



MINUTES AIDS ACTION EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 31 MARCH + 1 APRIL 2014

Amsterdam, 31 March 2014 + 1 April 2014

Participants: **ANKE VAN DAM, CHAIR**, AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW), the Netherlands; **BRIAN WEST**, European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), UK; **FERENC BAGYINSZKY**, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Hungary; **LELLA COSMARO**, Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS (LILA Milano ONLUS), Italy); **MARTIN VAN OOSTROM**, Soa Aids Nederland, the Netherlands; **SVETLANA MOROZ**, All-Ukraine PLWH Network, Ukraine; **SILKE KLUMB**, Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (DAH), Germany (*Monday only*); **GEORG BRÖRING**, AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands; **DIEUWKE BOSMANS**, AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands; **RIENEKE DE MAN**, AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands (*Tuesday only*)

Apologies: **SILKE KLUMB**, Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (DAH), Germany (*Tuesday*); **RIENEKE DE MAN**, AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands (*Monday*)

MONDAY, 31 MARCH

1 Opening and Welcome

1.1 Opening

The chair of the Steering Committee Anke van Dam welcomes everybody to this important meeting and praises the cooperation of the past months. Interim Executive Coordinator Georg Bröring welcomes the Steering Committee on behalf of the office and introduces himself.

1.2 Introduction round

Most SC members know each other. Nevertheless, they briefly introduce themselves. Silke is new in the SC, and she is looking forward to future involvement and cooperation. For Ferenc, it will be the last SC meeting, as he has been in the SC for six years now.

2 Annual Report 2013 and Work Plan 2014

2.1 Annual Report 2013

The SC approves the Annual Report 2013.

2.2 Update workplan and budget 2014

The developments regarding re-hosting are not yet incorporated into the workplan. Budget and finances: there are very little reserves left. The SC cannot work with the budget of the 2014 workplan, as this was a budget calculated for a whole year. The executive coordinator will compile a more detailed (financial) overview by the end of April, in cooperation with the financial department of SANL.



3 Re-hosting

The SC discusses various issues regarding the three applicant organisations:

- Background of the organisation;
- Organisational structure;
- Financial situation and budget;
- The possible strategic interest in wanting to host the AIDS Action Europe network;
- Their international network and experience in cooperating on an international level;
- Experience with and eligibility for EC funding and/or EU projects.

The organisations are comparable in eagerness and readiness. The SC focusses on the strategic objectives of AAE when looking at the organisations: can they support AAE in its strategy? It is a strategic decision, which host can assist AAE to fulfil its objectives best. All SC members stress that there are three excellent candidates, from which they need to choose. All SC members agree to continue the re-hosting process, considering that all three candidates meet AAE's standards/criteria.

From the voting process, a preference of the SC in favour of DAH as future host for AAE emerged. The Committee members unanimously supported the decision to negotiate the re-hosting further with DAH.

3.1 Next Steps

Current host, chair and co-ordinator will look into further steps to be taken regarding re-hosting. Deadline for finishing the re-hosting procedure is 1 July 2014.

4 AAE priorities 2014

4.1 Civil Society Forum

The new Action Plan that AAE and CSF have been advocating for, has come out in the first quarter of 2014 and will be valid till the end of 2016. The results of the evaluation of the previous Communication and Action Plan will be presented by mid-2014; the results of the evaluation will be used to develop a new political framework. The CSF keeps advocating for a new Communication and aims to keep the pressure on the EC to keep the momentum.

4.2 European HIV Legal Forum

A meeting of the EHLF is planned for 14 & 15 April 2014 in Amsterdam, to discuss further the current project proposal. There are several options to proceed with the project, for instance to go in-depth on limited issues or to broaden it to more legal issues. The SC confirms its support for the EHLF, i.e. to give guidance to the EHLF. In addition, the SC considers it important to continue with the EHLF.



TUESDAY, 1 APRIL

4.3 Update AAE Communications

AAE Communication Coordinator gives an update on the communication strategy for 2014. New ideas to improve the AAE communications strategy will be captured in a communication advice for the new host organisation. These ideas relate to the second objective of the workplan 2014: Facilitate collaboration, linking & learning, and good practice exchange among NGOs, networks, policy makers and other stakeholders. It is up to the new host organization to decide, whether and in which ways this advice will be implemented.

4.4 Quality Action

AAE is involved in the Dissemination work package (WP 2) and the Policy work package (WP 8) of the EU Quality Action Project. The Executive Coordinator reports back from activities for WP 8; the Communications Coordinator reports on her activities for WP 2.

5 Further SC business

5.1 SC vacancies

By the end of 2014, three vacancies will be open and there is one reapplication possible. The process of reapplying/filling vacancies will be implemented, once the new host is in place.

5.2 Funding

As there are clear limitations to combining operating grant funding with other funding mechanisms, the executive coordinator will combine a recent document from 2013 by the SC comparing project funding with operating grant funding, with pros and cons of the call for 2015.

5.3 EECAC Conference in Moscow

The EECAC conference (12 – 13 May 2014) is sponsored by the Russian government, and logistically organised by AIDSInfoShare, which has close relationships with Russian authorities. The chair of the SC was prepared to attend. Seen the recent developments in Ukraine the SC decides to attend, but not on behalf of AIDS Action Europe.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 Situation in Ukraine

The SC member from Ukraine gives an update on the political situation in Ukraine and the consequences for PLHIV in Crimea after the Russian annexation. In particular, there are problems with continuing ARVs and OST programmes.

6.2 Cluster Meeting Joining together to Tackle HIV in Europe by using the Health Programme Project Results, 12 & 13 June 2014, Greece

The CSF co-chair, will have a keynote speech on Civil Society involvement in policy making. The impact of EU funded projects – such as AAE – will be discussed. The attendance of both the CSF co-chair and Executive Coordinator may be valuable to look at both structural and practical aspects of EU programmes.



6.3 Selection procedure new CSF members

The selection procedure for the renewal of the Civil Society Forum is currently carried out. The EC has the final decision about the CSF membership, but the decision is taken in close consultation with the co-chairs and the coordination team.

6.4 IAC 2014

There are not many SC members attending the Melbourne conference. SC members are requested to take AAE folders for dissemination.

7 Evaluation of the meeting

In the evaluation, the office was praised for the logistics and agenda of the meeting. SC members indicated they enjoyed the discussions and are optimistic about the future of AIDS Action Europe.