



European HIV Legal Forum (EHLF)

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The EHLF

- Pilot project – 2012
 - 5 countries/organizations: LILA Milano – Italy, Soa Aids Nederland – the Netherlands, the Swiss AIDS Federation – Switzerland, National AIDS Trust – UK, the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union – Hungary
 - 3 main objectives:
 - Comparative analysis of the legal situation
 - Identify good practice and innovative solutions
 - Act as catalyst for change
 - Focus on irregular migrants
 - Survey was developed on legal issues regarding access to healthcare and health insurance
 - Policy focal point – legal focal point
 - Questionnaires were completed in all 5 countries, final report



Conclusions of the pilot project

- Poor data on number of irregular migrants + irregular migrants living with HIV: difficult to tailor services
- Countries with regional health systems: difficult to get a national picture
- Insurance-based systems vs. direct taxing: less access
- There is access to lifesaving and emergency care
- Difference between legal possibility and reality in practice
- Free HIV treatment: public health interest



Project 2015

- 10 countries/organizations:
 - France - AIDES
 - Germany – Deutsche AIDS Hilfe
 - Greece – PRAKSIS
 - Hungary – Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
 - Italy – Lila Milano
 - The Netherlands – Soa Aids Nederland
 - Poland – SIEC+
 - Serbia – Q-Club
 - Spain - CALCSICOVA
 - UK – National AIDS Trust
- One year project/grant 2014/2015
- Kick-off meeting in Budapest – December 2014
- Mid-term meeting in Berlin – October 2015



Objectives

- To monitor and review HIV-relevant legislation across the region, producing comparative legal intelligence, analysis and recommendations of legal options to further the rights of people living with or affected by HIV.
- To create better and more strategic links between local, national and regional stakeholders, including HIV NGOs and non-HIV legal specialists and support organizations (including human rights NGOs and *pro bono* lawyers) to:
 - promote the rights of people living with HIV, and key affected populations;
 - develop capacity in engaging with legal processes and in education work for both professionals and for people living with HIV regarding legal rights;
 - assist with the implementation of rights-based European policies at national/local level
- To produce locally relevant resources, including best practice guidance for healthcare workers, advocacy tools for NGOs, and legal and rights literacy for people living with HIV, on how best to advocate for, litigate and achieve rights-based legal protections to support and empower people living with HIV and key affected populations.



Updated questionnaire

- Migrants with irregular status (people with no entitlement to HIV services due to their current legal residence status)
- Definition of country's health care system
 - There is universal access (equal access for all)
 - There is universal access for nationals, residents and regular migrants
 - Insurance based system with compulsory state insurance
 - Insurance based system with state and private insurance
 - Insurance based system with different levels of insurance and access
 - Other
- Care was added to testing and treatment
- HIV diagnosis (incl. confirmation)
- Other communicable diseases were added (TB, hepatitis)
- Regional differences



Outcomes

- Final report by legal expert (expected by the end of November) built on national reports
- Map – showing the level of access in 10 EHLF countries
- Advocacy tool
- Special section on Clearinghouse



Conclusions discussions

- Situation not improving/deteriorating
- Topic of migration is over-politicized (used in election campaigns etc.)
- Case of Ukraine
- Mandatory testing
- Rapidly changing area



Future plans

- Enlargement of the network: Portugal, Turkey, Finland, Romania and Austria
- Regional partners – full European picture
- Continuous updating of country situation
- Inclusion of the topic of HIV and labor



Thank you
for your attention