



A Europe free of AIDS, TB, and viral hepatitis - and no one left behind

CSF Ukraine Regional NGOs Response Coordination Call¹

18 May 2022, 11-12:00 CET

Contents

<u>1.</u> Follow-up Action Points.....	1
<u>2.</u> Update from EC (DG SANTE)	1
<u>3.</u> Country Updates: Issues & Solutions.....	2
<u>4.</u> Thematic Updates: Issues & Solutions.....	3
<u>5.</u> Funding.....	3
<u>6.</u> Next CSF Ukraine Regional NGOs Response Coordination Call	4
<u>7.</u> Additional Links and annexes	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.

1. Follow-up Action Points from the Last Meeting

- **Naloxone stocks in Ukraine:** a delivery from Czech Republic to Ukraine was reported at the last meeting. Are there further needs? Would other donations of naloxone be needed.
- **Guidelines and protocols for maintaining HIV care data sharing:** Request to disseminate the information to healthcare providers and other community groups. Check whether it has been useful so far.
- **EHRA-led letter to EC and national health authorities about advocacy for HIV and OAT treatment for Ukrainian refugees.** Any response?
- **TLD:** are member states making use of the opportunity of EU legislation to access TLD base register?
- EC facilitated “Supporting Ukraine neighbouring countries and Moldova health policy platform network” in April. Another similar meeting will be held next week. More details will be shared.

REMINDER: Aidsmap’s page on HIV treatment and health care for refugees from Ukraine (<https://www.aidsmap.com/about-hiv/hiv-treatment-and-health-care-refugees-ukraine>).

Email Roger Pebody (roger@nam.org.uk), if you have updates or corrections.

2. Update from EC (DG SANTE)

- **The EU Health Security Committee** discussed HIV care for displaced people from Ukraine. **EACSC/ECDC/WHO** presented a joint statement on ensuring high quality of HIV care for displaced people from Ukraine, as well as the WHO standardised protocol for clinical management and medical data sharing.

¹ This is a report from the CSF Ukraine regional NGOs response call. The information shared is reported as heard. The report was not run by speakers. Please, treat this report with caution as the situation and actions of different actors evolve rapidly and because personal data is shared to help link people to care and for no other purpose.

- **EMA** provided all the information about its activities on the availability of medicines in the EU. Additional on-going discussions on what can be done to ensure the availability of medicines, including regulatory flexibilities, good practices and other mechanisms.
- **Survey to countries** to see what the needs are and calibrate help from the EU for any outstanding needs.
- **Upcoming open webinar** on having a network for supporting Ukraine, neighbouring EU member states and Moldova: Scheduled on **25 May, 2022 (15-16:30 CET)**.

It will focus on four key priorities:

- 1) Support displaced Ukraine patients: supporting EU MS-to-MS transfers, removing bottlenecks and harmonisation of rules in different MS.
- 2) Facilitate partnerships and funding support for civil society organisations in Ukraine, Moldova and impacted MS.
- 3) Mental health support for refugee patients and healthcare professionals.
- 4) Recognition and support for healthcare professionals arriving in EU member states and Moldova (Professional qualification rate combination).

Action Point 1: Request from co-chairs to each organisation participating in one of the open virtual meetings to indicate their ability and to contribute to one or more of the priority areas. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/item/item/47955>

- **Update on the project of the EU delegation in Ukraine** (focusing on a communication campaign for Ukrainians fleeing the war in Ukraine while living with HIV, TB, HEP B or C or have an opioid dependence). The project aims to provide targeted information about specialised healthcare and community settings, as well as procedures to access care in EU Member States and in other countries, without any stigmatisation.

The first draft of the website is available here: <https://www.treatment4ukraine.com/en/home/> . It contains information for five countries (Germany, Austria, UK, Latvia, Bulgaria). The other countries will be added.

Action Point 2: Request from EU delegation in Ukraine to have a look at the website and share feedback with the project manager at GFA Consulting Group.

- **Concerns raised about access to OAT:** Not really raised as an issue by the participating members states to the Health Security Committee probably because HSC focuses mainly on communicable diseases.

3. Country Updates: Issues & Solutions

Poland

Foundation for Social Education (FSE): the number of refugees is increasing (currently **around 3,200,000**) but no improvement of the system has been reported:

- **ART** is still available, but although the number of refugees has increased, while resources have not (more patient but same level of staff).
 - **Lack of funds** for NGOs working with refugees from Ukraine. Agreement from Global Fund on official cooperation with Alliance for Public Health is still missing. The project proposal from Foundation for Social Education has been rejected.
 - **OAT:** access is easier in Warsaw and Wrocław. Yet, the number of annual patients is limited (max. 500). This might not be enough to cover demand. There are around 300 people in Warsaw.
 - **On-going cooperation with the Ukrainian government and HIV clinics:** the CHIP/WHO protocol is already in place. However, consultations tend to last longer due to the language barrier.
 - **Lack of Prevention and harm reduction programmes dedicated to Ukrainians:** Waiting for the decision from the National AIDS Centre on the calls for proposals to support People living with HIV. There is an envelope of 50,000 euros for prevention programmes, 10,000 euros per organisations which is below needs.
 - FSE working on own resources, receiving questions about treatment and methadone programmes. It is applying as much as possible to funding opportunities.
- **Action Point 5: UNAIDS** is looking into the different funding needs and the funding mechanisms needed to support community organisations.

