

Project design study for a European exchange platform of good practices in HIV prevention and sexual health - Clearinghouse

Findings and options for continuation

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Design Study – Aims

- To identify important parameters and contents for the implementation of a sustainable clearinghouse on HIV prevention and sexual health promotion in Europe (Status Quo, Needs, Consensus of key stakeholders in Europe about aims, functions, and scope)
- To develop a draft outline for a web-based exchange platform



Design Study – Methods

- Review of existing exchange platforms (HIV/Aids, STD, and SRH)
- Needs assessment: Survey with 16 experts/stakeholders
 - from the field of HIV/Aids prevention and sexual health
 - from East and West Europe
 - from GOs and NGOs
- Delphi Study (Consensus finding process in two rounds with 23 experts towards aims, functions and scope of a clearinghouse)

Design Study – Results - Review

Results

Review of existing platforms (HIV Prevention and Sexual Health)

Identification of 48 websites disseminating information, news, publications, newsletters, listservs, best practices, materials, measures, tools, etc.

Summary: Altogether the websites present an extensive amount of information and material, but most platforms

- are not tailored for the European context
- have no or not transparent inclusion criteria
- don't address quality assurance, effectiveness, evidence



Design Study – Results – Needs Assessment

Results

Needs assessment

All 16 national experts require information about evaluated materials and measures

15 out of 16 national experts require resources concerning expert exchange (e.g. networking (7), workshops for best practices (4), exchange experiences (3))



Design Study – Results – Delphi Study – Quality

Results

Delphi Study (23 experts in round one and 20 experts in round two)

The concept to include only material which meet **quality criteria/standards** obtained approval after round one (n=17)

- The experts recommended to define quality criteria for materials and measures and to set up different levels of quality, including information about materials and measures that didn't work
- The exchange platform in the field of HIV prevention and sexual health should be based on a model of quality assurance/improvement



Option for continuation: EU Proposal Quality improvement platform

The projects conceptual framework results from two parallel processes:

- the Design study “European Exchange platform on good practices in HIV prevention and sexual health - Clearinghouse” (Review of platforms, Needs assessment, Delphi study round 1 and 2, advisory group discussion) and
- the WHO/BZgA Conference “How Do We Know What Works? – Strengthening Quality Assurance in HIV Prevention in Europe” (October 2008, Berlin).



Goal

The main goal is to improve the effectiveness of HIV prevention (impact!) in Europe

The platform aims to serve as a European knowledge base on quality improvement (QI) in HIV/STI prevention and sexual health promotion

taking into account the QI of national campaigns and programmes, community-based interventions and the promotion of individual testing and counseling in groups at risk.



Functions of a Quality improvement portal

- Collection, assessment, classification, and appliance of Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Improvement (QI) Instruments for HIV prevention
- Provide a structured system of tools for project developers/leaders to plan, develop, and evaluate their projects/measures
- The platform **does not aim** at building another portal for the collection of HIV prevention projects/materials
- It **would aim** at the practical facilitation of quality improvement in new or ongoing HIV prevention activities (incl. STD and SRH)

Definitions

- **Quality** is the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge (*Institute of Medicine, 2001*)
- **Evaluation** is a process of determining the value or worth of something by judging it against explicit, predetermined standards (*Suchman EA, 1967*)
- **Evidence** The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid (*Jewell & Abate 2001*)
- **Quality Assurance** encompasses methods for describing, measuring, evaluating and, where needed, taking measures aimed at the improvement of what, in a broad sense, is described as quality (*Calltorp & Bergström, 1992*)



Conclusion

- **Using the available instruments** and methods to measure quality
- **Participative involvement of practitioners** into quality assurance and evaluation
- **Consideration** of already **existing evidence**
- Further **development** of **methods, concepts** and **instruments**, which consider social and process-related factors
- **Systematic documentations** of experiences (“intervention reports”)
- **Coordinated exchange** of experiences, e.g. access, expected and unexpected health effects, quality assurance

