



MINUTES AIDS ACTION EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 2015

Riga, 20 + 21 April 2015

Participants: **ANKE VAN DAM, CHAIR**, AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW), the Netherlands; **BRIAN WEST**, European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), UK; **LELLA COSMARO**, Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS (LILA Milano ONLUS), Italy; **SILKE KLUMB**, Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (DAH), Germany; **NENAD PETKOVIC**, Q-Club, Serbia; **MARIANELA KLOKA**, PRAKSIS, Greece; **AIGARS CEPLITIS**, AGIHAS, Latvia; **OLGA ALEKSANDROVA**, East Europe & Central Asia Union of PLWH Ukraine (ECUO), Ukraine

Staff: **FERENC BAGYINSZKY**, AIDS Action Europe Office; **LJUBA BÖTTGER**, AIDS Action Europe Office; **MICHAEL KRONE**, AIDS Action Europe Office

Monday, April 20, 2015

1. AIDS Action Europe – Opening and follow-up from previous SC Meeting

1.1. Opening

Olga Aleksandrova is our new SC member; she is the Acting Executive Director of the East Europe & Central Asia Union of PLWH (ECUO) Secretariat. Ferenc Bagyinszky came back, now as Project Manager of the AIDS Action Europe Office.

The major task of this SC Meeting is to make sure what we have committed to is still relevant and how to implement our strategy further. The main task is to get our members more involved and to make AAE more visible.

The Steering Committee (SC) reviewed the ACTION LIST of the previous SC meeting in Berlin. 80% of the actions listed were reached.

1.2. Financial and Technical Report 2014

The financial report of the year 2014 stands for the time after DAH took over as host organisation. The financial and technical report was sent to CHAFEA on March 26, after applying for the extension of the deadline of February 28, due to the late signing of the grant agreement, only on December 23, 2014, the necessity of implementing an external audit and the year-end accounts of the financial department of DAH. Financial and technical reports were sent out to CHAFEA without approval of SC members due to tight timeframes.

After some discussion the annual report was approved by the SC members. A shorter version of the report needs to be prepared and published on the website.



2. Work Plan

2.1. Work Plans, Budget, Fundraising Issues

European HIV Legal Forum – EHLF – took place in Budapest; three working groups were formed to achieve the goals that were devised in the application. Based on the pilot project the EHLF was now rolled out to ten countries.

The working group Voluntary Counselling Testing Working Group – VCT WG – is meeting in the evening of the first day.

The WG on affordability of medicines is meeting on the second day of the Riga meeting.

Quality Action – QA – in mid-June the work package protagonists will meet for a three day meeting in Berlin where application and sustainability of tools and project activities will be in focus.

AAE will be - in cooperation with CHIP from Denmark - WP leader at the Joint Action on Harm Reduction – HA-REACT “Zero new HIV, reduced HCV and TB among PWID in the EU by 2020”, which is in the application process.

The EUROPACH Project is a research project aiming at “Disentangling European HIV/AIDS Policies: Activism, Citizenship and Health”. EUROPACH examines the impact of HIV/AIDS policies in Europe, how they have materialized, transformed and travelled across and within Europe. AAE is asked to be a partner and to provide space in the Clearinghouse to publish results and outcomes of the project.

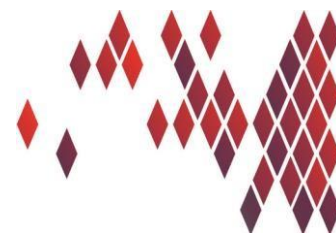
2.2. Civil Society Forum

The agenda of the upcoming CSF is based on continuing topics from previous meetings and on input from CSF members. For this meeting – July 6-7, 2015 – most of the agenda points originate from the lively discussion of the previous CSF meeting in November 2014. Besides the standard agenda points, the topic of stock-outs will be reintroduced for this meeting. Other topics will include PrEP; prevention among MSM – with focus on travelling gay men and other MSM and impact of smart phone applications among other issues; home testing; prevention among youth and other adolescents; how to work with EU presidencies to keep HIV, HCV, TB and STIs on the agenda; Quality Action; community involvement in research and the ECUO application to the GFATM.

