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MINUTES AIDS ACTION EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 2016

03. & 04. NOVEMBER 2016

Berlin, Wilhelmstrasse 138, 10963 Berlin

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; **AIGARS CEPLITIS**, AGIHAS, Latvia; **SINI PASANEN**, Positiiviset ry, HivFinland, Finland; **BRIAN WEST**, European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), UK; **MARIANELA KLOKA**, PRAKSIS, Greece; **OLGA ALEKSANDROVA**, ECUO, Ukraine

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: **NENAD PETKOVIC**, Q-Club, Serbia

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Thursday, November 03, 2016

1. OPENING AND FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS SC MEETING

1.1. Opening

1.1.1. Welcome and latest member and staff news

The chair of the Steering Committee (SC), Anke van Dam, welcomes everybody to the second SC meeting in 2016. Oksana Panochenko is new in the team. She is the new Communications Manager of the AAE team in Berlin, replacing Ljuba with a 100% position. It was a smooth transition. Among other relevant experiences, she has worked with HEP issues in Ukraine.

Anke announced the end of the term of Lella Cosmaro, which could not be prolonged any longer according to the statutes. All members of the SC and the Office want to thank Lella for her long-year engagement. Lella has told about her experiences as AAE SC member in the AAE Newsletter. The SC will elect the person(s) to replace her during this meeting.

1.1.2. Review of the agenda, approval of the last report and logistics

- ➔ There are some small, not essential changes in the sequence of the agenda. So, Ferenc will report on the work for the UNAIDS PCB tomorrow.
- ➔ The first AAE Member Meeting will take place directly after the SC Meeting on Saturday. More than 30 members from 17 countries will be here.
- ➔ Comment on Joint Actions on page 3: The collaboration between GO and NGO remains challenging. In HA-REACT for instance, a leaflet produced by Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe that specifically addressed key populations in a target group tailored way was refused to be authorised by the authorities.
- ➔ Change on page 13: The abbreviation NRI needs to be changed in HRN – Harm Reduction Network

1.2. Review action list of previous SC meeting

	WHAT	STATUS
A	Create, translate and publish a web-version of annual report 2014 and 2015	Done (only the Russian version of the annual report 2015 is not published)
B	Revise Communications Strategy and prepare a draft for the next SC meeting in	Postponed (s. the following discussion)
C	Provide a plan on how to react on UNGASS	(see the following discussion)



D	Ask CHAFAEA for permission to fund participation in the High-level Meeting on HIV in New York	Done and approved
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Remarks / Discussion related to the Action List

- Since the creation of the AAE communication strategy was already postponed several times the question arose whether this strategy is actually needed. The discussion resulted in the decision that the Steering Committee strongly requires the **Communication strategy**. The work that already has been invested should be used. Also collaboration with other organisations like EATG and their work on communication should be explored. The office suggests to come up with a first draft by next SC Meeting in April 2017. Oksana will be in charge. It should be linked to the new strategic framework. Aigars will be seconding the work of the office on the communication strategy in terms of revising and advising.
- The UNGASS on drugs HLM was not very successful out of civil society's perspective. Now, the next opportunity in 2019 should be used. AAE can only make a difference in collaboration with other global and pan-European organisations. With the integrated approach, aiming at HIV, TB and viral hepatitis, the vulnerability of key populations is at focus. This needs to be stressed more. In this sense AAE should focus more on harm reduction as a concept. Key populations play a key role in the integrative approach. This became also clear during the High Level Meeting in New York where a good part of the discussion beforehand centred on the inclusion respectively exclusion of key populations and how they are mentioned in the declaration. Unclear remains the reporting in the framework on the Sustainable Development Goals. It is suggested that AAE could do monitoring at national level about if and how the goals are reached. Marianella refers to the CONCORD Platform (European NGO confederation for relief and development) as good example in Greece. Ferenc proposes to find a way to catch more attention for the SDG and the role of key populations from the public through side events. Marianella proposes to work with protests and other different forms of intervention.

