



MINUTES AIDS ACTION EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Amsterdam, 22-23 April 2013

Participants:

Steering Committee: **ASSEL JANAYEVA** (Public Organization "Amulet", Kazakhstan), **BRIAN WEST** (European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), UK), **DARIA OCHERET** (Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN), Lithuania), **DEJANA RANKOVIC** (Youth of Jazas, Serbia), **ELENA GRIGORYEVA** (INGO Social Assistance, Belarus), **FERENC BAGYINSZKY** (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Hungary), **HARRY WITZTHUM** (Swiss Aids Federation, Switzerland), **LELLA COSMARO** (LILA Milano ONLUS – Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS, Italy), **MARTIN VAN OOSTROM** (Soa Aids Nederland, the Netherlands), **SVITLANA MOROZ** (All-Ukraine PLWH Network , Ukraine)

Staff: **MARTINE DE SCHUTTER** (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands), **MAUREEN SELLMEIJER** (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands), (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands), **NINA SCHAT** (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands): Tuesday, **DIEUWKE BOSMANS** (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands)

Apologies:

Steering Committee: **ANKE VAN DAM** (AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW), the Netherlands)

Staff: **NINA SCHAT** (AIDS Action Europe Office (Soa Aids Nederland), the Netherlands): Monday

Monday April 22, 2013

1 Annual Report, Work Plan & Strategic Framework

1.1 Opening

After the OPENING of the meeting and WELCOME to the Steering Committee (SC), the SC reviewed the ACTION LIST of the previous SC meeting in Minsk. The goal to reach 90% of the actions listed was reached.

1.2 Draft 2012 Annual Report

The SC would like to see clearly formulated in the report which advocacy efforts were effective and what was the role of AIDS Action Europe in the advocacy process. The SC will decide on an amended annual report.

1.3 2013 Work Plan and Budget

As AIDS Action Europe still faces a funding gap for this year, the SC reviewed the work plan and budget and made decisions on savings. The option for having a second SC meeting, in Amsterdam instead of Belgrade, is kept open till autumn.

1.4 Strategic Group Outputs Presentation

In the beginning of 2013 part of the SC formed a Strategic Working Group to closely look at the existing AIDS Action Europe



strategic framework. The proposed amendment to the mission and strategic objectives were agreed upon by the SC. The group will continue to work on further adaptation of the existing strategic framework. All communication channels (leaflets, website, etc.) will be adapted accordingly.

2 Key Activities, Projects & Communication

2.1 HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum & EU policy

The HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF) is the main advocacy mechanism of AIDS Action Europe. The EU Communication concerns EU and neighbouring countries, so it has an impact in the bigger region. The SC would like to increase linkages between CSF members and SC and AIDS Action Europe members. A first step is a good analysis and dissemination of the outcomes of topics discussed at the CSF or of actions taken by the CSF. The SC acknowledged the importance of the CSF and therefore decided to form a working group on how to improve the communication on and the engagement in of AIDS Action Europe members in the CSF.

The co-chairs AIDS Action Europe and EATG wrote a letter to EU commissioner Tonio Borg about the need for a new EU Communication on HIV. No decision on a new policy will be taken until the existing policy is evaluated, which is expected by mid-2013. There will be no new communication by January 2014, but maybe later that year. The co-chairs were assured that in the meantime there will be "something" new: a new action plan or the extension of the current action plan.

2.2 Joint Action on Improving Quality in HIV Prevention

AIDS Action Europe is one of the associated partners of the EC funded Joint Action which will provide a new and expanding network for AIDS Action Europe. The kick-off meeting is planned early June.

2.3 CIS Initiative

The idea of getting a seat in the council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has been put on hold due to new information about the lack of real influence of this council in the region. As soon as there is activity from the council, AIDS Action Europe will react. AIDS Action Europe will instead focus, together with other regional networks, on holding UNAIDS accountable for the money it received recently from the Russian government.

2.4 Communication Strategy

The Steering Committee made several suggestions to increase the engagement and feeling of ownership of members in AIDS Action Europe through communication.

Tuesday April 23, 2013

3 EHLF, Work Plan 2014, Governance & Future Directions

3.1 European HIV Legal Forum

The European HIV Legal Forum group (EHLF), consisting of SC members from Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland (UK absent) met and discussed how to move forward this initiative. The group is enthusiastic and optimistic about possibilities for getting this project off the ground, also financially. The SC decided to move forward with the EHLF and



to keep it in the work plan of 2013.

3.2 2014 Work Plan & Budget

The budget for 2014 is reduced in comparison to 2013. In order to prioritize the SC requested the office to produce an overview of staff time spent on different activities. In August AIDS Action Europe will hear whether the application for 2014 for the OG will be granted or not. This is key information for the SC to make further decisions.

3.3 Governance

The SC and staff discussed mutual expectations and division of roles.

In view of the reduced budget, the SC decided earlier to reduce the number of SC members from 12 to 8. A part of that reduction will be reached through natural course: several terms of SC members end at the end of 2013.

3.4 Future Directions 2015 and Beyond: Scenario Discussion

The SC discussed several longer term options for the network beyond 2014, taking into consideration different funding scenarios. The SC formed working groups that will investigate several options for the future of AAE.

3.5 Evaluation of the Meeting

In general the participants of the meeting were positive about the meeting. Some people are concerned about the difficult work that lies ahead.