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AIDS ACTION EUROPE, STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, 24 & 25 APRIL 2017, ATHENS - Report

Steering Committee: Anke **VAN DAM**, Chair, AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW), the Netherlands; Aigars **CEPLITIS**, AGIHAS, Latvia; **Marianella KLOKAPRAKSIS**, Greece; **Richard STRANZ**, AIDES, France; **Silke KLUMB**, Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (DAH), Germany; **Sini PASANEN**, Positiiviset ry, Finland; **Yaroslav BLIAKHARSKYI**, All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH, Ukraine.

Apologies: Brian **WEST**, European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), **Nenad PETKOVIC**, Q-Club, Serbia

Office, Germany: Oksana **PANOCHENKO**, Communications Coordinator; **Ferenc BAGYINSZKY**, Project Manager; **Alexey GORIN**, Communications Officer; **Michael KRONE**, Executive Coordinator

Venue: Arion Hotel, Agiou Dimitriou 18, Athens, 105 54, Greece

Monday, April 24, 2017

1. OPENING AND FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS SC MEETING

1.1. Opening and welcome

The chair of the Steering Committee (SC), Anke van Dam, welcomes everybody to the second SC meeting of 2017. Richard Stranz and Yaroslav Bliakharskiy are new members of the AAE Steering Committee and this is their first face-to-face meeting.

Yaroslav introduces himself and speaks about the situation in Ukraine. His organisation "All-Ukrainian Network" is working directly with people supporting them to ensure access to treatment and care. Yaroslav is a member of the Board. Main issues he is dealing with in his position are strategic management and development of the regional branch in Kiev. He has been working in the field for almost 15 years.

Richard started working in the field in 1998 with different key population. The main focus of his work in AIDES is access to (innovative) medicines; he is already a part of the AAE Working Group on fundraising.

Other Steering Committee members introduce themselves and AAE Working Groups they are taking part in.

1.2. Apologies

Brian and Nenad have not been able to come. The AAE Office asks to be informed as soon as possible if an SC member is going to be absent in order to handle the relevant logistic issues (hotel costs etc.).



1.3. Approval of the last report

Following comments and amendments are made respectively requested regarding the report of the Berlin Meeting in November 2016:

Page 2: There are different rules in place for participation in the Virology Conference in Barcelona this year- there is no possibility to apply with the presentation. Who will participate?

Page 4, second bullet point: PICUM is becoming more and more important, involved in the Correlation Network.

Comment from the Office (Michael): EATAN, the European migrant's organisation, is interested in becoming a member of AAE.

Page 6, 3.1.: The DAH board will decide to prolong the 3 year term of Silke in the Steering Committee, representing Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe as host organisation of AAE.

Page 9-10, Action List: The progress on the Action List is reported on with no comments or amendments.

1.4. Approval of the agenda

- There were two rounds of working group sessions introduced in order to give all SC Members the opportunity to participate in two of them.
- Due to Brian's absence, Silke will host the session on the FPA application
- Latest update on the Stakeholder Meeting in Athens: AAE will visit "Centre of Life", member organisation of AAE, and also a shelter which hosts unaccompanied minors

2. REPORTING FROM THE OFFICE

- **Nov 2016 - Steering Committee Meeting and Member Meeting** have been productive and AAE received very good input for its further strategy. Anke van Dam pointed out that it was a very special meeting between East and West and both sides were eager to listen to and learn from each other.
- **Nov/Dec 2016 – Affordability Trainings in Belgrade and Athens**
Both trainings were well-attended and the feedback was very positive. The participants were active and had some previous knowledge on pricing and affordability. Both trainings proposed a project (advocacy).
- **Jan 2017 – EHLF Meeting in Berlin**
Ferenc reports about the meeting. The development of the project is going well; the legal questionnaire has been updated. Q-Club could not sign the contract for this project phase, so they were replaced by the Macedonian organisation "Stronger Together" where Andrej Senih, a long time activist and EATG Member is working. Other new members are GAT - Portugal, AIDS-Hilfe Wien – Austria, Positiiviset ry – Finland, ARAS – Romania, and Red Ribbon Istanbul – Turkey. In most countries the situation has worsened for undocumented migrants. In some of the countries, communities such as Roma-people have no or only



limited access due to being “undocumented”. The situation in the UK, where a successful campaign to ensure access to services for migrants in irregular situations had been implemented, is not developing well since the Home Office has lately started to phone hospitals and ask for details about their undocumented patients.

