



Co-funded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union



MINUTES AIDS ACTION EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 2016

April 11 + 12, 2016, Belgrade, Serbia

Participants: **ANKE VAN DAM, CHAIR**, AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW), the Netherlands; **LELLA COSMARO**, Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS (LILA Milano ONLUS), Italy; **SILKE KLUMB**, Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (DAH), Germany; **NENAD PETKOVIC**, Q-Club, Serbia; **AIGARS CEPLITIS**, AGIHAS, Latvia; **SINI PASANEN**, Positiiviset ry, HivFinland, Finland.

Office Berlin: **FERENC BAGYINSZKY**, AIDS Action Europe Office; **LJUBA BÖTTGER**, AIDS Action Europe Office; **MICHAEL KRONE**, AIDS Action Europe Office; **ALEXEY GORIN**, AIDS Action Europe Office

Apologies: **BRIAN WEST**, European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), UK; **MARIANELA KLOKA**, PRAKSIS, Greece; **OLGA ALEKSANDROVA**, ECUO, Ukraine

Monday, April 11, 2016

1. OPENING AND FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS SC MEETING

Opening

The chair of the Steering Committee (SC), Anke van Dam, welcomes everybody to the first SC meeting of 2016. Alexey Gorin and Sini Pasanen are new in the team. Sini became the co-Chair of the European Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS in 2016 on behalf of AIDS Action Europe, after Lella Cosmaro's term ended in 2015. Alexey started in March 2016 as the new Communications Manager of the AAE team in Berlin with a 50% position. Among other relevant experiences, he has worked with LGBT organisations in Russia.

2. AIDS Action Europe – Reporting

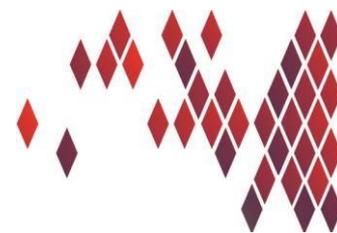
Highlights since the last SC meeting:

NOVEMBER 2015:

- CSF Meeting in Luxembourg
- PrEP in Europe Meeting

DECEMBER 2015:

- Steering Committee Meeting of HA-REACT in Luxembourg



JANUARY 2016:

- Kick-off Meeting of HA-REACT in Vilnius
- Quality Action – Final Conference “Doing the right things right”
- UNAIDS PCB – Ferenc’s mandate started officially

FEBRUARY 2016:

- EATG Stakeholder Meeting
- Meeting with Michael Huebel and Wolfgang Philipp in Luxembourg (Head of the Crisis management and preparedness in health – Unit)
- Joint application of EATG and AAE as CSF to the CCC of WAC Amsterdam (approved in April)

MARCH 2016:

- EECAAC 2016 conference in Moscow

APRIL 2016:

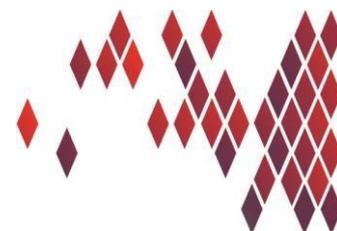
- First European CHEM-SEX Forum

3. STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF AAE (1)

3.1. Profiling of AAE

This section contains two discussion lines: a) How does AAE develop its position in order to present them as AAE SC members or staff members and b) how proactively does AAE take up advocacy initiatives at national level.

- a) It would be helpful to have position papers on specific topics (e.g. PrEP) those go beyond the strategic framework document. However, experiences from other organisations show that the development of those papers is very time consuming. Moreover, positions can change due to new developments and need to be updated constantly which requests new discussions on produced papers. Moreover, with more than 400 organisations and no general assembly with elections of the SC by the members, it is difficult to have a firm position in the first place. Against this background it is decided that there are no position papers produced but that the new structure of the conference calls will provide more time for discussion on contents that should help shaping the profile of AAE. It is also of importance that the SC members represent different regions and bring their views into the discussion. The profile of AAE is also important with regard to the collaboration with EATG.
- b) Until now, AAE has become active when the initiative was coming from NGOs in the country, often in cooperation with other pan-European organisations on behalf of the CSF, or in collaboration with the Commission. This may need to be revised when the situation in a country makes it difficult for NGOs to get active. In any case, close collaboration with NGOs at local level, be it proactive or on request, is the precondition to start action in the country.



3.2. Integrative approach

It is agreed that there is a need to use synergies and that the integrative approach supports the political position of civil society. The field of HIV offers a lot of experiences with regard to prevention, advocacy for affordability, human rights based approaches, to name only a few, that could be useful in viral Hepatitis and TB. However, there are also risks involved that might downplay the role of HIV and of HIV service organisations. Moreover, it is evident that HIV organisations have their expertise in HIV and co-infections and less in Hepatitis and TB as mono infections. The services should be addressed by organisations specialised in the field. The integrative approach is also on the agenda of next week's CSF meeting in Luxembourg where for the first time representatives of pan-European TB and Hepatitis organisations will participate.

