

Past, Present, and  
Future of the  
Monitoring of the  
Dublin Declaration

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Positiiviset ry, HivFinland

# Finland

- 5,5 million inhabitants
- Low HIV prevalence
- 4 730 HIV cases by end of 2022
- Yearly 150-170 new HIV cases, not all new diagnoses
- Land of thousand lakes and country over 100 000 associations



# Positiiviset ry, HivFinland

- Only patient organization for PLHIV in Finland
- Founded in 1989
- Led by people living with HIV
  - At least half of the board must be PLHIV
- Main activities advocacy work, support, counselling and peer support
- Prevention, campaigns and HIV-testing
- All activities are for all PLHIV and their close ones in Finland and Finnish PLHIV living abroad. Services are anonymous and free of charge.





# Cooperation with authorities

- There has been understanding since the beginning of the epidemic why it is essential to (meaningfully) include NGOs and persons infected and/or affected with HIV in the decision making, planning and providing services.
- NGOs have close connections with local communities and marginalized groups. It's said quite many times that without good cooperation we wouldn't have so low prevalence in Finland.
- Most of the times we have been on the same side and agreeing with authorities who are responsible for social and health care services.

# National HIV response defined in National HIV-strategy (2018–2020)

- The strategy was drawn up for a three-year period 2018–2020 in the national HIV and hepatitis expert group led by the Institute of Health and Welfare (THL).

The expert group consists of several authorities, third sector (NGOs) and person(s) living with HIV.





# National HIV response defined in National HIV-strategy

- The goal of HIV work in Finland is to reduce new HIV infections and the morbidity and mortality caused by the infection, and to minimize the effects of HIV on the infected, their close ones and society. In addition, the work is guided by the 90-90-90 goal set by the UN HIV/AIDS organization to curb the HIV epidemic.
- The strategy emphasizes the cooperation of different actors and the right of those who belong to key population groups to be involved in influencing matters that affect them by participating in the planning, implementation and evaluation of activities.

# National HIV and Hepatitis Expert Group

## - good example of cooperation

### **AUTHORITIES**

- Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, THL (chair Director of the Department of Health Security)
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- HIV-doctors, Infectious diseases clinic
- Venereal Diseases Outpatient Clinic, Skin and Allergy Hospital
- doctors treating hepatitises
- Other ministries, law and enforcement

### **NGOs**

- Positiiviset HivFinland (vice-chair)
- Hivpoint
- Pro-tukipiste
- A-Clinic foundation
- Muma, Kidney and Liver Association
- HIV/AIDS nurses association
- Finnish Red Cross, Deaconess institute, Väestöliitto the Family Federation of Finland

# National HIV Network

- Network meets 3-4 times a year
- Chaired by Positiiviset HivFinland
- Sharing more practical things and is more informative than the expert group.
  - For example what illegal drugs are on the market at the moment, how easy it is to get tested for STIs, how many new HIV-positive diagnosis during the past months and if everyone are linked to care.
- Participants in the meetings are from NGOs, THL, hospital, ministries and service providers from city of Helsinki, and Vantaa.



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- *Within this group we started to give the response to Dublin declaration monitoring.*
- *Before Positiiviset, Helsinki Deaconess Institute was chairing the Network for many years.*
- *The first responses took quite many hours.*
- *Many different NGOs participated into the discussions.*

# Dublin Declaration monitoring



Participated every time



1. THL asks us to coordinate the community response



2. We invite other NGOs to participate



3. Organising a meeting where we go through the questionnaire



4. Have a meeting with THL to discuss through the questions and responses

## HIV Continuum of care

Monitoring implementation of the Dublin Declaration on partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia: 2020 progress report

# Dublin Declaration monitoring

- In Finland we have been agreeing with authorities in the responses.
- The questions are not provoking for a debatt any more.
- Wish there was the same enthusiasm to measure quality of life, discrimination or stigmatisation as viral loads and CD4 counts.
- The ECDC, AAE and EATG community stigma survey provides data but also draws attention to stigma.
- What gets measured gets done!

# Funding for NGOs

- Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA)
- Ministry for Social and Health, prevention for sexually transmitted and blood borne diseases
- Other ministries give grants for culture, education and sports activities.
- Wellbeing services counties and city of Helsinki are funding services for people living in certain areas.

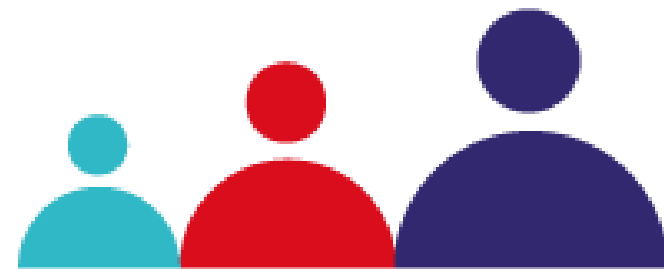


# Some other examples of cooperation in Finland

- Building up National Quality Registers in Finland
  - Positiiviset participated, and we are still participating, the work in core group. Also involved in creating PROMs.
- We do get support to steering groups and speakers to seminars.
- NGOs are invited to working groups, parliamentary hearings and there are possibilities to submit comments to statute drafting.
- Cooperation is two-way
  - We, as NGOs, need to demonstrate our expertise and representativeness.
- We have a meaningful seat in the table
  - To have the seat also in the future means constant work, to have funding for the work and a vision for the future.

Thank you!

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HIV FINLAND