

New EU Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and TB holds launch meeting on the Health Policy Platform



A webinar was held on Friday 3 July to mark the launch of the new EU Civil Society Forum (CSF) on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and TB. Sini Pasanen, representing the CSF Coordination Team, opened the webinar and provided some background, explaining that the CSF had been founded in 2004 to advocate for the rights of people living with or affected by HIV. In 2017, it had expanded to include those working in the areas of TB and viral Hepatitis, addressing short comings in the response to these epidemics and sharing knowledge.

In 2019, the forum was closed, but shortly afterward in the same year, the Coordination Team decided to reorganise. It now includes 61 organisations and works with two Parliamentarian networks, UNITE and the GLOBAL TB Caucus, as well as with the European Commission, the ECDC, EMCDDA, UNAIDS and the WHO.

The forum is made up on advocacy organisations, international networks, an International Clinicians organisation, organisations representing key populations, national and international organisations, patient organisations and service provider organisations. The Coordination Team includes AAE, AIDS Action Europe (Secretariat), Correlation European Harm Reduction Network, EATG (European AIDS Treatment Group (Secretariat), EHRA (Eurasian Harm Reduction Association) and the TB Europe Coalition. Members hail from across the EU but also from outside the EU, representing countries including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.

After Sini Pasanen set the stage the floor was given to representatives from the agencies and the Parliamentarian networks and from the other agencies and institutions involved in this initiative. ECDC, WHO and UNAIDS gave an update on recent developments and the impact that the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic has in the region. They also expressed their expectations to the renewed CSF before the two parliamentarian groups UNITE and Global TB caucus who are new partner organisations to the Forum introduced themselves. UNITE is a global network of parliamentarians committed to achieving political impact towards ending infectious diseases as a global health threat. Global TB Caucus is an international network of 2500 parliamentarians with support in more than 150 countries who work collectively and individually towards ending the TB epidemic

The EU Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and TB will hold its next meeting on 15 September. Find links to the available presentations, to the organisations' websites and to other relevant information below.