2. AIDS Action Europe – Reporting

2.1. Office Report (May 2016 to November 2016)

Highlights since the last SC meeting:

April - Mai 2016:

- The CSF was chaired for the first time by Sini. She did a great job. To the CSF, against the background of an integrated approach, Hepatitis and TB organisations were invited. An extended meeting of CSF Members and TB and Hepatitis representatives took place after the official CSF Meeting in order to determine next steps for collaboration and joint advocacy. The Think Tank meeting did not have any extraordinary results or occurrences.
- **MSM Tender:** the second round application was approved. AAE takes over the lead of WP 7.



- **The Audit of the 2015** Single Grant Agreement (SGA) was eventually finalised. The final payment was received in August.
- In Brussels, the **PICUM** (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants) meeting on April 27 took place. AAE was invited to present the EHLF findings.
- AAE presented in the **Step-Up Programme** of EATG in Berlin with the aim of more visibility towards participants of our member organisations, in particular from the EECA region.

June

- **High Level Meeting on ending AIDS in New York:** After the discussions beforehand, the declaration as outcome of the meeting can be considered as acceptable, at least the key populations have been mentioned. The AAE participants could use the event for meetings with national delegates, among others Mrs Charmaine Gauci from Malta, the country of the EU-presidency in the first half of 2017.
- **EUPHA in Oslo** (6th European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health)– AAE was invited with a poster presentation on the EHLF findings. In general, the conference was qualitatively not as valuable as expected.

July

- On occasion of the **World AIDS Conference in Durban**, AAE organised in cooperation with ECUO and EATG the European Networking Zone in the Global Village. While the zone proved to be a great space for networking opportunities, the conception of the ENZ programme with speeches and discussions has to be reconsidered as the environment in the Global Village is often too noisy and the stand is too open. The programme can only be implemented in closed rooms. This experience needs to be taken into account in Amsterdam. In general, PrEP was a big thematic topic in Durban. Also, criminalisation of HIV exposure and transmission was brought to the audience by activists.

August

- AAE received the initial payment for 2016. At the same time Office and SC worked intensively on the application for 2017.
- The Communication officers worked on the update of the AAE Member list on the website and on increased social media activities.

September

- The SGA application for 2017 was submitted in time to the EU portal.
- **Healthy living with HIV**, Barcelona: Aigars reports that the participants were mostly clinicians, only a very few people living with HIV. The consideration is to participate next time with the panel presentation. This is very important to leverage the agenda of this kind of conferences as

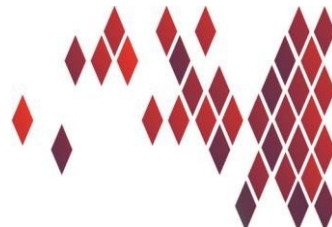


far as it is possible and/or to participate as a speaker. Next year in Barcelona AAE will attend with a presentation.

- AAE participated in the **Kick-off Meeting for the ESTICOM** project in Luxembourg.

October

- **CSF and Think Tank Meeting** in Luxembourg: The CSF went well with some interesting discussion and speakers. The CSF Coordination Team discussed with the Commission criteria and process of the renewal against the background of the broadening to TB and Hepatitis organisations. The Think Tank Meeting did not provide very new information. The composition of the Think Tank is also under assessment with regards to the integrative approach. The discussions in the Think Tank, also regarding the implications for a potential policy framework were not very productive.
- **ECHOES** (Objective II of the ESTICOM project). A working group meeting in Berlin gave a clearer picture of AAE's tasks. One of the main challenges is that there is no clear understanding in different countries and cultural context what "community health workers" are. The collaboration between NGO and academia proved to be challenging. Concerns are expressed that there is a development when academia is trying to have full ownership on research projects and quality control and claim complains about the quality of data while they need NGOs and community to collect the data.
- **Symposium on CBVCT in Glasgow HIV 2016** (Lella, Brian, Alexey) The symposium was not so well attended. However, the contributions by the speakers and discussions were very valuable. The article about the conference is [published](#). Alexey was interviewed during the conference and was active on twitter.
- **TC with Koen Block on collaboration between EATG and AAE:** The request of representation of AAE in EATG's External Advisory Board was received. A decision has not been made since EATG is reconsidering the role of the Advisory Board. As soon as a decision is made, AAE will be informed. Michael and Koen agreed on closer cooperation at the operative level with quarterly TC and biannual personal meetings.
- Planning the meeting on **usage of gay dating apps** for prevention and other information: The meeting will take place on Sunday November 5. The issue is considered important as there is not much use of gay apps at national or local level.
- **Planning the affordability trainings in Athens, Riga and Belgrade.** Tamás Bereczky has been identified as trainer. The Manual has been improved in the last years. Other detailed issues will be addressed in the Affordability Working Group.



