

## Executive Summary from the 24th meeting of the EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

The HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF) has been established by the European Commission as a working group to facilitate the participation of NGOs, including those representing people living with HIV and AIDS, in policy development and implementation and in information exchange activities. Below is a short overview of the meeting (Luxembourg, April 18 & 19, 2016). The full meeting report and all presentations are available for download at <http://www.aidsactioneurope.org>.

### Fast Track City – Experiences from the Amsterdam project

Since the HIV epidemic is predominantly concentrated in cities the Fast Track City approach unites cities to accelerate their response to HIV. The CSF heard about the work of the Amsterdam H-Team, a consortium to coordinate the eradication of HIV at city level. The Amsterdam PrEP-Project, testing facilitation, barriers for early treatment among professionals and patients, the viro-immunological research on the effect of immediate treatment of acute HIV infection on viral reservoir and immune system and motivational campaigns to raise awareness for testing, early treatment and acute HIV infection were at focus.

### The situation in neighbouring countries and addressing the funding gap

According to UNAIDS the situation in the EECA countries remains challenging as funding commitments at national level are grossly inadequate due to missing national ownership and dependence on external funding for HIV responses. With regards to the EECAAC Conference happening every two years in Moscow and which was boycotted by some organisations last year, he advances the view that boycotting the conference is not helping anybody. For responding to the epidemic, joint efforts and collaboration are needed, in particular at civil society level. The Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) works to foster financial and programmatic sustainability of harm reduction in EECA countries. It focuses in particular on providing overarching guidance to structure the complex transition processes from global to domestic funding. EHRN published case studies on different countries to show their performance on transition with regards to HR.

### Stigma and legal barriers in testing and linkage to care

OptTEST (Optimising Testing and Linkage to Care) is a project funded by the European Union that aims to help reduce the number of undiagnosed people with HIV infection in the European region and promote timely treatment and care. With the website <http://legalbarriers.peoplewithhiveurope.org/index.php> a source was created that provides an overview of legal and regulatory barriers for testing in 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

### Criminalisation of HIV transmission and exposure

The HIV Justice Network monitors the criminalisation of HIV transmission, exposure and non-disclosure globally. There are 72 countries in the world that have HIV specific criminal laws with 101 jurisdictions including the individual US states. In the EU this concerns the countries Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia and Albania, Montenegro, Serbia in the Balkan region. On the other hand, Europe is the global leader in ensuring that scientific evidence is reflected in justice decisions, considering the actual transmission risk, prosecuting only intentional exposure and following the Swiss statement.

### Follow-up on the Integrated Approach discussion on HIV, TB and viral hepatitis in a Strategic Framework

During the EU Health Ministers' meeting in Bratislava, member states agreed on the need to develop an integrated policy framework. There is wide consensus between civil society, agencies and governments in favour of an overarching strategic framework to support national authorities in reaching their objectives. However, the Commission is not moving forward.

### Gay Mobile Apps – Good practice examples from the countries

Although this topic has been on the agenda and moved forward by ECDC, gay apps are insufficiently used for prevention, information sharing and outreach. The CSF hears about barriers and opportunities gay apps and present two examples from Germany and Finland. For many organisations, the cost of broadcast messages are a barrier although print media are also expensive without knowing how many people you actually reach. One of the opportunities is the possibility to cluster target groups, for instance geographically or in terms of age.

### PrEP – Report from France and discussion on the state of play in other countries

AIDES France gives an update on PrEP in France since its integration in the health system. By early September 2016, 1.527 people were receiving PrEP. The vast majority of recipients are MSM in Paris. The overall target is 50.000. Challenges in rolling out the programme are presented as much as approaches to overcome these barriers. This information is of high relevance in order to get prepared in countries where PrEP is not available yet. The Flash! PrEP In Europe research results are expected very soon.

