

## **Executive Summary from the EU HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and TB Civil Society Forum, Luxembourg, 15 & 16 May 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**

The European Commission, the agencies and participating CSF Members presented their plans for the 2018 IAS conference in Amsterdam: Apart from an EC-UNAIDS symposium bringing together the Health Commissioner and EU Ministers of Health, there will be satellite sessions on ESTICOM, Integrate and HA-REACT. There will be several networking zones in the Global Village, like for instance the Harm Reduction Networking Zone, the Eurasian Networking Zone or Sex Worker Networking Zone. The Civil Society Forum will have its European Networking booth in the Global Village.

### **UN High Level Meeting on TB**

The UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending TB will take place on 26 September 2018 in New York. The meeting will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment and two consecutive multi-stakeholder panels on accelerating the response and on scaling up financing for R&D of medicines and diagnostics. Civil society has been involved in all the preparation steps. It is also agreed upon that CS will have a speaking role. ECDC is also part of the multi-sectoral Accountability Framework that will monitor the implementation of agreed goals in New York.

### **Advocacy issues at national/key population level**

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) presents the results of 1.000.000 tests in Europe. The International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) reports on the results of a survey on the impact of the 2016 French prostitution act that sanctions clients. 63% of the sex workers surveyed have experienced deterioration of their living conditions with income loss, decrease ability to negotiate condom use, increased isolation and stress. The law is seen as fueling the stigmatisation of sex workers and as contributing to a climate which legitimises acts of violence motivated by hate. The Latvian organisation AGIHAS shares his concerns about data control in Latvia and how the new EU Regulation on the protection of personal data affects patients and patients' organisations. The CSF Members are updated on the evaluation of European Testing Week 2017 and updated on the 2018 edition.

### **CSF Working Groups**

Following up on the discussions and decisions during the last CSF Meeting and in order to secure the working process between the meetings, the CSF split up in working groups. There were 4 working group topics identified:

- Advocacy to keep health on the political agenda and sustain funding for health related issues
- Access to affordable medicines and diagnostics
- Address stigma, legal and regulatory barriers and human rights violations
- Implementation of combination prevention

### **Joint Meeting with CSF on drugs and Civil Society Involvement Conference**

As agreed in November, parts of the next CSF meeting in November will be conducted together with the CSF on drugs in Brussels. After the Civil Society Involvement conference on Monday, 5 November, the HIV/AIDS, viral Hepatitis and TB CSF will be meeting on their own on Tuesday, 6 November before having the joint meeting on Wednesday, 8 November 2018. The Commissioner is invited, both to the conference and to the CSF and Think Tank Meeting. CSF and Think Tank Members are also invited to the CSI conference.