3. GOVERNANCE

3.1. Election for SC members 2017-2019, Review of the applications and election

The Steering Committee elected its members. The terms of Lella, Nenad and Marianella ended; Lella's term could not be renewed. Results of the voting: Nenad and Marianella were re-elected. Richard Stranz from AIDES France is elected as a new member in the AAE SC.

Silke announces that her mandate as representative of the hosting organisation has been prolonged for the next two years.

All applying candidates will be informed by November 04 latest.

The voting procedure should be added to the TOR.

4. WORKING PLAN 2016 AND 2017

The SC and office staff broke into three working groups to prepare the next activities regarding the Affordability Trainings, CBVCT and the Member Meeting

The **Affordability** working group decided to have a finalising conference call with the trainer on the manual before the trainings are implemented. So far, the trainings in Riga, Belgrade and Athens are arranged. For the next year, three more trainings are planned in Milano, Kyiv and Kishinev/Chisinau. The Manual will be translated into Russian.

CBVCT: After the Glasgow Symposium the working group members narrowed down the activities for 2017. Within a consultancy the idea is to have a deeper look into the challenges, gaps and opportunities in the collaboration between NGOs, clinicians and academia. It is still very necessary to advocate for CBVCT, in particular in the EECA countries. The communities need to take leadership in data collection.

The preparation of the **Member meeting** 2016 has been so far very successful. The implementation of the Meeting and the role of SC Members is on the agenda for the next day. While for 2016 the focus lies on strengthening civil society and hearing from AAE's members what to focus on from 2018 to 2021, it is suggested that the next year's Member meeting should have the preparation of the World AIDS Conference in Amsterdam 2018 as main topic.

Friday, November 04, 2016

5. UNAIDS PCB

The day starts with Ferenc's report of his work in the UNAIDS PCB. An issue gaining more and more importance is the fact that contributions from European countries and the EU go to the Global Fund although Europe is not profiting very much from the GFATM. In fact, the GFATM is withdrawing from a lot of European



countries. On the other hand, UNAIDS is not very present in Europe. A strategy would be to engage with national GOs in order to address this issue against the background that MoH and the Ministry or Development (often responsible for fundings to the GFATM) do not necessarily connect very much. Ferenc also raises the point that the UNAIDS PCB provides an opportunity for community based organisations to speak out where it is not possible in their countries. This accounts for instance for sex worker organisations in Russia.

In order to keep the discussion of political linkage between GO and NGO at national level on the agenda a working group will be established in which Anke will take the lead. Ferenc and Sini are interested to participate.

6. AAE BEYOND 2017

6.1. Funding after 2017

With regards to the funding situation after 2017, best and worst case scenario were discussed:

Best case scenario: AAE will apply for a new Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) and will receive the funding. **Worst case scenario:** there will no new funding be available. In this case, remaining funding are HA-REACT and ESTICOM. The participants exchange views on funding opportunities and strategies:

- AAE could apply for leading a Joint Action or Project within the Health Programme. With its experience and capacities AAE has profound preconditions to do so.
- Foundations could be an option, e.g. Open Society Foundation, Robert Carr Foundation. Also crowd funding could be an option. This would be particularly an option to stay independent from the industry. This led to the discussion on how much private funding could be acceptable. A number of 50 % maximum pharma funding was mentioned.
- In the worst case AAE would have to cut down the activities to a small amount of communication and project management activities in order to keep the network alive.

A fundraising working group is established consisting of Marianella, Olya and Michael.

