



# **Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries: 2014-2016**

**Matthias Schuppe**  
**Policy Officer**

**Health Threats Unit**  
**DG Health and Consumers**  
**European Commission**

# Outline

- **EU policy framework on HIV/AIDS**
- **Action Plan on HIV/AIDS: 2014 - 2016**
- **Next steps**



# Policy Framework on HIV/AIDS in EU and neighbouring countries

- Commission Communication on Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries 2009-2013 COM(2009)569,
- Annexed to it Action Plan 2009-2013
- **Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries: 2014-2016**, SWD(2014) 106 final (published on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014)



# Commission policy priorities on HIV/AIDS

*Main objectives of the policy framework:*

1. To reduce HIV infections
2. To improve access to prevention, treatment and care
3. To improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS

# The focus of the Commission Communication and action plan

*Politics & policies  
(political leadership)*

*Prevention  
(+treatment)*

*Priority groups  
(MSM, IDUs, migrants)*

*Priority regions  
(East European EUMS, and neighbouring countries to the East)*

*Knowledge base and dissemination*



Broad involvement of  
Civil Society and  
other stakeholders



# Prolongation of Action Plan: Framework and scope

- EU policy framework is defined by 2009 Commission Communication
- Strong advocacy particularly from civil society for a follow-up Communication
- Prolongation of the Action Plan as an interim solution to allow continuity of EU action beyond 2013 (within the existing policy framework)
- External evaluation of the EU strategy (ongoing) to provide basis for the development of options for a potential future EU policy framework



# Prolongation of Action Plan: Evidence base

- ECDC monitoring report on the implementation of the 'Commission Communication and Action Plan for combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009–2013'
- Recommendations of the high-level meeting on HIV and Human Rights "Right to health, right to life" (May 2013)



# **Prolongation of Action Plan: Consultation process**

Carried out from August to November 2013:

- European Commission ad hoc inter-service consultation group (DGs DEVCO, ELARG, HOME, JRC, JUST, RTD, and EEAS)
- Think Tank on HIV/AIDS (Member State representatives)
- HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum
- UNAIDS, WHO
- EU agencies: ECDC, EMCDDA, CHAFEA



# Prolongation of Action Plan: actions with increased focus

## *1. Politics and policies*

*Continued need for political leadership (on EU and national level), particularly to: **Address HIV/AIDS and Human Rights:***

*"Tackle stigma, discrimination, and legal barriers in relation to HIV status, ensuring equal access to prevention, testing and treatment"*

# **Prolongation of Action Plan: actions with increased focus**

## ***2. Prevention (+ treatment as prevention)***

### ***Targeted and combination prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS and co-infections***

*"Targeted integrated prevention and treatment to most at risk groups (including sex workers and prisoners) as central focus of national HIV-AIDS and STI strategies"*

*"Prevention and integrated HIV, and co-infections treatment, including in prisons and other particular settings, using innovative strategies to reach target groups..."*

# **Prolongation of Action Plan: actions with increased focus**

## ***2. Prevention***

### ***Education***

*"Better awareness on sexual and reproductive health"*

# Prolongation of Action Plan: actions with increased focus

## ***3. Priority groups***

- *Men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and migrants remain priority groups.*
- *Increased focus on additional risk groups such as prisoners and sex workers.*

# Prolongation of Action Plan

## **Issues for further consideration (i.e. for a future policy framework) identified during the consultation process:**

- Further explore the need to provide targeted support to additional populations at risk (other than MSM, IDUs, migrants)
- Development of integrated strategies to address HIV/AIDS, co-infections and other sexually transmitted diseases
- Need to consider addressing other co-morbidities (HIV as chronic disease, ageing of patients)
- Appraise the possibility to use Joint Procurement to acquire antiretrovirals



# Prolongation of Action Plan: Funding sources

*Funding of the Action Plan builds on existing instruments:*

- EU Health Programme,
- EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020),
- EU Structural Funds,
- the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,
- Development Cooperation Instrument and
- European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

## Next Steps:

- *Dissemination of Action Plan to stakeholders and further discussions with Member States and Civil Society (particularly regarding implementation):*
  - *Health Security Committee (8 May)*
  - *Media Cluster meeting on HIV/AIDS under the Greek EU Presidency (12/13 June)*
  - *Council Working Party on Public Health (16 June)*
  - *HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (8/9 July)*
  - *Think Tank on HIV/AIDS (9/10 July)*
- *Discussions on potential consideration by Council*
- *Consideration of options for a potential future policy framework on HIV/AIDS and co-infections (once new Commission has entered into office)*



# Thank you for your attention!

*For more information contact*

***Matthias Schuppe***  
*Policy Officer*

*Health Threats Unit*  
*DG Health and Consumers*  
*European Commission*

*[Matthias.Schuppe@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Matthias.Schuppe@ec.europa.eu)*