



## Participatory research project on HIV prevention with immigrant communities in Germany (PaKoMi)

Tanja Gangarova (DAH)  
Silke Klumb (DAH)  
Hella von Unger (WZB)



## PaKoMi-Project

- Participatory research project on HIV prevention with immigrant communities in Germany
- Partners:
  - Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (DAH) (National Association of ASO)
  - Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB)
  - Community Partners and service providers in four cities (African, Bulgarian, Turkish, Russian immigrant communities, ASO and other service providers)
- Project duration: 2008-2011
- Supported by the German Ministry of Health

2



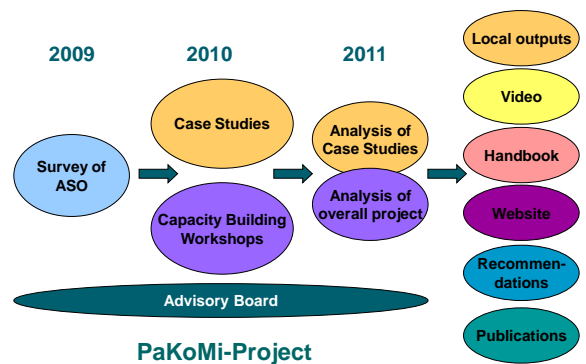
## What makes PaKoMi unique?

Action Research  
Integrated knowledge translation

- equal partnership between community members, traditionally trained "experts" and scientists
- participation of different immigrant groups and different cooperation partners in four German cities
- The research topic is defined by the community (needs based)
- Aims:
  - to collect more information und understand community needs
  - to strengthen community resources , to develop solutions
  - action for change
  - Understand the barriers and facilitating factors
- Brings different perspectives together

Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

3



4



## Participation

- equal partnership (with decision making power) - at each stage of the project, including problem definition, research design, conducting research, interpreting the results, and determining how the results should be used for action
- Stage Model of Participation

Stages of Participation		
Stage 9	Self-Organization	Goes beyond participation
Stage 8	Decision-making power	
Stage 7	Partial decision-making power	Participation
Stage 6	Co-determination	
Stage 5	Inclusion	
Stage 4	Hearing	Preliminary Stages of Participation
Stage 3	Information	
Stage 2	Directive	
Stage 1	Instrumentalization	Non-Participation

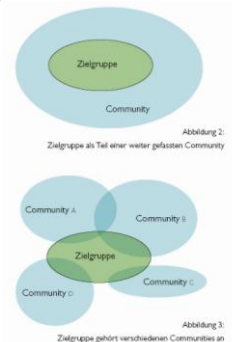
Quelle: Wright, Block, von Unger 2010

5



## Main concepts of community

- What is it about?
- Which are the possible commonalities?
  - not only based on ethnicity or country of origin
  - common goals, identity, sense of belonging
  - social networks, meeting points
  - diversity within communities
- Target group vs. community
- Who are the right partners?
- Community Mapping

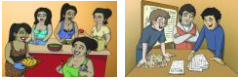


6



## Case Studies

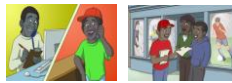
**Dortmund** - Community Mapping with Bulgarian MSM sex workers / Cooking and interviews with female sex workers from Bulgaria



**Berlin** - Internet-chats with MSM. Story dialogue – group discussion with male sex worker. Qualitative expert interviews with community leaders



**Hamburg** - Peer Researcher Training. Interviews within the african community in Hamburg



**Osnabrück** – Love Health Action, community building



7



## „Community Mapping“

- Participatory method that represents and analyzes characteristics of communities (resources, community values etc.). This method explicitly honours the local and personal knowledge of communities.
- Helps to understand community needs and problems, to collect information on community resources etc.
- It can be implemented for different purposes (for example – needs assessment, monitoring, evaluation etc.)
- It can be initiated by external person but it must be carried out in participatory way by community members
- It is a method that empowers community members

8



## „Community Mapping“

- „mapping“ = the act or process of making a map
- Visualisation and group discussion are central points
- „community mapping“ is a multiplex tool of techniques and methods
- „community mapping“ is a very common method in the area of international development aid and gains increasingly importance in the area of health promotion
- various definitions of community possible

