



Health programme 2014-2020 - What is the new in the WP 2014?

- Joint Action HIV and co-infections and harm reduction

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EU HIV/AIDS Think Tank meeting 10 July 2014



JOINT ACTION – thematic priority 2

TITLE

Improvement of HIV and co-infection prevention and treatment in priority regions and priority groups in the European Union

OBJECTIVE

The activities should particularly address the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic among drug users, their sexual partners and offspring in East and Southern European countries. This action will build on best practice models of several EU networks. Collaboration between social services, health services and security sectors will be facilitated, and the capacity of professionals in these sectors to use cost effective prevention methods will be supported.

AMOUNT: € 3 000 000



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Participants: national competent authorities, government and non-government organisations selected and mandated by a transparent procedure to tackle HIV/AIDS and co-infections epidemic among drug users.

The organisations should be active on the health, justice, social and education, etc.

Target group: People who inject drugs (PWID), prisoners, sexual partners of PWID, sex workers (male and female) and MSM who are drug users, pregnant women and their children, particularly from East and Southern EU countries.



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Background:

- Focus on harm reduction and prevention of HIV and co-infections among PWID, prisoners, sexual partners (bridging population), prevention of drug related deaths
- Build on best practice models developed by EU MS, EU services and networks, which bring together health authorities, civil society and PLHIV and PWID.
- Facilitate collaboration between social services, health services and law enforcement sectors, and also to strengthen the capacity of professionals and community base organisations, in these sectors to use cost effective harm reduction and prevention methods.



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Key interventions:

1. Outreach work and linkage to care, bridging low threshold services to deliver primary health care interventions and specialised care for the management of HIV/AIDS and co-infections and problematic drug use, in the community and prison health settings.

2. Promote quality of services by fostering integration of care for HIV/AIDS and co-infections, in the community public health services and prisons; use of European standards in evidence for drug prevention and harm reduction, and the scaling up of harm reduction by improving access to drug treatment and harm reduction programmes.

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Key interventions:

3. Develop a guidance on the utilization of funding mechanisms for actions on HIV/AIDS and co-infections among PWID, sexual partners of PWID, sex workers (male and female) and MSM who are drug users, pregnant women and their children, and prisoners

4. Contribute in addressing discrimination in relation to HIV/AIDS the legal barriers for access to testing, treatment and care to PWID and reducing discrimination and stigma suffered by those persons at risk or affected by HIV/AIDS and co-infections.



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Workpackages:

WP 1 Coordination – strengthen the network of competent authorities: European and National consultative meetings will be held to ensure the coordination between the JA partners, the sharing of the outcomes and the strengthening of national plans for addressing HIV/AIDS among people who inject drugs (PWID)

WP 2 Dissemination – a web platform for sharing good practices on how to scale up harm reduction in Europe, including relevant EU and national experiences will be created to ensure the sharing of knowledge and skills available in Europe



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Workpackages:

WP 3: Evaluation – An evaluation strategy will be proposed to measure the Joint Actions outcomes, assess if they meet the needs of the target groups, the projects objectives have been achieved and ensure that the activities are implemented as intended. As a baseline for the evaluation the current situation of HIV and co-infections among PWID will be assessed.

WP 4: Implement early diagnosis of HIV, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis, using outreach, low threshold services and linkage to care for the management of blood-borne infectious diseases and problem drug use, by providing training of health, drug and social services professionals and community base organisations and supporting the availability of prevention and medical measures.



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Workpackages:

WP 5 Improve availability and quality of sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) services for PWID, sex partners of PWID and persons with double vulnerabilities (PWID who are also sex workers and prisoners, aiming to improve early diagnosis of HIV and co-infections and reduce mother to child transmission (counselling, testing of women and PCMT), by conducting a SRHR audit of harm reduction services and a health audit system to monitor the notified cases of HIV infections occurring in pregnant women and affecting their offspring.

WP 6 Scale up harm reduction by improving access and quality of opioid substitution therapy (OST) and availability and coverage of needle and syringe programmes (NSP), by adapting/adopting existing guidance documents on how to create, sustain and evaluate and extend the coverage of OST and NSP programmes.



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Workpackages:

WP 7 Increase the access (availability and coverage) to harm reduction services and continuity of care for drug users in prisons, by tackling political and structural barriers and developing action plans to ensure linkage between community and prison health services

WP 8 Promote quality of care models addressing the PWID multi morbidity, aiming to increase access, uptake and quality of treatment for HIV, HCV and TB and drug addiction.

