EU Processes
Advocacy Opportunities

Joint meeting of Civil Society Fora on HIV and Communicable Diseases and on Drugs

Brussels, November 7th, 2018
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Overview of MFF

• The multiannual financial framework (MFF) is the EU’s long term budget.

• The Council, after obtaining consent from the European Parliament, adopts the MFF regulation.

• It establishes the maximum amount of spending in the EU budget for broad policy areas.

• It operates on multiannual cycles, usually 7 years. The current cycle ends at the end of 2020, so negotiations are currently underway for the next cycle, which will cover the period 2021-2027.
Key dates for MFF

• **2 May 2018**: The European Commission presented its proposal for the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF)

• **By mid-June**: sectoral proposals covering EU funding programmes were also revealed, formally starting the MFF negotiations

• **Ideally by May 2019**: finalisation of political agreement between the European Parliament and Member States on the basis of Commission proposals and adoption by the European Parliament and Council of the EU.

• **Early 2021**: beginning of implementation.
Overview of European Parliament Elections

• European Parliament elections to elect MEPs are held every five years
• Overall, there will be 705 MEPs in the next legislature
• Elections are contested by *national* political parties, so most effective advocacy can be carried out at national level
• Once MEPs are elected, most opt to become part of transnational political groups
• The Parliament election results will influence the next European Commission
Key dates for European Parliament Elections

• Nov/Dec 2018:
  • Potential lead candidate/Spitzenkandidat process
  • Manifestos of political groupings

• Feb - March 2019:
  • Start of the electoral campaign

• April-May 2019:
  • Lead candidates’ debates

• 23-26 May 2019
  • Elections

• June-November 2019:
  • Formation of new Commission
Opportunities for common positions/ advocacy

• On the MFF process:
  • The health strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)
    • HIV and communicable diseases
    • In relation to drugs, recital 38 states:
      “the Health strand of the ESF+ should contribute to to disease prevention throughout
      the lifetime of the Union’s citizens and to health promotion by addressing health risk
      factors such as [...] consumption of illicit drugs and reduction of drugs-related health damage,
      [...]in line with the relevant strategies”
  • Also potentially relevant is the Internal Security Fund. In particular, the Fund aims at
    intensifying cross-border operational cooperation in relation to the prevention, detection and
    investigation of cross-border crime, in particular through increased cooperation between
    public authorities, civil society and private partners from across Member States.

• On the election process:
  • Pre-election: common position on overarching issues, translatable to both EU and national
    contexts
  • Post-election: structured engagement with new MEPs