

AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee meeting

Date: Kiev, April 14-16, 2010

Present:

Aisuluu Bolotbaeva	(United Nations Development Programme, Kyrgyzstan)
Ton Coenen	(STI AIDS Netherlands, the Netherlands)
Wim Vandevelde	(EATG, Belgium)
Harry Witzthum	(Swiss Aids Federation, Switzerland)
Ulrich Heide	(Deutsche Aids Stiftung, Germany)
Yusef Azad	(National AIDS Trust, UK)
Ferenc Bagyinszky	(Hungarian Civil Liberties Union)
Nataliya Salabai	(All-Ukrainian Network of PLWA, Ukraine)
Joost van der Meer	(AIDS Foundation East-West, the Netherlands)
Tamar Sirbiladze	(Public Union BEMONI, Georgia)
Elena Grigoryeva	(Belarus national network of PLWH, Belarus)

AIDS Action Europe Office:

Martine de Schutter
Martine van der Meulen
Dieuwke Bosmans

AIDS Foundation East-West:

Liza Berezina (AIDS Foundation East West)

Apologies:

Iva Jovic (Life Quality Improvement Organisation LET, Croatia)

Wednesday, 14th of April

1 Opening

Special welcome to the new members of the Steering Committee (SC): Tamar Sirbiladze, Elena Grigoriyeva and Joost van der Meer. The SC meeting is hosted by the All Ukrainian Network of PLWH.

2 AIDS Action Europe strategy 2010-2014

The SC discusses the draft strategy document 2010-2014 and agrees on the content of the three main objectives in the strategy for AIDS Action Europe: make an effective and meaningful contribution to regional and national policies related to HIV and AIDS; facilitate continuous exchange among NGOs on good practices and lessons learned related to HIV and AIDS, and; develop a stronger, more effective organization and network.

3 AIDS Action Europe Communication

The outcomes of a study on image and identity of AIDS Action Europe are being translated into a new house style. The new house style will be more personal and bright of colour. Besides a refreshed lay-out of the website also a new leaflet and flexible content flyers are developed.

4 Project: Responding to HIV through Organisational Support and Technical Cooperation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ROST)

Liza Berezina of the Russian office of AIDS Foundation East West (AFEW), ROST project manager, presents the project plan. The project aims to strengthen local organisations in their advocacy work and their resource mobilisation skills. There will be three trainings for 30 member organisations. The trainings are followed up by 15 small grants. A needs assessment is carried out to determine the specific content of the trainings.

5 Advocacy

Yusef Azad represents AIDS Action Europe as co-chair of the Civil Society Forum (CSF). The CSF has direct influence on policy decisions such as the new EU Communication on HIV/AIDS. Although the communication is a good policy document, the appended action plan is not very concrete and detailed. The CSF therefore needs to play an eminent role in making sure that this good policy will be turned into good practice.

To improve involvement of the AIDS Action Europe SC it is decided that the CSF will be a regular agenda item, and that a one pager with important issues will be distributed among SC members and published on the website.

6 Resource Mobilisation for the Global Fund

The funding situation relating to the Global Fund in some countries is bleak. As funds are diminishing for the European region, ideas are discussed on how to influence the Global Fund to still provide needed money to uphold important HIV programs and projects. There might be a role for the CSF to influence European donors. AIDS Action Europe will direct its members to <https://sites.google.com/site/globalfundreplenishment/> where they can find advocacy tools, latest information, and contact information for involved.

7 Relation and work with other bodies

7.1 World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe

Probably a coordination meeting will take place in June among all regional networks and WHO.

7.2 UNAIDS

There will be a low level UNGASS meeting on HIV/AIDS in June and a Millennium Development Goals summit in September. With the UNAIDS initiative of Universal Access coming to an end in 2010, it is unclear what will happen when the targets are not met. UNAIDS will give an update at the next CSF meeting and hopefully also elaborate on the follow up of the Universal Access initiative.

7.3 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

The second Dublin monitoring report done by ECDC will be presented in Vienna and will be a viable advocacy tool.

7.4 HIV in Europe initiative

During the Stockholm meeting last November an update was given on four project, among them the pilot of the stigma index (created by GNP+, IPPF, UNAIDS and ICW), which was very successful.

Thursday, 15th of April

8 Stakeholders meeting

The stakeholder meeting was a successful meeting, which allowed the exchange of the AIDS Action Europe SC and staff members with Ukrainian AIDS Action Europe member organisations. It was also the first meeting with AIDS Action Europe member organisations where the new ROST project was presented.

9 International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)

Ton Coenen serves on the ICASO board of directors. His position is up for re-election. The SC wants him to remain the representative of AIDS Action Europe in the ICASO board.

There is a draft of the new Global Programme of ICASO which will be limited in its funding. The SC decided on the key areas in which AIDS Action Europe would be involved. The ICASO communications working group develops a work plan in order to improve the external (and internal) communication of all regions on key advocacy moments as the AIDS2010 conference in Vienna, the 2010 UNGASS meeting and World AIDS Day 2010.

10 International AIDS Conference, Vienna 2010

AIDS Action Europe is involved in several initiatives and projects, among them a real life Clearinghouse information booth and preparation of the regional session for Europe and Central Asia. AIDS Action Europe has sent in a proposal to present a European Case Law Catwalk in the Human Rights networking Zone. Members can present cases in which they (successfully) defended human rights on a national level at the catwalk.

Friday, 16th of April

11 Update Work Plan 2010 & 2011

The SC takes note of the 2010 work plan. The annual report 2009 will follow soon. Both will be published on the website. The draft work plan and budget for 2011 are more or less set by the operating grant proposal that AIDS Action Europe has submitted to the European Commission. The SC wishes to be involved in developments concerning funding issues as early as possible.

12 Governance issues

In September the call for four new SC members will be sent out. One SC member will end his second term. Three SC members, among them the SC Chair, will end their first term and are eligible to re-apply.

13 Next meeting

The next meeting, including a stakeholder meeting, will take place in Amsterdam, 4-6 October 2010.