

Executive Summary from the EU HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and TB Civil Society Forum, Luxembourg, 18 & 19 December 2017

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, December 18 & 19, 2017). The full meeting report and all presentations are available for download at <http://www.aidsactioneurope.org>.

Update from the Commission

The European Commission is drafting a staff working document on HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and STIs based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commitments. Think Tank and Civil Society Forum will provide feedback on the structure and concept in January and detailed suggestions in February to March.

CSF governance and strategic priorities

The newly elected CSF Coordination Team presented its governance paper and strategic priorities suggestions. The CSF discussed the priorities in the framework of a working plan for this three-year term suggesting to work in working groups on identified strategic priorities.

Labour Migration in the WHO European Region and access to HIV, TB, hepatitis services

Massive labour migration from ECA countries to Russia leads to major problems for people living with HIV or are at risk to accessing HIV services and treatment. There is a variety of problems people face in this situation under often terrible living conditions. A meeting convened by WHO Europe discussed an essential HIV care package for migrants from central Asian countries on 27 September 2017.

Monitoring European policy responses to viral hepatitis – The Hep-CORE study

CORE stands for communities, opinions, recommendations and experts and monitors progresses in global policy developments. This is of extreme importance as the hepatitis field is far behind in involving civil society and patient organisations.

Improving HIV prevention and diagnosis

The recent decrease of HIV diagnosis among gay men and other MSM in London was discussed. It was emphasised that there is not only one factor that explains the decrease but rather a combination of increase in testing frequencies, early treatment as well as PrEP. An update from AIDES regarding PrEP in France showed that the uptake of PrEP is behind the expected numbers with a current 5,352 while the target is 20-40,000 people. In particular, the uptake of PrEP outside of Paris (49 % of the current PrEP users live in Paris) and by younger and migrant populations needs to be increased. Also PrEP needs to be brought into the communities as 92% are prescribed in hospitals.

Improving early diagnosis and treatment of viral Hepatitis and TB

Hepcare Europe and E-Detect TB are Commission funded projects that aim to improve access to diagnosis and treatment of viral Hepatitis, particularly in vulnerable populations. Both projects work with a mobile unit for screening and counselling purposes that can be used also in other countries.

HIV Outcomes

The HIV Outcomes initiative reflects a widespread recognition among experts that important issues of health and social inclusion of PLHIV receive insufficient attention from policy-makers and healthcare providers. It focuses on HIV clinical management, comorbidities, psychosocial services, stigma and discrimination within health systems and health-related quality of life.