

Executive Summary from the EU HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and TB Civil Society Forum, Luxembourg, 06 & 07 November 2018

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, May 15 & 16, 2018). The full meeting report and all presentations are available for download at <http://www.aidsactioneurope.org>.

AIDS 2018 review

The CSF organised a booth with small workshops, networking meetings, key note sessions with different stakeholders (community, doctors, public health agencies, European Commission etc. and where European NGOs could present their work. The CSF was part of the conference coordinating committee and therefore well represented on various levels in the conference. CSF member organisations participated in various panel discussions, presented and advocated for civil society and key populations' concerns when it comes to the global response to HIV, TB and viral hepatitis. With the conference focusing on the rising epidemics in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, organisations and activists advocated specifically for the needs of most affected groups, among them the campaign "Chase the virus, not the people".

Working Groups updates and discussion

After the kick-off of the working groups during the last CSF, this CSF meeting was used to round up the work achievements so far and to plan next steps of the work until the next CSF in 2019.

Update from the Commission

The Staff Working Document that highlights policy frameworks, approaches, guidance, experiences and best practices that were used, transposed and adapted to help Member States improve their response and reach the Sustainable Development Goals was published in July 2018. Furthermore, the multiannual financial framework (MFF) and its health strand as well as Horizon Europe, the next EU Research & Innovation Programme for 2021 to 2027 were presented. The former Health Programme has been embedded into the ESF+ through a dedicated budget of € 413 million for the health strand for 27 MS. The CSF expressed its concerns about the Staff Working Document. It was a disappointing document with no political commitment and limited scope for impact.

PrEP

Access to PrEP varies across European countries. While provision is guaranteed and covered by the health care system in some countries, in other countries PrEP is available but not reimbursed and therefore still difficult to access. In some countries it is not accessible at all. Latest developments are that in the Czech Republic PrEP will be available for 42 Euros and in Germany it appears that PrEP will be covered by the health insurance system from 1 September 2019 on.

Joint CSF meeting

For the first time, the CSF on drugs and the EU HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and TB CSF conducted a joint meeting. The introduction round of participants reflected the broad geographical range as well as the amount of expertise assembled in the two fora. There were three joint working groups created to collaborate on EU processes advocacy opportunities, on quality standards and integration of services, social and healthcare and on overcoming legal barriers.