



MINUTES STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: London, 6 and 7 October 2011

Participants: **YUSEF AZAD** (National AIDS Trust, United Kingdom), **HARRY WITZTHUM** (Swiss Aids Federation, Switzerland), **WIM VANDEVELDE** (EATG/ GAT, Portugal), **FERENC BAGYINSZKY** (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Hungary), **JOOST VAN DER MEER** (AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW), the Netherlands), **ELENA GRIGORYEVA** (Belarusian national network of PLWH – NGO Belarusian PLWH Community, Belarus), **TON COENEN** (Soa Aids Nederland, the Netherlands), **LELLA COSMARO** (LILA Milano ONLUS – Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS, Italy), **ASSEL JANAYEVA** (Public Organization "Amulet", Kazakhstan), **MARTINE DE SCHUTTER** (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands), **JOLAN VAN HERWAARDEN** (*Thursday*) (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands), **GIJSKE WESTRA** (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands), **ELENA ZAITSEVA** (*Friday*) (AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW) - Moscow Office, Russia)

Apologies: **IVA JOVOVIC** (Life Quality Improvement Organisation LET, Croatia), **DARIA OCHERET** (Eurasian Harm Reduction Network, Russia), **MARTINE VAN DE MEULEN** (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands)

1 Strategic developments & choices

1.1 Action Points Zagreb

Regarding the action list from the AIDS Action Europe steering committee meeting in Zagreb, almost all actions were followed up and carried out.

1.2 HIV/AIDS in the UK

Yusef Azad held a short presentation about the current situation in the UK.

1.3 Funding scenarios

1.3.1 A quick overview of the current funding situation

STI AIDS Netherlands received confirmation that in principle AIDS Action Europe is awarded the European Commission Operating Grant 2012.

Martine de Schutter informed the Steering Committee about the current funding situation and gave an overview of different short- and longer term funding scenarios. The Steering Committee discussed and reached decision on budget and programme cuts to be made in case less co-funding would be obtained.

1.4 Plans for the future: new initiatives/projects

1.4.1 Legal experts network

The Steering Committee discussed a proposal to set up a network of lawyers to whom AIDS Action Europe can go for advice. This network would open our eyes on what is going on in the region and take action collectively. The Steering Committee agreed to start small, with preparatory activities in Switzerland and the United Kingdom, coordinated by the respective Steering Committee members.



1.4.2 HIV in Europe initiative: how to link better

The next conference takes place 19-20 March 2012 in Copenhagen. The Steering Committee discussed on how to link better. The office was recently involved in the preparation of a European Union stage 1 proposal.

1.4.3 Ageing with HIV

The Steering Committee decided that the topic of Ageing with HIV will be added on to the Clearinghouse. Members will be invited to share their documentation. The topic is also recommended for a future CSF meeting.

1.4.4 EURO 2012 European Football Championship in Ukraine

AIDS Action Europe will collaborate with AFEW to look at some low-budget options to take advantage of the Euro Cup 2012, most likely through a social media campaign.

2 Strategic issues & work with partners

2.1 Civil Society Forum & Think Tank

The Steering Committee discussed several issues on the agenda of the Civil Society Forum meeting in December.

The Steering Committee will invite the European Public Health Alliance to talk about working together to campaign for a properly funded public health component to the financial perspective from 2013.

A joint statement will be sent from the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum and the Civil Society Forum on Drugs to the European Commission to express a shared concern on future funding for HIV-related initiatives.

2.1.1 Discuss ToR for CSF co-chair and agree on procedure selection process next co-chair

The Steering Committee agreed to open up the selection process to all members of AIDS Action Europe who are or were also members of the CSF. Specific criteria and Terms of Reference were agreed upon.

2.2 IQHIV initiative

AIDS Action Europe will co-facilitate a road show workshop for Spanish NGOs and health professionals, followed by a planning meeting of the IQHIV core group, both in Madrid. The European Commission will issue a call for a joint action on quality improvement in HIV prevention. Preparations for application are on the agenda of the meeting.

2.3 ICASO

Ton Coenen attended the recent Board and Strategy meeting of ICASO and gave a short update about the results of the meeting.

2.4 Upcoming key meetings

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



2.5 Recent developments/guidelines/feed-back on key meetings

2.5.1 Treatment for Prevention

There was a joint letter EATG and AIDS Action Europe to the WHO on this issue. The Steering Committee asked WHO Europe for additional information on possible new WHO recommendations and guidelines.

2.5.2 WHO regional committee for Europe in Baku

AIDS Action Europe co-signed a declaration from civil society that was presented at the WHO Regional Committee meeting. Any feedback on the declaration and presentation has not yet been received.

2.6 AIDS Action Europe branding film

With much support of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, a short low-budget film was developed. The film was shown and is considered an attractive and short introduction to who AIDS Action Europe is. Once the Russian subtitling is completed, the film will be widely disseminated.

3 ROST project, work plan & governance

3.1 Project ROST

Joost van der Meer (AFEW) gave an overview of the achievements in the ROST Project since the last Steering Committee meeting. Overall the Steering Committee considers the newly added eLearning module interesting. Since the Steering Committee meeting in Zagreb the Russian speaking Steering Committee members have been more involved in the ROST project. In general the communication between AFEW and AIDS Action Europe is good. The proposed budget and work plan for 2012 are approved by the Steering Committee.

3.2 Work plans, budget and fundraising issues 2011 & 2012

3.2.1 Update on status work plan and budget 2011

Overall AIDS Action Europe is on track. The work plan and budget are implemented as planned.

3.2.2 Agree on work plan and budget 2012

The draft workplan and budget 2012 was discussed. The ROST work plan still needs adaptation and recent changes in the operating grant proposal need to be reflected. Several goals for advocacy that are set, need to be discussed and decided before the office will finalise the work plan 2012. A brainstorm on these issues is required and will be planned.

3.3 Governance

Elena Gregoriyeva from the Belarusian national network of PLWH is elected as new Chair of the Steering Committee, starting January 1, 2012. The Steering Committee and office thank Harry Witzthum for his excellent chairing over the last years.



3.4 Any other business

3.4.1 Evaluation of the meeting

Overall the preparations, both logistic and content, are rated very good. New members felt involved in the process and issues. The volume of background information was appropriate. The discussions on possible focus areas in the future were appreciated.

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- Date and place of the next meeting: Milano, 2 and 3 April 2012.