9



## Community Mapping

- Different kind of community maps
  - **Social Map:** seeks to explore the spatial dimensions of people's realities – visualize the geographic spread of communities, their social characteristics and facilities, analyses the access to infrastructure and dynamics of inclusion and exclusion (housing, housing conditions, churches, parks, demographic information etc.)
  - **Resource Map:** focuses on the natural resources in the locality and their cultivation (forests, rivers, lakes, fountains, growing areas)
  - **Mobility Map:** explores the movement pattern of an individual, a group or community (where people go and for what; frequency of visits, distance, and the importance of the places visited; differing maps men/women/children)

10



## The suggested steps for community mapping are follows:

- Fix the location and time (1, 2 or max 3 hours). Invite community members who have some knowledge of the outside world
- Explain the purpose, the procedure and the timeframe to the participants: How will the map be used or analysed to make decisions? How can the map be created? Which materials can be used? (usage of materials which are locally available are recommended)
- Ask the participants to start showing the major resources (points)
- What symbols can be used?
- Do not interfere! If you have something to clarify wait for the right moment. Ask them „What about...?... Can you show me... in the map?...“. This looks very interesting, can you explain it to me in more detail?...etc.
- Revision of the map should be enabled
- Listen carefully to the discussions, record the data in a suitable form, take pictures of the map and of the process

11



## Community Mapping with Bulgarian MSM Sex Workers – PaKoMi Case Study Dortmund



- 4 meetings in 2010 (2 with peers, two with group)
- setting approach considered
- exchange on the topic of „health“
- what places do we need to know in dortmund?

- Methods used**
- one-on-one interviews
  - moderated group discussions
  - documentation, photos
  - evaluation



12



Community Mapping with Bulgarian MSM Sex Workers:

- „Shadowing“, focus groups
- Aim – to create a map of Dortmund which shows the meeting points of Bulgarian sex workers and and the location of familiar social service providers in the city
- No language skills and reading abilities are required
- The map needs not to be true to scale! It should reflect the perspective of the community
- The participats should be in the position to explain the map to another

13



PaKoMi: Main findings

- Different immigrant groups have different needs
- HIV-Prevention as part of a broader concept of health promotion that pays attention to legal, social and cultural factors (Structural prevention)
- Participation works if the preconditions are given (the right persons, decision-making power and resources)
- „combined Participation“ is particularly advantageous
- Limitations of „participation“
- Limitations of „cooperation“

14



What are the benefits of PaKoMi ?

- For those involved: their ressources were activated and their skills were strengthened
- For the communities: communities and their self-organisation were strengthened and further developed
- For the employees in NGOs or other projects: improved cooperation
- For the prevention: better understanding of the needs and capabilities of immigrants, development of appropriate HIV prevention services, tools for supporting participation

15



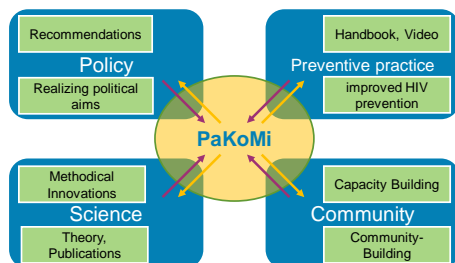
Where do we go from here?

- Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (DAH)
- Trainings on „peer research“, „community mapping“ and other participatory methods; intercultural trainings, educational programs for immigrants in the area of HIV/STI-Prevention (PaKoMi-educators and multiplicators)
  - „Community Building“ – support for immigrants self-help organisations
  - Strengthen the networks of african communities (projects) which focus the field of hiv-prevention and health in general
- Locally
- Support the building-up of new structures – cooperations etc.

16



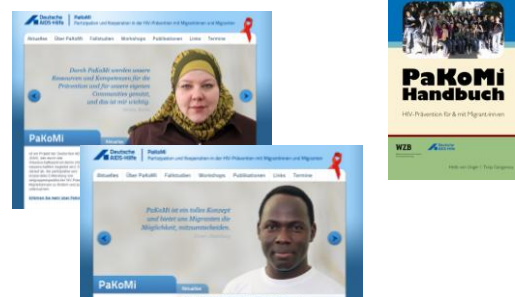
PaKoMi: Input and Outcomes



17



Project-Website: [www.pakomi.de/](http://www.pakomi.de/) PaKoMi-Book



18



Thank you!



Questions?!

