



AIDS ACTION EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEE

Date: Zagreb, 18-19 April 2011

Participants: Lella Cosmaro, Elena Grigoryeva, Ferenc Bagyinszky, Harry Witzthum, Joost van der Meer, Dasha Ocheret, Assel Janayeva, Ton Coenen, Wim Vandeveldde, Yusef Azad, Iva Jovovic, Martine de Schutter, Martine van der Meulen, Jolan van Herwaarden, Elena Zaitseva (only 19 April)

Apologies: Tamar Sirbiladze

1 Strategic developments & choices

1.1 Status Action list previous Steering Committee meeting

Regarding the action list from the AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee meeting in Amsterdam, the majority of the actions were followed up and carried out. Some actions were postponed or are still pending.

1.2 HIV/AIDS in Croatia

Iva Jovovic gave a short update about the Croatian epidemic and response.

1.3 Resource Mobilisation plan

The resource mobilisation plan, developed by Jolan van Herwaarden (Fundraising Coordinator) was discussed in-depth by the Steering Committee, who provided additional input and recommendations.

1.4 Cross-media Communication plan

Martine van der Meulen (Communications Officer) presented a cross-media plan which was elaborated on by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee agreed to make more use of media messages on social media sites to communicate with members, policy makers and funders.

1.5 Advocacy work

The steering committee discussed in detail:

- What should be our specific advocacy focus for the members in Eastern Europe and Central Asia?
- Which specific advocacy content can Aids Action Europe put forward? What distinguishes us from the Civil Society Forum?
- How to deal with overlap between Aids Action Europe and the Civil Society Forum?

The discussion continued around the question "how can we reconfigure the way we do things to develop a more pro-active advocacy role?". It was agreed that in consultation with our member organisations, the Steering Committee will prioritise two key topics yearly that will be the focus of our advocacy and communication work.

2 Strategic issues & work with partners

2.1 UNGASS and universal access

AIDS Action Europe was present at the regional consultation for the UNGASS process for Europe and Central Asia, where the main focus was on the funding situation, especially for vulnerable groups. There will be AIDS Action Europe representation at the High Level Meeting in New York in June. In preparation, the Civil Society Forum co-chairs have sent a letter to Lady Ashton, to make sure that the EU Communication is reflected in the UNGASS declaration.

3 Update on partnerships



3.1 Civil Society Forum & Think Tank

The AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee agreed to support EATG in a joint communication towards the European Commission to have a sustainable funding mechanism for the co-chairing of the Civil Society Forum.

The Steering Committee agreed with the proposal to have a 3-year term for the AIDS Action Europe co-chair of the Civil Society Forum.

3.2 IQHIV initiative

The objective of the IQHIV Initiative is to improve the quality of HIV prevention. To increase visibility, a website will be created. The Steering Committee mentioned that the involvement of AIDS Action Europe in the initiative is very successful.

3.3 WHO Europe emergency action plan

The Steering Committee discussed the WHO Emergency Plan and agreed on further comments to be sent to WHO Europe.

3.4 Upcoming key meetings

The Steering Committee reviewed the list of upcoming meetings and decided on representation and roles of the Steering Committee members and AIDS Action Europe staff. For an updated list of key meetings, click [here](#).

4 ROST project, work plan & governance

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

Elena Zaitseva (project manager ROST Project) presented results achieved and problems encountered in 2010. Harry Witzthum (chair AIDS Action Europe) presented a proposal to reorganise the structure of the ROST project on different levels. In response to the proposal of AIDS Action Europe it was decided that AIDS Foundation East-West will present a new work plan and budget and develop an e-learning proposal. The staff and Steering Committee members involved with the ROST project continued the discussion after the meeting and will put the final agreements in writing. Four Steering Committee members from the region will be actively involved in an advisory function to the ROST project.

5 Work plans, budget and fundraising issues 2011 & 2012

5.1 Update on status work plan and budget 2011

Due to heavy workload the annual report 2010 is delayed. The office will prepare it before the next conference call. Overall, the work programme 2011 is implemented as planned and budget-wise there are no issues of concern. The Steering Committee approved the draft proposal for the operating grant 2012 that was developed by the office. There is agreement to hold next year's meetings in Milan and Amsterdam. All agree that we should aim for a Steering Committee meeting in Central Asia in 2013, for which separate fundraising is needed.

5.2 Governance

Harry Witzthum will end his term as chair of AIDS Action Europe in September. A replacement procedure will be developed.

5.3 Any other business

The Steering Committee agreed to send a letter to express its concerns regarding the proposed legal changes in Belarus.

5.4 Evaluation

The meeting was well prepared by the AIDS Action Europe office and our host in Zagreb. The background information was very



detailed and concrete. The discussions were constructive and open, even with difficult topics.

Aids Action Europe Members and Stakeholder meeting

A small group of Croatian attendants represented several AIDS Action Europe member organisations, as well as WHO Europe and UNAIDS theme group. Croatian NGOs explained that it is very interesting for them to become more active in European networks.