- Establish quality of care models aiming to promote integrated patient centred care by increasing capacity building of health professionals and community base organisations.
- Support the development of strategic plans for prevention and control of TB among PWID, addressing MDR TB.



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Workpackages:

WP 9 Support the development of sustainable national HIV and co-infection programmes including prevention, diagnosis and universal access to treatment. The action will aim to develop guidance on the planning, resource allocation and resources mobilisation.

WP 10 Mapping the barriers for access and quality delivery of HIV and co-infections programme, analysis and propose strategies on how to address them, using other EU countries experiences. To establish a monitoring system for the current policy environment and the implementation of the national policies in relation to harm reduction services for PWID and prisoners, in general. Promote health rights and reduce discrimination toward the priority groups, by health professionals, social and law enforcement and justice services and the general public.



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Evidence existing, based on several studies, reports, tools and training programmes, that can be used to support the HIV and co-infections and harm reduction Joint action

The JA HIV and co-infections and harm reduction activities should focus on implementation, monitoring, health impact assessments of HIV and co-infections and on capacity building of health professionals, prison health and law enforcement professionals, social services and community based organisations to implement HIV and co-infections prevention by scaling up harm reduction activities.



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Potential partners are organisations working with priority risk groups in the fields of HIV and co-infections including PWID and PLHIV that are the

- National, regional and local health and law enforcement authorities.
 - based on the HIV policy commitments, civil society representation is considered essential. The non-government partners should be selected using a transparent procedure, defined by the competent authorities.
 - The collaboration with academic organisations is expected, to ensure the higher scientific expertise of the interventions proposed.
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- Focus on priority region most affected by the concentrated epidemic: South-Eastern EU countries, open to all EU MS and EEA countries



List of networks funded by the Health programme 2008-2013

2008 - MAIDS Training modules and courses on HIV/AIDS and Mental Health targeting psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers

2008 - WHO - Scaling up harm reduction - Practical Guidance Toolkit How to implement and scale up opioid substitution therapy (OST) and training on developing Tuberculosis Treatment Services for People Who Use Drugs

2008 - EURO- SUPPORT 6 - Computerised intervention tool for safer sex (CISS) as a brief counselling intervention, targeting men having sex with men (MSM) and ethnic minorities, but could be adapted to focus on PWID

2008 - Correlation II - Manual for Outreach and Early interventions; Peer Support Manual; Social Intervention Tool (SIT) - Interactive web-based tool for ehealth; Hepatitis C Trainings Tool

2009- BORDERNET WORK - Handbook on HIV/Aids, HIV/HBV- and HIV/HCV co-infections; Improving access to early HIV/STI diagnostics for vulnerable groups;



List of networks funded by the Health programme 2008-2013

2009 -Imp.Ac.T - Guide Manual on HIV and TB Testing for DUs and migrants in low-threshold services and training manual on HIV/TB rapid testing of DUs/migrants in low-threshold services and Workshop on HIV and TB testing

2009 - HPYP - Health Promotion for Young Prisoners: A Toolkit for Prison Staff

2010 - TUBIDU- Guidance for community based organizations on tuberculosis services for people who inject drugs and Handbook for training community based organizations on tuberculosis services for persons who inject drugs (PWID)

2010 - EU-HEP-SCREEN - Screening for Hepatitis B and C among migrants in the European Union

2011- Current state of play of the 2003 Council Recommendation on the prevention and reduction of health-related harm, associated with drug dependence, in the EU and candidate countries report and five systematic Literature Reviews



List of networks funded by DPIIP addressing drug demand reduction

- Minimum Quality Standards in Drug Demand Reduction – EQUUS, http://ec.europa.eu/justice/anti-drugs/files/equs_main_report_en.pdf
- European drug abuse prevention training of trainer's network, (EUDAP-Faculty project), University College Ghent (BE)
- Hepatitis C Initiative, Foundation De REGENBOOG GROEP (NL)
- Training Criminal Justice Professionals in Harm Reduction Services for Vulnerable Groups (TCJP), Association of German Doctors (DE)
- Access to harm reduction and continuity of care for drug users in custody (ACCESS), COMPASS (UK)
- Through care for prisoners with problematic drug use, (THROUGH CARE), Association of German Doctors (DE)



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Open for discussion, any question?