

AIDS Action Europe work plan 2007

Introduction

AIDS Action Europe is a pan-European partnership of NGOs that works towards a more effective response to the HIV and AIDS epidemics. AIDS Action Europe addresses the needs of communities affected by HIV, by effectively linking and mobilising NGOs across Europe and advocating their concerns. It aims to be a transparent and inclusive partnership, and encourages greater involvement of people living with and affected by HIV in tackling the epidemic. AIDS Action Europe is the regional partner of ICASO, the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations.

In 2007 AIDS Action Europe will work specifically towards the following objectives:

- Influencing, through advocacy and lobby, of European and international HIV/AIDS policies;
- Strengthening of exchange of best practices and lessons learned and capacity-building of European NGOs;
- Improving exchange and collaboration between the member organisations and Secretariat of AIDS Action Europe.

1 Influencing, through advocacy and lobby, of European and international HIV/AIDS policies

As co-chair of the European HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum – an advisory body of the European Commission – AIDS Action Europe will prepare the agenda and chair two meetings in 2007. Results of the meetings will be presented to the European HIV/AIDS Think Tank – a working group of representatives of the EU member states in which AIDS Action Europe has three seats. AIDS Action Europe will focus in its advocacy on the development by the European Commission of a monitoring and evaluation system for the Commission Communication on HIV/AIDS and the Dublin and Vilnius Declarations.

Through participation in European public health stakeholder working groups HIV/AIDS will be brought under the attention of the broader public health field. The European AIDS conference in Bremen will provide AIDS Action Europe with the opportunity to advocate for more active involvement of NGOs and also to link with our members and other actors. The Memorandum of Understanding between WHO Europe and AIDS Action Europe will be implemented through concrete collaboration in several activities like the best practice seminars that will be organised. As regional partner of ICASO, AIDS Action Europe will collaborate with international policy development and advocacy.

AIDS Action Europe will develop its communication strategy further in 2007, including a more pro-active press strategy.

Goal	Activity	Result	Indicator
Needs and priorities of European NGOs are included in European and international HIV/AIDS policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-chairing of the Civil Society Forum and representative CSF in Think Tank. - Monitoring implementation EU policy. - Agenda-setting on HIV/AIDS at European forums and with European institutions like WHO Europe. - Contributing to ICASO policy papers and advocacy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two CSF and TT meetings lead to more active role of European NGOs in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EU HIV/AIDS policy. - European Commission has a monitoring and evaluation plan for the EU policy. - HIV/AIDS is addressed at European public health agenda. - Concerns European NGOs are included in international advocacy and policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of activities (minimum 2) of the EU policy action plan in which European NGOs and/or AIDS Action Europe are included as key actors. - EC website includes monitoring and evaluation plan - Agenda and minutes European Public Health Forum include HIV/AIDS. - Registration of sign-on actions and documents that include European concerns.

2 Strengthening of exchange of best practices and lessons learned and capacity-building of European NGOs

Several projects of AIDS Action Europe contribute to this goal.

The project *European Partners in Action on AIDS* (EPAA) will further develop the information clearinghouse into an interactive HIV/AIDS information point for European NGOs. European best practice seminars will be organised by partner organisations in the project. National AIDS Trust will organise a seminar on legislation and judicial issues, Aides on risk reduction among MSM and STI AIDS Netherlands on (not confirmed) advocacy.

The project *Community-based Advocacy and Networking to Scale-up HIV Prevention in and Era of Expanded Treatment* (PTAP) will organise in Russia and Ukraine at least three meeting sessions each on skills building on advocacy of prevention and treatment alignment, stigma and discrimination and developing a country advocacy agenda on prevention and treatment alignment. Also such topics as new preventive technologies, collaboration of clinical and civil society sectors and others are foreseen. Through these activities the project aims for more cohesion between prevention and treatment services.

As partner in the project *AIDS Action & Integration* (AAI), AIDS Action Europe will facilitate the liaison and advocacy function in Brussels through the Civil Society Forum and Think Tank. AIDS Action Europe will disseminate AAI publications among its members and provide the AAI partners with AIDS Action Europe materials.

Goal	Activity	Result	Indicator
Strengthened European NGOs through implementation of EPAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of more interactive clearinghouse - Organisation of 3 European best practice seminars - Dissemination of lessons learned through guideline development and best practice reports - Organisation of two meetings of the AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearinghouse is used by members - Seminars have contributed to increased knowledge and utilisation of lessons learned in the work of NGOs - Lessons learned are disseminated widely in Europe - Steering Committee has played an advisory, monitoring and evaluation role on the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaire shows 60% of members have visited Clearinghouse - Seminar pre/post questionnaire shows positive difference in seminar participants - 300 print copies of each seminar report distributed and publications made available through website, e-mail distribution - Minutes of two meetings Steering Committee
Strengthened European NGOs through implementation of PTAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of three meeting sessions in Ukraine and Russia - Meetings HIV/AIDS Platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGOs have developed capacity on advocacy, stigma and discrimination and developed country advocacy agenda - Exchange in Platforms has led to more cohesion between prevention and treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of people trained - Number of NGOs that have increased their activities on the topics - Number of initiatives where prevention and treatment field have undertaken joint activity
Strengthened European NGOs through collaboration with AAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaison function in Brussels with EC - Dissemination of publications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs Central and Eastern European NGOs on agenda CSF and TT - Seminar reports disseminated among AIDS Action Europe members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agenda and reports meetings CSF and TT include relevant topics for subregion. - Number of contacts reports are sent to by regular mail and email

3 Improving exchange and collaboration between the member organisations of AIDS Action Europe

AIDS Action Europe members are offered the opportunity to participate in the seminars organised under the EPAA project that includes also a scholarship programme. The AIDS Action Europe website will be updated and further enlarged with an interactive Clearinghouse. In addition, different communication channels with members will be utilised like quarterly e-news and a new brochure.

Goal	Activity	Result	Indicator
Improved communication, exchange and collaboration with members AIDS Action Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and dissemination new brochure, quarterly e-news, key materials and information - Update of the website - Development online forum in Clearinghouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members are informed about current European trends and meetings and know the main activities of AIDS Action Europe - Members receive up to date information - Updated website - Members have participated actively in discussions around seminar topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internet poll shows 60% of members can mention topics of key seminars and meetings - Number of contacts materials are sent to, number of copies of brochure and e-news sent - Visitors website increased 40% - Minimum of 1 discussion forum per seminar

4 Organisational development

At present the AIDS Action Europe Secretariat consists of a Western office in the Netherlands and an Eastern office in Lithuania. The Western office has a part-time coordinator, communication officer and secretary. The Eastern office has a full-time coordinator and a country coordinator in Russia and Ukraine. In 2007 AIDS Action Europe plans to expand the Secretariat with an advocacy liaison officer in Belgium and a senior advocacy officer in Lithuania. Fundraising for these new posts has started end 2006 and will be an important activity in 2007.

Early 2007 AIDS Action Europe will undertake a strategic planning exercise to elaborate its longer term goals and scope of action, as well as its strategies for financial sustainability.