

Minutes AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee meeting

Date: Amsterdam, 4-6 October 2010

Participants: Aisuluu Bolotbaeva, Elena Grigoryeva, Ferenc Bagyinszky, Harry Witzthum, Joost van der Meer, Nataliya Salabai, Tamar Sirbiladze, Ton Coenen, Wim Vandeveld, Martine de Schutter, Martine van der Meulen, Iti Westra, Liza Berezina (5 and 6 October)

Apologies: Yusef Azad, Iva Jovovic, Ulrich Heide

Monday 4 October 2010

1 Strategic developments & challenges

1.1 Opening

Welcome to all Steering Committee members. Regarding the action list from the AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee in Kiev almost all actions were followed up and carried out.

1.2 HIV/AIDS in the Netherlands

Ton Coenen gives an introduction about Soa Aids Nederland and HIV/AIDS in the Netherlands.

1.3 Strategic issues and concerns in the coming period: economic crisis and universal access

The Steering Committee is deeply concerned about the (possible) impact of the economic crisis for HIV/AIDS funding in the region, particularly funding for prevention among the most affected populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The Steering Committee decides to explore possibilities to organize a (pre)meeting about the economic crisis and the impact on funding for HIV in the region, preferably in connection with the Spring Civil Society Forum meeting. At the Civil Society Forum and Think Tank, AIDS Action Europe will raise the issue and request a more pro-active role and leadership of the European Commission to put the issue on the public health agenda.

2 Strategic issues: shaping the work with partners

European Commission

The European Commission will issue a call for new Civil Society Forum members which will be disseminated by AIDS Action Europe.

World Health Organization Europe

The final Global Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2011-2015 of the World Health Organization is planned for May 2011. We will be involved in the process when the strategy is adapted to the region. The strategy will result in a European Action plan, expected in September 2011.

Quality assurance/QI initiative

AIDS Action Europe is involved in the Quality Assurance Initiative together with WHO Europe and BZgA. There are plans to transfer the initiative to a knowledge hub for the region. AIDS Action Europe's clearinghouse will play a role and the working group will explore possibilities to invest in e-learning.

UNAIDS

The Steering Committee decides to establish closer links with the UNAIDS Programme Community Board regional representatives for Europe and to attend the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meetings whenever the agenda connects to AIDS Action Europe's strategy.

International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)

The international office of ICASO is currently rearranging activities and responsibilities. This will also result in further clarification of roles and responsibilities of the International Secretariat and Regional

Secretariats. AIDS Action Europe will be involved in the review of the regional report on civil societies' level of involvement in universal access monitoring and evaluation.

HIV in Europe

The HIV in Europe initiative, co-chaired by AIDS Action Europe, focuses on testing and early treatment, and brings together affected communities, policy people and medical professionals. An update on the 5 project is given. Depending on the funding the initiative will continue, or be forced to focus on only some parts of its issues.

Global Fund

AIDS Action Europe decided to make better use of its contacts with NGOs and networks that are represented in the board of the Global Fund and provide relevant information at our website.

Involvement in EU projects

European projects can and do use the website of AIDS Action Europe to announce their events and the Clearinghouse to disseminate their products. The Steering Committee suggests to investigate how to work more in-depth with other networks, especially those in Eastern Europe.

Tuesday October 5

3 Key meetings, Work plan and funding

3.1 Upcoming key meetings

The SC reviews the list of upcoming meetings and decides on representation and roles by the Steering Committee and office. For an updated list of key meetings, click [here](#).

3.2 Work plans, budget and funding issues 2010 & 2011

Regarding the work plan and budget 2010, most activities are implemented as planned, and the budget is mostly spent as planned. The Steering Committee approves the changes in the work plan 2011, due to reduced funding from the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers for the core work programme 2011. The Steering Committee decides to investigate possible strategies when funding from the European Commission will stop in the future.

AIDS Action Europe is planning to recruit a fundraising officer. A vacancy announcement will be sent out soon.

3.3 Governance

Harry Witzthum's term as Chair of the Steering Committee is extended with one more year. The yearly call for new Steering Committee members will be disseminated in October. There are three vacancies. The call will prioritise candidates from Southern Europe, Central Asia and Russia or Ukraine.

4 AIDS Action Europe Members and Stakeholder meeting

The meeting between the AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee, AIDS Action Europe staff, AIDS Action Europe members in the Netherlands and other key stakeholders was very fruitful. About 25 people attended the meeting, including most members of the network as well as representatives from the National Center for Disease Control, Ministry of Health, GNP+ and Tampep.

Wednesday October 6

5 Projects

5.1 Vienna activities and outcomes

In general AIDS Action Europe is positive about the AIDS Action Europe activities at the Vienna International AIDS Conference. Experience this year learns that it does have an impact to be a member

of organizing committees. The Steering Committee agrees that AIDS Action Europe needs to be present in Washington DC in 2012.

5.2 Project ROST - Responding to HIV through Organizational Support and Technical Cooperation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

The first seminar of the ROST project, on strengthening advocacy skills of NGOs, was evaluated positively, but the project can be further improved. The Steering Committee members from the region want to be more closely involved with the project. Regarding the small grant program it is important to communicate that ROST aims to share information and is no fund. The Steering Committee suggests to also offer technical support to the applicants of small grants. AFEW will investigate whether this is possible through the UNAIDS regional Technical Support Facility.

6 Any other business

Place and date next meeting

The next two meetings are set in Zagreb on 17-18 March 2011 and Zurich on 6-7 October 2011.

Evaluation of the meeting

The meeting was fruitful, there was a friendly atmosphere and good teamwork. The backgrounders were well prepared and very good logistics and organization.