- **Jan 2017 – EATG Stakeholder Meeting**

One of the important issues discussed in a working group of the EATG SH meeting was the Amsterdam World AIDS Conference, its objectives and political outcomes. There are many expectations from Civil Society, now it is important to coordinate different approaches and activities. In order to arrange the coordination, representatives of pan-European organisations will meet in Luxembourg on occasion of the CSF Meeting.

AAE have a seat on the EATG Advisory Board (for this time Michael replaced Sini who is the regular representative of AAE on that board). EATG and AAE have many common grounds and collaboration between the two organisations is working well and crucial. Working meetings between are happening between the offices, Ferenc and Michael had exchange with Koen and Annise, one day after the EATG Stakeholder Meeting. The other important link between is Brian West who has a seat in AAE steering committee on behalf of EATG.

There is agreement that the situation in Russia is the most challenging in the region; Luis Mendao is actively participating in the process of the preparations of ECAAC (HIV Conference in Moscow).

- **Jan/Feb 2017 – Malta Informal Technical Meeting and HepHIV conference**

The speech of Sini on behalf of civil society during the Conference was one of the highlights. She performed very well and received a lot of positive feedback.

(<http://www.aidsactioneurope.org/en/news/are-we-really-committed-ending-aids>). "The EU is almost 90-90-90" is a very conflictual statement, because it is based on data coming from the countries, where the quality of data could be very questionable.

Ferenc pointed out that Civil Society has to advocate for qualitative data collection and access to right information. In this situation shadow reporting has to be promoted in order to improve data collection, analysis and publication from the Ministries of Health.

Sini remarked that the 90-90-90 targets are good for advocating towards governments but cannot be the only target since prevention and other issues that are important for the individual (quality of life for PLWHIV for instance) are not reflected. Also, the 10-10-10 is not challenged at all, assuming that in this percentage key populations will be disproportionately affected, which contradicts the stated policy of leaving no one behind.

Anke proposes to raise this point during the next Civil Society Forum.

Richard stressed that we as Civil Society have to oppose this overoptimistic interpretation of the data. This is important to change this interpretation of the data. Oversimplification of numbers is hiding the more complex situation.

The HIV in Europe Conference in Malta concentrated mostly on the topic of CBVCT, but also PrEP was on the agenda.

- **Feb 2017 HIV Justice Network**

The Annual Meeting took place with discussion of the future work. Eugenia Moron participated in the meeting. There is a plan to launch the global campaign about the de-



criminalization, with useful scientific statements. AAE supports the HIV de-criminalization and it could be a part of the new programme with AAE being the European “branch” of HJN.

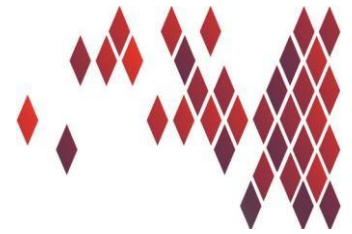
- **Feb 2017 European Alliance for Responsible R&D and Affordable Medicines Meeting**
In the strategic meeting not only the member organisations from HIV field took part but also others, e.g. Transparency International and representatives of the academic institutions. Marianela pointed out that the most important issue was to understand how health systems work. AAE can provide organisational support e.g. in the field of communication: pass the information from the Alliance to AAE members and translation of the important documents.
- **Feb/Mar 2017 – EUROPACH**
EUROPACH is a project of the EU Commission. It is dealing with the history of the HIV-movement. Ferenc reported that it was mostly a brainstorming meeting, collecting key events and milestones. A lot of different stakeholders (drug, sex workers etc.) put their perspectives together.
- **March/April 2017 – Reporting and auditing for 2016**
The reporting has been finalised for 2016. Unfortunately, the remains of the unspent from 2016 cannot be transferred to 2017. For a better oversight, the quarterly reports should be reviewed by the SC. With a new financial accountant on board, the financial reporting will get much easier for the office.
- **March 2017 – EU-Round Table**
Sini participated in the EU-Round Table. Alexandra Martini did a presentation about research on HepC vaccine. Jean Luc Sion addressed the more hands-on approach of the current Commission and its complications for the response to HIV, TB and hepatitis. An interview with Sini and other stakeholders from the field is published in the Government gazette: https://issuu.com/jananikrshnaswamy/docs/government_gazette_vol_1_2017
- **April 2017 – A Meeting of Minds**
Aigars reports from the “Meeting of minds – discussing healthy ageing for PLWHIV’ in London. There has been communication and confusion regarding the reception of a honorary for this meeting (see below topic 4).
- **April 2017 – Affordability training in Berlin**
The training in Berlin went well. The working group on affordability will explore further developments. There are two more trainings planned for this year: one in Kyiv and one in Athens.