6.2. Strategic framework 2018 – 2021

The session is used to brainstorm SC Members' ideas about thematic directions for the Strategic Framework and to prepare for the Member Meeting. These were the results: Which core thematic areas should AAE focus on from 2017 – 2019: Affordability, Criminalisation, CBVCT, Usage of gay apps, Ageing, others? – Those questions also have to be answered during the Member Meeting next day. AAE want to have an input from the members.

- **Accessibility and Affordability** should stay on the agenda
- **Integration of Hep + STI + TB** and its implications at national level



- **Criminalisation** of HIV exposure and transmission is an important topic that is of concern for a lot of member organisations. The HIV Justice network is working on this issue but with a focus on North America and in particular the US. The objective would be to bring the criminalisation issue more to a European level.
- Community-Based Voluntary Counselling and Testing (**CBVCT**) and supporting the networks should stay on the agenda but the role of AAE needs to be explored further.
- **Usage of gay Apps** is also an important issue for which the meeting on November 6 will give further insights.
- **Ageing:** EATG has been very active on a topic which is on the agenda of many member organisations. If AAE decides to work on Ageing it would have to be linked very closely to the activities that EATG is planning to implement in order to avoid duplications.
- AAE should continue to work on access to services for **migrants with irregular status**.
- **Other topics:** prisoners, supervising youth drug use, chem sex, poverty and housing , education for the doctors for East Europe.
- As an instrument, it is suggested to implement annual Summer Camps to train people on specific topics

6.3. Planning 2017

AAE’s SC meetings, AAE’s Teleconferences

PLANNED MEETINGS 2017			
First SC meeting in Kyiv, April 6-7 meanwhile changed to Athens, April 24 -25			
Second SC Meeting in Berlin, November 2-3			
TELECONFERENCES 2017			
26 January, 15.00 CET	6 March, 15.00 CET	18 May, 15.00 CET	29 June, 15.00 CET
10 August, 15.00 CET	14 December, 15.00 CET		

Key conferences

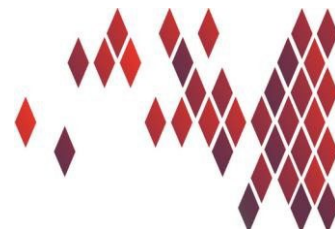
November 2016

- 23-25 November: 3rd Middle East North Africa Harm Reduction Conference (MENAHR) 2016
- 28 November: Meeting with Commissioner Andriukaitis in Brussels

December 2016

- 3-4 December: PrEP Summit in San Francisco

January 2017



- 30/31 January: Malta Conference Technical Meeting and January 31- February 2 HepHIV conference
- 16 January: EATG Stakeholder meeting

February 2017

- February 13-16: CROI in Seattle,

April 2017

- 14 - 17 Apr: Regional Eurasian Harm Reduction conference in Vilnius
- 18 - 23 Apr EASL conference in Amsterdam

May 2017

- 14 -17 May: International Harm Reduction Conference in Montreal

July 2017

- 23 - 26 July: IAS in Paris

September 2017

- International workshop on Healthy Living with HIV in Barcelona, Spain 15-17 September 2017(Aigars)

October 2017

- 25 - 27 Oct, EACS in Milano (Ferenc)

7. MEMBER MEETING

Michael gave the last information on the meeting and introduced the program. The role of the SC members will be to represent their own organisation, welcome other member organisations in their function as SC Members and coordination of the work in working groups.

Agreement on four working group with the following topics:

- **Capacity building** - Anke / Ferenc
- **Communication and information sharing** - Marianella / Oksana
- **Monitoring** - Brian / Michael
- **Russian Speaking Group: Needs and Demands** - Olya / Alexey

8. ACTION LIST

	WHAT	WHO	WHEN
A	Revise Communications Strategy and prepare a draft for the next SC meeting in April 2017	Oksana	by next SC Meeting in April



B	Create a working group on developing instruments for political linkage between GO and NGO at national level	Anke	asap
C	Create a working group on fundraising	Michael	with the beginning of 2017

