NordAN will continue to aim to serve as a regional network, resource and platform for cooperation between organisations working on alcohol and drug policy in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

The alcohol and drug policy environment is changing rapidly. Established public health policies are being challenged, new substances and markets are emerging, and civil society organisations often need to respond to political developments at short notice, sometimes with reduced resources.

NordAN will therefore maintain a flexible approach. The organisation will concentrate on relevant regional issues, regular opportunities for member cooperation and timely responses rather than committing its limited capacity to large and administratively demanding new projects.

Priorities for 2027

NordAN's main priorities will be:

1. Maintaining a regular annual structure of meetings and member cooperation.
2. Monitoring and responding to important alcohol and drug policy developments.
3. Continuing work under the “Guardians of the Nordic model” banner.
4. Strengthening regional drug policy cooperation.
5. Maintaining NordAN's online resources, communication platforms and advocacy initiatives.
6. Supporting cooperation and capacity among NordAN member organisations and civil society partners.

1. Annual meeting structure

NordAN will maintain a regular annual structure that gives members several opportunities to meet, exchange information and contribute to the network's priorities.

The intended structure for 2027 is:

- **February–March: NordAN Open Day.** NordAN will visit one country and organise the Open Day in cooperation with local member organisations and partners. The programme will focus primarily on an alcohol or drug policy issue of particular relevance to that country, while creating an opportunity for local organisations to meet, exchange perspectives and strengthen cooperation.
- **May: Conference +6 follow-up.** Where useful, NordAN will organise a short online meeting approximately six months after the previous conference to revisit selected themes, examine what has changed and discuss new developments.
- **Two NordAN drug network meetings.** Two focused online meetings will be organised during the year to exchange information about regional and European drug policy

developments. The timing and topics will be determined according to current needs and emerging issues.

- **October–November: NordAN conference and General Assembly.** This will remain NordAN’s main annual gathering. The location and format of the 2027 conference have not yet been decided. It may be organised as an in-person, hybrid or online meeting, depending on the host, available resources and circumstances.

Additional online discussions may be organised when an urgent issue requires a regional exchange.

NordAN will also complete appropriate follow-up from the 2026 conference in Tórshavn and make relevant conference materials and conclusions available to members and partners.

2. Responsive regional policy work

NordAN will monitor alcohol and drug policy developments in the Nordic and Baltic countries and at European level.

When NordAN can make a useful contribution, activities may include:

- Preparing short analyses, statements and briefing materials.
- Contributing to national or European consultations.
- Bringing together member organisations and experts for rapid online discussions.
- Sharing national developments and relevant evidence across the network.
- Supporting members with regional comparisons, examples and contacts.
- Coordinating joint civil society responses when appropriate.
- Drawing attention to developments that may have consequences beyond one country.

NordAN will not attempt to respond to every development. Priority will be given to issues where a timely regional perspective, coordinated civil society response or contribution from NordAN’s expertise can add value.

Particular attention in 2027 will be given to political changes and election periods in the region. NordAN will follow how alcohol and drug policies are discussed by political parties and new governments and will support evidence-based advocacy that can communicate effectively across different political ideologies.

3. Guardians of the Nordic model

NordAN completed the initial “Guardians of the Nordic model” initiative in 2026. In 2027, NordAN will continue to use the banner where it provides a useful framework for regional alcohol policy work.

This may include:

- Monitoring pressures on Nordic alcohol retail monopoly systems.
- Following changes to alcohol availability, home delivery, online sales, opening hours and farm sales.

- Examining the implementation and consequences of recent alcohol policy reforms.
- Communicating the public health principles and evidence behind the Nordic alcohol policy model.
- Supporting members responding to proposals that could weaken existing protections.
- Involving experienced researchers, former decision-makers and other recognised experts in NordAN discussions and communications.
- Inviting experts to provide short commentaries, participate in meetings or contribute to joint statements when relevant.
- Connecting Nordic experience with positive developments and evidence from the Baltic countries.