3. GOVERNANCE

3.1. Reviewing the ToR for SC Member and SC Chair

Regarding the recent selections of SC Members it was decided that the ToR for SC Member should be revised. Accordingly, a backgrounder with suggested changes was sent out. This is what the SC agrees upon:

- To create a link in the ToR to the selection protocol;



- Under Steering Committee Governance, bullet point 2, the sentence “The members of the Steering Committee shall be appointed by absolute majority of the eligible votes cast (50%+1 of votes of all eligible Steering Committee members)” is replacing the former sentence that a 2/3rd majority is required.
- The overall number of seats of the AAE Steering Committee is decided by the current SC Members within the range according to the ToR (min. 6 to max. 10)
- The profile of the “ideal new SC member” (gender, regional affiliation, expertise and other criteria) should be discussed and decided upon by the SC Members before the call is launched and be taken into consideration when the selections are made.
- Regarding issue 2 of the background note, the SC decided to have a two-step selection procedure: Round 1, the SC Members decide about the reapplying SC Members. The reapplying SC Member(s) is/are excluded from the procedure. Round 2, in light of the remaining vacancies, the SC Members decide on the new applications, including the SC Member(s) who reapplied.

As for the ToR of AAE SC Chair, the SC Members are asked to review the current ToR whether changes are needed. The Chair from 2018 on will be elected during the next meeting in Berlin.

4. COLLABORATION WITH PHARMA COMPANIES

The background of this issue is a honorary offered to AAE by Gilead and received by AGIHAS for the attendance of a workshop in London that Aigars participated in on April 6, 2017. There had been confusing communication between Gilead staff, AAE office, the Steering Committee Members and Aigars prior to the meeting which was unfortunate. Eventually, Aigars signed a contract on behalf of AGIHAS and as AAE Steering Committee Member and the honorary was referred to Aigars’ organisation AGIHAS.

Lesson learnt and next steps:

- Every contract should be read very carefully and checked whether it is in line with the AAE’s principles and the code of ethics (see below).
- Any contract that involves money transfer can only be signed by Silke as CEO of Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe, the hosting organisation of AAE.
- In case, Steering Committee Members are approached by pharm companies regarding the reception of a honorary, the AAE office needs to be involved immediately to take the next steps.
- In the case of the Gilead meeting honorary, Aigars should look into the possibility to donate the received money from AGIHAS to DAH/AAE.

4.1. Code of ethics

Prior to the meeting, a backgrounder was sent out with two suggested major amendments regarding the code of ethics:

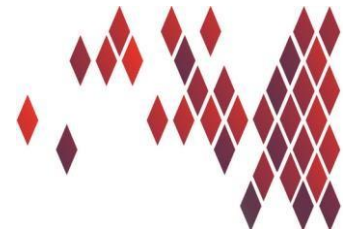


1. It was suggested to insert a paragraph that addresses margins of percentages of funding from pharm companies in order to ensure the independence and neutrality of AAE. The suggestion was to have three margins: under 20 %, independence and neutrality are not under threat, between 20 and 40 % it needs to be examined; over 50 % independence and neutrality are under threat.
The SC Members agree to insert the paragraph. There are discussions whether the second margin should not be 40 % but 50 %. It is decided to vote on this issue: 5 SC Members are in favour of raising it to 50 %, 1 SC Member is opposed to it, one SC Member abstains:
Accordingly the paragraph will be inserted as follows: “With pharmaceutical funding below 20% of the total income of AAE in a fiscal year the independence and neutrality of AAE is not under threat. Between 20 and 50 % it needs to be examined whether AAE’s independence and neutrality is under threat. This inspection should be conducted by the AAE Steering Committee or by a different neutral body upon decision of the Steering Committee. Pharmaceutical funding exceeding 50 % does not ensure AAE’s independence and neutrality.”
2. The SC agrees to add a paragraph regarding the maximum amount of an honorary paid to AAE: Therefore, the sentence “In case of honorariums paid to AAE, the honorarium should not exceed the daily remuneration rates paid to consultants by the United Nations” is added.
3. On top of the suggested amendments, the SC agrees to delete the sentence “Partnerships between AIDS Action Europe and private corporations may well be on the level of a ‘gentlemen’s agreement’.” from the code of ethics.

5. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

With regards to the communication strategy draft, the discussion starts with a general remark from Anke that the discussions on the strategy during the SC Meeting in Riga should be reflected. Moreover, the following issues were discussed and should be considered:

- The Communication Strategy should be connected to AAE’s vision and mission;
- Specific target group addressed strategies and tools should be envisioned;
- The Communication Strategy should contain clear indicators;
- Although it might be difficult to convey some strong and fix positions on certain issues due to the wide and broad constituency (membership) of the AAE network, the strategy should permit to voice out opinions.
- In order to increase the visibility of AAE and in order to keep our members informed the strategising, planning and communication between AAE office and SC Members should be improved. This concerns for instance the representation of AAE by SC Members in meetings and conferences. It should be visible that they represent AAE during the conference and that the follow-up ensures sufficient information and coverage to share with Members.
- A section on AAE activities and strategic directions should be added to the website; a media calendar should be developed in the beginning of each year.



- The communication strategy should serve also as a working document for potential fundraising.
- Communication as a core issue of AAE that needs to be invested in. The use of new platforms should be explored and trainings for the office and SC members regarding communication skills should be considered.

Timeline: The Communication Strategy has to be completed until the end of the year. During the second SC meeting in November, the draft with input from this discussion should be reviewed.

6. WORKING GROUPS

6.1. Member Meeting (Silke, Anke, Michael)

AAE will provide scholarships for member organisation again, for 5 Western and 5 Eastern organisations. There will be a call to present good practice projects in the field of migration, labour migration and displaced persons and access to HIV services. The idea is to connect the EHLF Meeting to the Member Meeting and implement both back to back. Moreover, the preparation for the AIDS 2018 Conference and the expectations from the member organisations of AAE will be discussed in the Meeting.

6.2. Prevention Services for MSM (Sini, Richard, Ferenc)

AAE is actively participating in the Steering Committee of the PrEP in Europe initiative. There is the idea to organize a small meeting for the PEI SC to clarify governance. Moreover, the started initiative on prevention and information via gay apps and social media will be followed up. For the involvement of AAE in preparation of the ChemSex Forum this year in Berlin, the office is in close collaboration with Ben Collins and other stakeholders in order to implement the meeting. With regards to testing and counselling facilities and access for gay men and other MSM, it will be looked into how much the EURO HIV EDAT Tool has already developed minimum standards for gay-friendly checkpoints and whether more work should be invested into it.

6.3. CBVCT (Marianella, Yaroslav, Aigars, Alexey)

The call for expert to prepare the advocacy tool will be prepared soon under the inclusion of following parts: 1) policy paper with good practice references that serves as advocacy aid for both communities and governmental sector and 2) a story telling part where clients share their perspectives on the benefits of CBVCT. Also a good practice collaboration between community based organisations and academia could be part of the tool. It will also be explored how much self-testing is an adequate instrument to increase diagnosing.

6.4. Policy WG (Anke, Silke, Sini, Ferenc)

The Policy Working Group aims to coordinate the policy and advocacy work of AAE. Besides co-chairing the EU CSF, we are also active on the global level with Ferenc participating in the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS PCB.



The role of AAE and other NGOs at the global level is to keep our donor governments accountable when it comes to the Joint Programme but also the Global Fund investments. Ferenc's aim is that western national and regional networks and NGOs actively participate in the UNAIDS PCB meeting. To reach this we need to keep them informed about why and how they could participate. One issue is that western NGOs have developed relations with Ministries of Health but foreign aid usually belongs to Ministries of Development and sometimes even these 2 ministries do not collaborate on HIV issues.

Most European countries are not monitoring their progress re SDGs and not having their national indicators on HIV and STIs. CSF could be a body to develop and recommend these indicators and present them to the Think Tank.

Action point: Anke to send indicators for Netherlands and AAE to prepare information for the CSF. Anke also mentions the regional meeting in Almaty on November 1st with participants from Eastern Europe and Central Asia will take place. Special focus will be the foreign agent legislation. The aim is to share experiences, to learn from each other, and to develop the document for donors. AAE participation is welcomed.

6.5. Affordability WG (Yaroslav, Aigars, Alexey, Oksana)

For 2017, the trainings in Kyiv and Athens will be implemented. The training manual will be translated into Russian. Also, the training programmes should address not only affordability but also access to treatment.

6.6. Fundraising WG (Marianella, Richard, Michael)

The working group agreed to come up with a list of potential donors generated by experience from PRAKSIS and AIDES. Moreover, the idea is to create a fundraising tool based on the to be prepared FPA application, using language addressing potential donors and highlighting the activities that AAE is providing. By June a draft of a fundraising tool should be prepared, that can be reviewed during summer. From autumn 2017 on, AAE would be able to use it.