Germany

Deutsche Aidshilfe:

- **DAH proposal to Global Fund** was rejected but the funds went to APH, who now has three consultants.
- The German healthcare system is very specific. New regulation from June 1.
- One hotline to link people to the doctors. Discussion on a **second hotline** for key populations.
- The **Minister of Health in Germany was petitioned** to have **stocks of ART** in preparation for future needs.
- **OAT expectations from people fleeing to Germany should be managed:** people in OAT programmes in Ukraine demand take-home doses in Germany while this is not possible for people entering programmes in Germany. Please inform people about the procedure that they will be treated as new patient in programmes. Home doses might be possible only later on.
- No further information **regarding hormone treatment for trans people** in Germany.

Action Point 4: EHRA reports that the issue of expectations has already been discussed during the regional calls with Ukrainian organisations and community members, but it will be raised again.

Action Point 5: Check information on Slovakia and issues with ARVs (one month of free ARVs and then complicated approval procedures – with one month of potential delay).

4. Thematic Updates: Issues & Solutions

EMCDDA: on-going study to map demands, responses and preparedness. Results are expected to be published in July. Some focus groups have already been working with participants that were previously proposed. Suggestions are welcome, If additional structured interviews to individual people are needed.

ENPUD (Olga Belyaeva, Programme Coordinator): OAT Needs and Issues in Ukraine:

- Issues regarding the **connection between patients and doctors:** ENPUD to work with the Ethical Committee of the Ministry of Health on how to manage this unstable and often uncomfortable relationship at OAT clinics.
- **Unclear positions on stocks** of OAT drugs.
- **Private OAT clinics:** people need money to pay for OAT. Some clinics have **tripled the price**.
- **Low quality of OAT.** Expected donations of buprenorphine and methadone from EU countries in mid-June.
- **Lack of means to pay for rents of apartments.**
- People who use drugs **refuse to use humanitarian support that is directed to all Ukrainian citizens.** Attempt to obtain humanitarian support specifically targeting people who use drugs.

Action Point 6: CSF groups to follow-up on the response received from EC regarding the continuity of essential life-saving treatments for Ukrainians in European countries (e-mail sent on April 21, 2022).

5. Funding

Action Point 6: Incoming discussion at the EC Network meeting. Formulate requests about types of funding and funding mechanisms and explore whether there are any opportunities either from EC or bilateral donors, or other institutions to support.

- **ENPUD** reports a lack of flexibility in funds allocation and support received from humanitarian and charity foundations. Requests and needs are now different: there must be resources for specific groups and community management – considering the tax system, and other options for extremely diversified needs.
- **EC (DG SANTE):** In case there is a need for ART, OAT or other treatments, as well as prevention materials, national authorities in Ukraine, Moldova and EU MS can put in the requests for support for these supplies through the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism**.

For acute needs within a more flexible framework, private donations could be considered. For instance, there are at least two mechanisms available that might be considered:

- 1) **EU Clusters Support Ukraine Forum** established by the European Cluster Collaboration platform (<https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/eu-clusters-supporting-ukraine>). The Forum has been created to enhance the ability of European industry to contribute to the delivery of humanitarian aid for Ukraine and to support Ukrainian refugees in Member State countries. In this Forum you can share information, register your offers of assistance, propose collaborations and request assistance in order to facilitate procurement and delivery of urgent humanitarian

requirements. These include food, hygiene products, medicines; as well as personal equipment to ensure survivability in war and refugee conditions, including shelters, clothing, bedding and accommodation.

- 2) Under the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** (ECHO-private-donations@ec.europa.eu), aiming to assess and channel the private donations
 - **DG ECHO** works with the civil society organisations via the EU Humanitarian Partnership 2021-2027, the list of the pre-identified NGO partners is available at <https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/about/weblistpartners.pdf>
 - A call for **proposals on mental health support for Ukrainian displaced people** is **open until 31 May**, the contact e-mail is HaDEA-HP-CALLS@ec.europa.eu.

6. Next CSF Ukraine Regional NGOs Response Coordination Call

1 June 2022 – 11:00-12:00 CET

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86463066919?pwd=S2hueWRwbnYvNFhxSS90ZFZQVitzZz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6306 6919

Passcode: 937197