2.3. Re-Launch of the Clearinghouse 2015

The office is planning a SH meeting and presents an assessment indicating who should be there. According to the SGA the new CH website has to be online and functioning by the end of the year. The beta version should be up by December but we need to consider that over 1300 documents are on the CH.

A mobile app for the CH was also brought up as a good idea.



Tuesday, April 21, 2015

3. Communications Strategy

As for the next steps, the office will work on a strategy aligning with the time span of the new Strategic Framework, e.g. from 2016 to 2017. A draft of the strategy should be ready by the next SC meeting. After discussion it should be edited and then finally approved in order to have it ready with the beginning of next year.

4. Situation of HIV in Latvia

In preparation of the Round Table Discussion in the afternoon, among other issues the discussion centred on testing and treatment policies for pregnant women; the number of doctors providing care and treatment for PLHIV, the treatment guidelines and reasons to stay with the treatment initiation at <200CD4 count threshold. Moreover, the proceedings of the Round Table Discussion were agreed upon. The role of the SC members would be to interact with comments and their views during discussions.

5. Strategic Framework 2015 - 2017

The Strategic Framework receives its final approval from the SC.

6. Governance

6.1. CSF co-chair from 2016

A new co-Chair needs to be elected. His/her organization has to be member of AAE and he/she has to have attended at least one CSF meeting. Both co-chairs' terms end at the end of 2015.

6.2. SC Chair from 2016

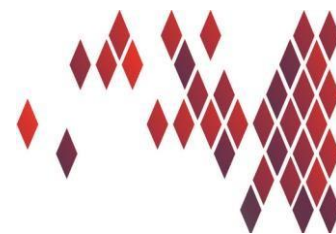
Apart from the CSF co-chair ToR, also the SC chair ToR needs to be rewritten. Anke's term as chair ends by the end of 2015. According to the existing ToR, Anke can reapply for a second term. The existing ToR is not very clear and leaves room for interpretation when it comes to extension of the term and the duration of the SC membership. The office is assigned to prepare a draft with different scenarios by June 5, the day of the next TC.

6.3. SC Member ToR

The ToR for SC membership also needs to be rewritten. The office will prepare a draft by June 5, 2015.

6.4. Overview of Current Terms of SC Members

The terms of current SC members diverge on the website. They need to be aligned.



7. Outcomes of the Round Table Discussion with Latvian GO and NGO representatives

The Round Table Discussion was held in an interesting and supportive manner. AIDS Action Europe was well represented and indicated its preparedness to support CS organisations efforts. Aigars will prepare a draft letter to the Cabmin that will be further worked on by the office and Anke.

8. Review

Next steps for the creation of a new communication strategy were fixed and the set up for an AAE network day is on the agenda. A first draft of a communications strategy 2016-2017 should be presented to the SC members during the next SC meeting.

The working groups met and report the following: A mapping exercise will be conducted in both WG in order to collect already existing activities and approaches to avoid duplications. Apart from good practice approaches, also bad practice and failure will be analysed to understand what does not work out of which reasons. These experiences are important to recommend the “right” things. The affordability WG will focus on research how prices are negotiated and creating advocacy tools. The VCT WG will be predominantly focus on legal circumstances for checkpoints and other VCT outside medical settings facilities.

9. Any other business

The SC agrees that minutes of the TC will be sent out earlier than before, e.g. shortly after the last TC. They can be sent out again shortly before the next TC.

UNAIDS PCB NGO is looking for a new European representative. Ferenc applied last time. There is an interest of AAE nominating someone.

10. Evaluation of this meeting

The feedback round provides very positive results. The SC members are happy with the achievements of the meeting, with the organisation, with the whole SC and office staff set up, as it is perceived as very harmonic. It was good to be in Latvia and have the Round Table. There is a lot to follow up on. Although there are still a lot of issues to catch up on, with Ferenc and Ljuba on board, the office is much more likely to achieve the objectives set for this year.