



# MINUTES AIDS ACTION EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 2012

**Participants:** Yusef Azad, Harry Witzthum, Wim Vandeveld, Ferenc Bagyinszky, Anke Van Dam, Elena Grigoryeva (Chair), Martin Van Oostrom, Daria Ocheret, Lella Cosmaro, Dejana Rankovic, Svitlana Moroz, Martine de Schutter, Nina Schat, Dieuwke Bosmans.

**Apologies:** Martine van der Meulen. Assel Janayeva

## 1 Strategic developments & choices

### 1.1 Opening and welcome by the Chair and the host

### 1.2 Review action list London SC meeting

Regarding the action list from the previous AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee (SC) meeting in London, almost all actions were followed up, or are back on the agenda for this meeting.

### 1.3 HIV/AIDS in ITALY

Presentation by Lella Cosmaro from LILA Milano ONLUS– Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS on the current situation of HIV/AIDS in Italy.

### 1.4 European Network of Legal Experts

AIDS Action Europe aims to develop a new project which links up legal experts with NGO's and community groups. While starting small with pilot activities in the UK, Switzerland and Hungary, eventually we aim to reach out to the entire region. We aim to engage legal experts on anti-discrimination who are interested in HIV related issues. The network will not address specific cases, so will do no litigation, but will start with getting an expert legal comparison of countries.

### 1.5 Project ROST & future activities for members in EECA in 2012 and beyond

Historically the funding for this project was meant to increase the advocacy capacity and role of AIDS Action Europe in the Eastern part of our region, next to direct capacity strengthening of our member organisations in advocacy and resource mobilisation. Although the SC is positive about the small grants and trainings developed by the project, the broader advocacy purposes were not entirely met through the project implementation and the SC is of the opinion that additional activities need to be developed by AIDS Action Europe.

A recent inventory was held among 40 representatives from AIDS Action Europe member organisations, getting to know their opinion about the advocacy role of AIDS Action Europe and the needs of their organisations in this regard. The advocacy role of AIDS Action Europe was seen as important in helping to get access to sustainable funding and to assist in advocacy work and capacity building. The SC then asked itself if we can use and improve the ROST infrastructure in this regard. As AFEW is more focused on capacity building, and not on advocacy, ROST might therefore not be the right framework for this.

AIDS Action Europe aims to further develop a proposal for strengthening our advocacy role in the Eastern part of our region.



We will broaden our advocacy actions beyond the important work and advice already undertaken as co-chairs of the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum and focus our advocacy on influencing the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), seated in Belarus.

## **2 Strategic issues & work with partners**

### **2.1 HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum & Think Tank**

#### **2.1.1 Outcomes ECDC monitoring of Commission Communication**

The ECDC monitoring report is very positive about the role and achievements of the Civil Society Forum (CSF). Next to CSF members also the EC, UNAIDS, WHO and Think Tank (TT) members give very positive feed-back on the functioning of the forum. The results will be used as input for the CSF.

#### **2.1.2 Input for the agenda of the next CSF meeting in June**

The SC provided detailed feed-back on the draft agenda, which will be discussed with the CSF coordination team.

### **2.2 IQHIV initiative and Joint Action on Quality in HIV Prevention**

AIDS Action Europe is a core partner in the IQHIV initiative. The SC welcomes the opportunity to become a key partner in the Joint Action on Quality in HIV Prevention initiative, which broadens and strengthens the work undertaken earlier with IQHIV development.

### **2.3 HIV in Europe initiative**

The SC agrees to give feed-back on the draft call for action that resulted from the HIV in Europe conference which took place recently.

## **3 IAC2012, work plan & governance**

### **3.1 International AIDS Conference, Washington DC**

AIDS Action Europe is member of the regional working group for Europe and as such involved in preparation of the regional session and networking zone.

#### **3.1.1 Regional session for Western/Central Europe**

**Regional Session for Europe:** Quite some of the suggestions made by the SC were included in the agenda, such as a presentation on HIV in Europe and on the CSF and TT.

#### **3.1.2 Networking zone opportunities**

It is still not clear whether we get a networking zone. We do not have the financial nor human resources to fill in a good programme.



### **3.1.3 Event for AIDS Action Europe members**

An email was sent out to members to ask for ideas and plans. 3 times, out of 15, 'women living with HIV' was suggested as a key issue. As several women's networks are just being started in the region, this is a good opportunity to give them a platform.

### **3.1.4 Communication**

AIDS Action Europe will pay attention to the IAS conference and the activities of AIDS Action Europe and its members in its communications, before and after the conference: special e-news; active on FB and Twitter. SC members are asked to write guest blogs. There will also be a social media live-stream.

## **4 Annual report, work plans, budget and fundraising issues**

### **4.1 Draft annual report 2011**

The draft is presented by the Coordinator. The SC has no comments. With the approval of the Chair it can be translated into Russian and put on the website.

### **4.2 Update on work plan and budget 2012**

The Coordinator explains that the core programme is implemented as planned. With respect to the ROSTproject the work plan was prepared long ago and it is changed now due to the changed funding situation.

#### **4.2.1 Communication strategy**

The SC suggests that we should aim for more member interaction and more tailor-made information. At the next SC conference call the Cross Media Communication Strategy will be on the agenda.. SC members will then be better informed about the actual communication means.

### **4.3 Draft work plan and budget 2013**

The draft workplan is presented at this stage for information purposes only. An actualised version will be presented at the next SC meeting.

### **4.4 Fundraising challenges and perspectives**

The office is concerned about fundraising: a lot of the staff time goes into it.

## **5 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.

### **5.1 Evaluation of the meeting**

Overall the preparations, both logistic and content, are rated very good. Italian hospitality was praised. Backgrounders, though many, were in time. The agenda was well balanced. There was appreciation for the fact that also new members



participated fully in the discussions.

Date and place of the next meeting: Minsk, October 22-23, 2012.

## **6 AIDS Action Europe Members And Stakeholder Meeting**

In the afternoon 11 people from local organisations met with the SC members. One of the main concerns of the members from Milan is the lack of any national prevention strategy in Italy. Provinces can implement parts of it arbitrarily without any form of national coordination. Harm reduction programmes are shut down because of spending cuts and there is hardly an approach to reaching out to key populations.