

Executive Summary from the EU HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and TB Civil Society Forum, Luxembourg, 17 & 18 June 2019

The HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF) has been established by the European Commission as a working group to facilitate the participation of NGOs in policy development and implementation as well as in information exchange activities. In 2017, the Forum was extended to Hepatitis and TB organisations and this report covers the second meeting in the new composition. Below is a short overview of the meeting (Luxembourg, June 17 & 18, 2019). The full meeting report and all presentations will be available for download at <http://www.aidsactioneurope.org>.

Update from the Commission and the Agencies

The update from the Commission focused on reaching the sustainable development goals (SDG) including the progress on monitoring and country profiles, developments regarding the multi financial framework (MFF) and European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), and programme implementation of the 3rd Health Programme by CHAFEA as well as Horizon Europe, the next EU Research & Innovation Programme. Also, the Public Health Best Practice Portal and the EU Health Policy Platform were presented. EMCDDA, WHO Europe, ECDC and UNAIDS reported on recent developments and upcoming plans, meetings and events.

Working Groups updates and discussion

The working groups are: EU advocacy and funding; stigma and discrimination; access to medicines and implementation of combination prevention. The attendees discussed the work until the end of the year. This included outreach to the new MEPs, new Commissioner; survey on stigma and discrimination; working on two statements around equality of condom use, TasP and Prep and combination prevention at large, Stis, hep, Hiv, Tb, harm reduction and a survey on shortages.

Key developments at the country/key population level and key policy developments

The Czech Republic member works to abolish mandatory HIV-status disclosure in health care settings as much as they are opposing the government's suggestion on complete removal of testing consent from guidelines and legislation. In Latvia, there is a discussion on whether e-prescriptions would be an easy solution to overcome access to ARV. Only HIV licensed clinicians can prescribe the medicines, which leads to shortages particularly during summer months. In Poland, a U=U campaign is successfully conducted with Mr Bear Poland.

Upcoming EU Presidencies: Finland, Croatia, Germany, Portugal

Finland's Presidency Theme is Economy of Wellbeing. On October 4, HIV Finland will contribute to an EU Presidency side event on "Wellbeing Economy - A Way to Sustainability in the HIV and AIDS Response?"

Funding of HIV/hep/TB response in Central and Eastern Europe

Key challenges of the transitioning from Global Fund to fight HIV, TB and malaria and other international donors funding in CEECA countries were discussed along with possible joint advocacy actions on the EU level by CSF. Leadership of GF, SOS_project and PAS project presented their planned actions dedicated to sustainability and transitioning of services on HIV and TB among vulnerable groups. EC representatives, EC technical agencies and UNAIDS shared information on current projects or opportunities to support EU member states, candidates and neighboring countries in developing sustainable mechanisms for services. The CSF then discussed follow-up points including community input into the EU Country reports 2019 on health care reform, sustainable funding for services and political dialogues.