“Guardians of the Nordic model” will function as a common banner and expert network rather than as a new project or formal organisational structure.

The purpose will be to defend and strengthen the traditional Nordic alcohol policy measures that have proved effective in reducing alcohol consumption and harm. At the same time, as evidence and understanding of alcohol-related harm and effective policy interventions continue to grow, NordAN will support further improvements that reinforce public health protections, not reforms that weaken them in the interests of commercialisation, convenience or deregulation.

4. Drug policy cooperation

NordAN will continue its work through the NordAN network on narcotic drugs and its participation in the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs.

NordAN intends to organise two online drug network meetings during 2027. Additional discussions may be organised if an urgent regional or European development requires attention.

Priority will be given to promoting the NordAN drug policy platform, expected to be adopted by the General Assembly in the Faroe Islands in October 2026, and using it as the foundation for NordAN’s drug policy work. NordAN will also follow the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy 2026–2030, emerging drug-market risks, overdose prevention and changing cannabis policies. We will promote a balanced approach connecting prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery, while ensuring that public health and civil society perspectives remain visible. NordAN will monitor relevant regional and European developments and, where appropriate, contribute to consultations and policy discussions in cooperation with its members.

NordAN will monitor consultations, political discussions, conferences and other important drug policy events in the Nordic and Baltic region and at EU level. Where possible and relevant, NordAN will contribute through consultation responses, statements, meetings and cooperation with member organisations.

5. Online resources, communication and advocacy

NordAN will maintain and develop its established online resources and use them together as part of its broader information and advocacy work.

This includes:

- **NordAN's main website and country policy pages:** information about regional alcohol and drug policy developments, member activities and NordAN events.
- **AlcoholAndCancer.eu:** maintenance of the website and publication of relevant new information when appropriate.
- **AlcoholCampaign.org:** continued collection and presentation of alcohol-awareness campaigns, videos, publications and communication materials from different countries.
- **Alcohol policy and political ideologies:** further development of NordAN's work on how evidence-based alcohol policy can be communicated across different political traditions and values.
- **Nordic and Baltic policy monitoring:** maintenance of the regional policy calendar and regular monitoring of political, legislative and research developments.
- **Member and public communication:** newsletters, board updates, articles, interviews, social media and other short communication formats.

These platforms will be treated as connected parts of NordAN's knowledge and communication work. New materials will be produced when there is relevant content and a clear audience rather than according to fixed publication targets.

6. Member cooperation and civil society capacity

NordAN's central role is to provide a common Nordic and Baltic round table for its member organisations. NordAN brings this knowledge together, creates opportunities for exchange and cooperation, and helps build a shared regional understanding of alcohol and drug policy developments, interventions and challenges. Through this common platform, national perspectives can inform regional discussions and, where appropriate, support coordinated civil society positions and action.

NordAN will:

- Maintain regular contact with member organisations.
- Invite members to share national developments, campaigns, concerns and examples of good practice.
- Amplify members' reports, events and advocacy messages.
- Encourage joint statements or small collaborative activities where these can be carried out with limited administration.
- Provide opportunities for members to contribute to NordAN meetings and online platforms.
- Follow the situation of civil society organisations facing reduced funding, limited access to decision-making or other restrictions on their work.
- Promote meaningful civil society participation in national, regional and European policy processes.

New project applications may be considered when they clearly support NordAN's priorities, respond to an identified member need and can be managed within available capacity.

Organisational approach

NordAN will implement this action plan within the limits of its human and financial resources. Activities may be adjusted during the year in response to new policy developments, member needs, funding conditions and opportunities for cooperation.

The board and executive director will periodically review priorities and decide where NordAN's involvement can add the greatest value.

The guiding principles will be relevance, flexibility, regional cooperation, evidence-based policy, civil society participation and realistic use of the organisation's capacity.