7. UNAIDS PCB

Ferenc's term ends in December 2017. There is a possibility to apply for a third year extension, based on personal performance. Although the work is very demanding and clearly more than 10 hours/week is spent on PCB related work, Ferenc is enjoying the task and it also provides extra visibility and possibilities for AAE.

Decision: Ferenc to candidate for the third year extension.

7.1. HIV Outcomes

In February the initiative was launched in Brussels. Anke, Richard and Sini shared their critical view on the initiative and its development. The initiative is implemented by FIPRA, an agency that is



funded by pharm companies. Sini participated in the launch meeting in February on behalf of AAE and the CSF, Anke and Richard on behalf of AFEW and AIDES. Sini joined the Steering Committee but the direct involvement of pharm companies remains to be problematic.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

8. FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2018 - 2021

8.1. Background information about the FPA

Michael informed the Steering Committee that the application deadline for the FPA application was preponed to June 15, 2017. Unlike the application process in 2014, the FPA will cover four years and not three years. There is an overall budget of 5.000.000 Euros for these four years compared to a 3.000.000 Euro budget for the application process in 2014. The quantitative probability that AAE will receive a grant is about 33 %. The structure of the application remains the same as in 2014 which is an advantage for AAE as parts of it can be taken over. The aim of the discussion within the Steering Committee is to receive agreement on strategic directions, the objectives and core thematic areas. Very important as well is the change of the AAE Mission towards the integrated approach.

8.2. Discussion of the Proposal

a) In order to broaden the scope of AAE's activities towards the integrative approach, the Steering Committee decides to change its mission statement including TB and hepatitis as mono-infections, in addition to HIV/AIDS, in order to use synergies and avoid duplications wherever and whenever possible.

b) Moreover, it is decided that the core values need to be changed. The old version will be replaced by these core values:

- "Be accountable and hold others accountable
- Work from a human rights based approach
- Put in practice the principle of greater involvement of people affected by the epidemics (GIPA principle)
- Facilitate a networking and partnership culture
- Be transparent
- Be inclusive
- Make Civil Society's voice being heard
- Make a difference"

c) Also the description of the target group is changed as follows:

AIDS Action Europe addresses both intermediaries and final beneficiaries:

"Members, partners and stakeholders of AIDS Action Europe, health care providers, policy makers and decision makers, as well as individuals and groups that are particularly affected by and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and co-infections with a specific focus on people living with HIV."

d) The Steering Committee agrees to change the three general objectives to the following:

(I) AAE contributes effectively to the response to HIV, TB and Hepatitis in Europe



(II) AAE provides platforms to communicate and facilitate collaboration, networking, and linking and learning between NGOs, networks, policy makers and other stakeholders and if

(III) Governance and internal management guarantee a continuously improving network collaboration

e) The core thematic areas CBVCT, affordability and accessibility to Medicines, tackling legal barriers in the response to HIV, TB and Hepatitis and criminalisation will be further elaborated.

The Office will work on the draft including the changes discussed during this meeting by May 12 and send the draft for a second review to the SC Members.

9. NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

New date for the next Steering Committee Meeting has been found: **13th -14th of November 2017**.

The Meeting will take place in Berlin.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

During the meeting the Office received the news that Nenad resigned from the Steering Committee.

ACTION LIST

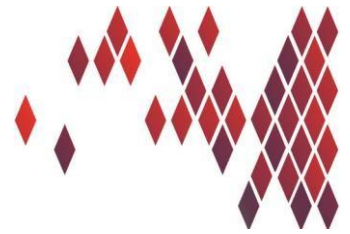
	WHAT	WHO	TIMEFRAME
A	To follow up the publication of the article of Sini in the "Government Gazette"	Oksana and Alexey	By the end of May
B	Revision of the Code of Ethics	Michael	Until the May TC
C	Communication Strategy: 1) collecting reflections, 2) draft, 3)discussion, 4) final version	Oksana, Alexey	1) End of May; 2) Until the SC Meeting in November; 3) During the meeting; 4. By the end of the year
D	To elaborate a draft of a Fundraising Tool for the SC revision	Michael, Working Group	by end of June
E	Preparing the next draft of the FPA	Michael, Office	by May 12

Backgrounders Key Reading (KR) and Further Reading (FR)

A Report from the Berlin Meeting (KR)

B Governance documents – ToR SC members and Chair of AAE (KR)

C Code of Ethics (KR)



D Communication Strategy draft (KR)

E FPA Application draft (KR)



AAE: Office and Steering Committee Members



AAE Steering Committee Members



Stakeholder Meeting in Athens 2017