

Executive Summary from the 20th meeting of the 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 (Rome, November 24 & 25, 2014). The full meeting report and all presentations are available for download at <http://www.aidsactioneurope.org>.

The Rome Conference

Due to shortcomings in preparation of the event and lack of involvement of national ministries, the conference did not have the desired outcome of an adopted Rome Declaration. CSF will follow up with the Commission and upcoming presidencies to have the declaration adopted and keep HIV, HCV, TB and STIs on the political agenda at European level the next year.

10-year Dublin overview

Within the last 10 years after Dublin, the number of heterosexual cases from countries with generalised HIV epidemics in EU/EEA decreased by 61%, injecting drug use cases by 36% and mother-to-child transmission by 37%. However, over the same period, increase of newly diagnosed HIV cases in the Non-EU/EEA countries amounted to 126%, while newly diagnosed HIV cases in EU/EEA countries among MSM increased by 33% indicate that enormous efforts are needed to end AIDS in Europe and Central Asia.

Rapid Tests – community based testing outside medical settings

An overview of circumstances and conditions regarding voluntary testing and counselling (VCT) outside medical settings in European countries by EATG shows barriers and achievements for AIDS service organisations to implement demedicalised testing. Further advocacy and activities are needed to make this useful instrument available on a broader scale and to reduce the number of late presenters.

PrEP - State of discussion in different countries

Insights of the implementation of the Ipergay study in France, including the crucial information that the placebo arm was stopped in October 2014 for ethical reasons, and other findings show that PrEP offers a new option in prevention. If the medicines are taken properly, the risk of HIV infection decreases significantly.

Undocumented migrants: Access to treatment, prevention and care

In order to end AIDS, access to treatment, prevention and care for undocumented migrants are key challenges, it is essential not only out of a humanitarian and human rights guided perspective but also from a public health view.

Community advocacy on national level for ensuring access to affordable direct acting agents (DAA) for hepatitis C treatment

Experiences and strategies in different countries in order to coordinate CSF's efforts for affordable DAAs were discussed. The real price for DAA treatment varies between countries and is often lower than officially announced depending on negotiation methods, strategies and basic principles in each country.

And more:

Collaboration with the Civil Society Forum on Drugs, Updates by the Commission and the Agencies, EU Communication for combating HIV/AIDS, Meeting of the CSF delegation with the new Commissioner, Debrief HepHIV conference Barcelona

