



November 2008

Welcome to the first issue of the new AIDS & Mobility (A&M) Newsletter.

Our quarterly newsletter will keep you up to date on the project's work, include interviews with leading figures in the fields of HIV and migration and news updates from around Europe on important events. This first newsletter will give you an overview of the project to date, an update on recent developments, and introduce the organisations working together on AIDS & Mobility.

How did we get here?	1
Plans for the future	1
Introducing our partners	2
News round-up	3
Contact the project	4

How did we get here?

Back in 1992, after a WHO study on Migrants, Travellers and HIV, the European Commission decided to support a project to investigate HIV and migration in four countries, and AIDS & Mobility was born.

For over 15 years, A&M was coordinated by the Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NIGZ). In the early years of the project, NIGZ led A&M in building partnerships across Europe to work together on HIV and migration.

The project built a strong network of professional organisations, developed a database of research material and hosted meetings that for the first time brought together experts on HIV and migration with migrants themselves.

In 1999, the National Focal Point network of 15 European member states was established and in 2004, the project expanded to include ten new European member states.

At the beginning of 2007, NIGZ retired as project coordinators, and a decision was taken to restructure the A&M project.

The next three years of AIDS and Mobility will look very different, but the new phase of the project will have a head start, building on 16 years of partnership, learning and progress on the issues of HIV and migration.

Plans for the future

Although A&M's work over the next three years to 2011 will build on the project's history, the focus of this new phase will be quite different.

Working with partners old and new, the A&M project will develop a new model of health education for different migrant communities in various European countries. The final aim is to improve migrants' health literacy and knowledge of HIV, by involving migrants themselves in undertaking research and delivering health training.



"The mediator training model has been very successful for migrant communities in Germany," says Ramazan Salman, Director of the Ethno-Medical Centre in Hannover, and project coordinator, "We're excited to have the opportunity to work with partners on rolling this out across Europe."

As well as testing out the mediator training model, the project will build networks of those involved in work on migrant sexual health in Europe. All partners will be able to share knowledge about HIV and migration, building up research and evidence through the project which will eventually lead to recommendations for European policy-makers and a European Policy Summit at the end of the project.

The project newsletter and website www.aidsmobility.org will publish results from the training programme and ongoing research. The aim is to build a knowledge base on HIV education for migrants, contributed to by work from within and outside the project and accessible to all.

Partners hope that by working together with migrant communities, they will be able to build capacity for HIV prevention in Europe and make the health education programme sustainable past the project's scheduled end in 2011.



Partners with Hannover's Mayor at the August 2008 Steering Group meeting.

Introducing our Partners

The project is funded by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) at the European Commission, and will involve six main European partner NGOs working alongside EMZ as coordinators.

Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum e.V.



The Ethno-Medical Centre in Hannover (EMZ), runs projects in 37 cities and regions throughout Germany. The Centre developed the mediator training model and has so far trained over 1,000 migrant mediators.

www.ethno-medizinisches-zentrum.de

AIDS  FONDET

Based in Denmark, AIDS Fondet raises funds for HIV research and to support people living with HIV.

www.aidsfondet.dk



AIDS-i Tugikeskus (AISC) was founded in Estonia in 1994. AISC provides a range of HIV services for sex workers and migrants.

www.tugikeskus.ee



The European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) is a voluntary organisation made up of more than



90 members from over 30 different European countries. EATG works to achieve the fastest possible access to new HIV treatments.

www.eatg.org



NIHMP
National Institute for Health
Migration and Poverty

The National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (NIHMP) was established in Rome in 2006. The Institute works to promote health in migrant populations and reduce poverty-related disease.

www.inmp.it



Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) is the UK's leading HIV and sexual health charity. THT provides services for and campaigns for people living with or affected by HIV or poor sexual health.

www.tht.org.uk



Yeniden is based in Istanbul, Turkey and works mainly with young people and on addiction issues.

www.yeniden.org.tr

News round-up

This issue's news round-up summarises some of the main events and developments in HIV

and Migration since the end of the last phase of AIDS & Mobility.

World Health Assembly calls for action on migrant health

During the 61st World Health Assembly, held in Geneva in May 2008, a resolution was passed asking the WHO to look at the health impacts of migration and to explore options to improve migrant health. You can read more about the Assembly meeting here:

www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2008/wha61/en/

UNAIDS Task Force recommends an end to HIV-related travel restrictions

In 2008, UNAIDS brought together an international task force to look into the issue of HIV-related travel restrictions.

According to EATG data, over 70 countries have an HIV-specific travel restriction. Until recently, the US was one of these countries, although the PEPFAR Bill, which was recently passed by the Senate, has led to some changes to HIV-related US entry regulations.

The UNAIDS Task Force found no evidence that HIV-related travel bans work, and produced a policy paper and advocacy material urging Governments to overturn their bans.

www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20080304_HIVrelated_travel_restrictions.asp

Global Fund also moves against HIV related travel restrictions

The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria met in New Delhi in November 2008.



After receiving a report from the UNAIDS Task Force, the Fund decided that in future, no Board meetings will be held in any country with HIV-related travel restrictions and moved to support efforts to overturn these restrictions worldwide.

Given the Global Fund's influence on HIV projects, their support will be significant in the fight to reverse these laws.

IOM reports on HIV vulnerability in migrants in seven European countries

As part of a consultation on universal access to HIV treatment, launched in September 2007, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reported on migrant vulnerability to HIV, STIs and TB in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal and the Netherlands. The reports highlight the different rights and services available to migrants in these countries. Based on these reports, an expert meeting made several recommendations for EU action on universal access.

Proceedings and reports are available here: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/eventEU/cache/offo/nce?entryId=15053>

Council of Europe forms Expert Committee on Mobility, Migration and Access to Health Care

The Council of Europe eighth ministerial conference, "People on the Move: Human Rights and Challenges for Healthcare Systems" took place in Bratislava in November 2007. The conference adopted the Bratislava Declaration on Health, Human Rights and Migration and EMZ were invited as observers.

Ramazan Salman, EMZ Director has also been nominated by the German government to join the Expert Committee following up on the declaration. You can follow the Expert Committee's work online.

www.8ministryconference.com/?pageid=25

EU health and migration projects share ideas

AIDS & Mobility was just one of a range of European funded projects presented at the Advisory Group on Health and Migration in Luxembourg, February 2008. Project partners discussed their work and made plans for future conferences.

A report on this meeting is available here: www.episouth.org/doc/r_documents/ReportAdvGrmeeting_Fev08.pdf

Get in touch with the AIDS & Mobility Project

Let us know about your work on HIV and migration or any news stories or events you think our network of partners would be interested in.

Our next Steering Group meeting will be in Hannover in February 2009, and will include the first meeting of the Advisory Group, which will lead the development of the migrant health education toolkit.

You can contact us on:
00 49 511 1693184

Our website is currently being updated, but new information on the project will soon be available at www.aidsmobility.org and there will soon be a project email address.



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