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

4. STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF AAE (2)

4.1. AAE on the way to Amsterdam 2018 – discussion on topics and issues

Eastern European and Central Asian countries will be a focus at the World AIDS Conference 2018. There are several other conferences on the way to AIDS2018: the UN high-level meeting on HIV in June, 2016, WAC in Durban in July, 2016, the EU presidency conference in Malta in January 2017 and IAS in Paris in July 2017. With the successful application of the CSF WAC 2018 Conference Coordinating Committee (CCC) AAE together with EATG will play an important role in preparation of the conference. ECUO and EACS are also on the CCC.

Extracts from the discussion:

- It is discussed whether AAE should put more efforts into advocacy for scaling up public investment in research of new medications and in treatment in general. AAE has shaped its profile more in the direction of prevention, human rights based approaches and the development of low threshold services for key populations
- While there has been tremendous progress with regard to diagnosis and treatment, the fight against stigma and discrimination has not been nearly as successful. We need to discover new ways how to address this issue and how to measure it. Moreover, the current political situation makes these efforts even more challenging with lately introduced legislations that criminalise key populations.
- The preparation of the declaration for the UNGASS on drugs in April 2016 has been implemented without wider participation and inclusion of civil society. This has been a very disappointing development. Against this background the decreasing leverage of Civil Society in the response to HIV is being discussed.



Conclusion: On the way to Amsterdam the following topics were identified as key elements of AIDS Action Europe's field of action:

- stigma and discrimination
- accountability of governments
- solidarity
- the 90-90-90 targets and its lack of funding in EECA and Europe
- research and development for cure
- inequalities in health
- prevention

5. Key events 2016

Ferenc, representing the NGO Delegation on PCB UNAIDS, and Michael, representing AAE, should go to the **High-level Meeting on HIV** in June in New York.

Sini, Anke, Nenad, Silke and the AAE office (3 people) will participate in the **International AIDS Conference in Durban** in July, being present at the European Networking Zone together with ECUO and EATG.

On occasion of the Maltese EU presidency a technical meeting is taking place in 2016.

Other key events in 2016 are:

- 13.-17.04.2016 EASL in Barcelona, Spain
- 19.-21.04.2016 UNGASS on drugs
- 23.-25.06.2016 EUPHA conference on migrant health in Oslo, Norway
- 28.-30.06.2016 UNAIDS PCB Meeting in Geneva

8. WORKING GROUP SESSION

The aim of the working group (WG) session is to plan further steps on the upcoming projects and event. Three WGs took place with following outcomes:

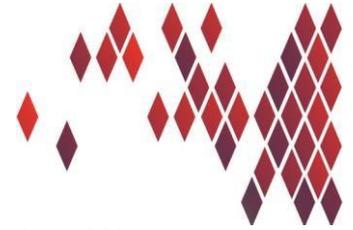
8.1. Community-Based HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing (CBVCT)

Participants: Lella, Sini and Alexey and WG members who were not present: Olya, Brian

- A satellite event will be set up. The idea is to attach it to a bigger conference, e.g. the Glasgow conference 2016. Alexey will take over the AAE co-lead of this group.

8.2. WG Affordability

Participants: Nenad, Aigars, Ferenc and WG members who were not present: Marianella, Olya



- Planning trainings: 3 Trainings for 3 regions till the end of the year 2016 which could be conducted parallel. Aigars is responsible for Baltic countries, Nenad for associated countries and Marianella for EU countries.

8.3. AAE Member Meeting

Participants: Silke, Ljuba, Anke, Michael and WG members who were not present: Brian, Nenad, Lella

- The participants decide that the first part of the meeting should focus on the question: How can Civil Society in Europe and Central Asia be strengthened in times when the influence of CSO is pushed back at national and at European level? How can CS maintain its role to advocate for HIV policies? What should AAE's role be to support and how passive, active or proactive should AAE be when it comes to advocacy at national level?
- AAE is able to give out ten scholarships. In order to select 10 attendees, AAE will send out a call for abstracts that will give answers to the above mentioned questions. Out of the organisations submitting an abstract, ten will be selected and invited to the meeting and four will have the opportunity to present their ideas. The remaining six will be presented as posters. The call for abstracts will be sent out by the end of April. The deadline for submission will be June 15. After that a committee will select the abstracts.
- The second part of the day will be focusing on "AAE on its way to Amsterdam 2018" with presentations and discussions.

9. REFLECTION/EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

The meeting was well organised by Nenad and Michael. The three missing Steering Committee members who could not participate out of different reasons were deeply missed, every person matters and every region is important.

All in all, the discussions on the profiling of AAE and planning till AIDS 2018 were productive with a good improvement of how to work together on goals with the leading part from the SC and the office. We have found good common grounds and further steps to put the issues on the table.

During the October 2014 meeting it was mentioned that together with the new SC members we have new energy on board and can better achieve our goals and improve our planning. This is what indeed happened, we have an active and better structure and are improving our strategic work every meeting. But should not forget to focus on accountability and improve to use diplomatic language.

