



February 2011

a&m priorities for the last 6 months of the current project	1
“With Migrants for Migrants: Improving HIV Prevention for All”: a&m policy hearing at the European Parliament	2
UNAIDS and IOM agreement on HIV Services for Migrants	3
Master Toolkit Advisory Board	4
In the spotlight: HIV testing – know, treat, prevent	5
Latest ECDC Surveillance Report on HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe 2009	6
A Goldmine of Information: The AIDS Action Europe Clearinghouse	6
a&m Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year Ceremony in Hanover: Dynka Amorim	7

Dear valued partners, friends and supporters of **aids&mobility europe!**

The a&m team wishes you a healthy, successful and creative New Year 2011 with good friendships and connections in life and at work, rewarding projects and new adventures to enjoy and learn from. The beginning of the New Year foreshadows the end of the current project’s funding period in July. While we cannot yet report on or predict if and how aids&mobility will continue, the official end of the current funding contract does not

mean that the project will become inactive. The aids&mobility network has now been in existence since 1992 and your commitment as partners and your interest as stakeholders in HIV and Migration will ensure that this topic will remain on the political agenda and continue to attract a vigorous, creative and active research and program response.

a&m priorities for the last 6 months of the current project

As the current a&m project enters its last 6 months, documentation, evaluation and reporting take centre stage. The priorities for this time are process and impact evaluation, documenting the project’s main materials in the Master Toolkit and reporting outputs and results in detail.

Project partners are busy consolidating their achievements and documenting them so that they are accessible to others. Now is also the time to encourage the wider a&m network to think about the future of the transcultural mediator approach for HIV prevention in Europe, and about the future of the a&m network itself.

If you have followed the project’s development, we encourage you to think about how you might use its results, the experience gained and the practical tools developed in your HIV prevention work. There are several ways you can benefit from the work of aids&mobility europe:

You will be able to use the a&m Master Toolkit to develop your own transcultural HIV mediator project – it will contain a guiding document, curriculum, training materials, the Guidebook and Slide Kit as well as evaluation questionnaires. You will also be able to access the a&m Guidebook



and Slide Kit (translated into many European languages) to use in prevention and education projects with migrant populations and ethnic or language minorities. Or you can contact the project partners for advice so that you may benefit directly from their experience in implementing the transcultural mediator approach.



We will continue to use this newsletter to update you on the latest developments and plans for sustaining and continuing the initiatives that have collectively become known as “AIDS and Mobility” in Europe.

Please contact the EATG, the a&m partner responsible for maintaining the network, to indicate your ongoing interest and priorities (analucia.cardoso@eatg.org).

As we start looking back on three years of intensive work and activity in the current project, we would also like to include in the newsletter examples of how stakeholders like you have benefitted from being connected to the project and what you would like to see continuing.

“With Migrants for Migrants: Improving HIV Prevention for All”: a&m policy hearing at the European Parliament

HIV/AIDS remains a fundamental health problem in Europe and also affects migrant populations. The topic, especially prevention among young people, is back on EU health policy and the programmatic agendas of Member States.

Marking World AIDS Day (December 1st), the AIDS & Mobility 2007-2010 project (a&m) held the seminar “With Migrants for Migrants: Improving HIV Prevention for All” on 30th November 2010. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) organised this event at the European Parliament to mobilise European stakeholders, practitioners and policy makers at EU and national levels for HIV, mobility and migrant-empowering strategies.

“a&m provides an effective method for health education across cultural and language barriers in this highly sensitive area. This is a model for self-empowerment and for building and strengthening skills and responses among migrant communities” said Roumyana Benedict, IOM’s Senior Regional Migration Health Manager for Europe.

The GUE/NGL (European United Left/Nordic Green Left) Group at the European Parliament in Brussels kindly hosted the seminar. MEPs Marisa Matias and Marie Christine Vergiat, from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs



respectively, opened the seminar and presented the HIV and migration context in Europe as one that is in need of heightened policy attention and action. The IOM Regional Representative to the EU, a representative from the European Commission DG SANCO (as a&m project funder), the Portuguese National HIV/AIDS Coordinator, former MEP Vittorio Agnoletto and the Director of the National Institute for Health, Poverty and Migration (NIHPM, Rome, an a&m project partner) also made keynote speeches at the opening session.



Project results and tools including its successful transcultural mediator model and the Guidebook on HIV/AIDS for Migrants in Europe were also presented at the event. EMZ, IOM and AIDS-i Tugikeskus (AISC, Estonia) led the session devoted to the project and proposed to replicate the a&m model, disseminating culturally-sensitive HIV related information migrant-to-migrant, in other countries and policy areas.

The event also established linkages with other European HIV and migration-related initiatives that contribute to health promotion and HIV prevention strategies among migrant populations. National government departments, hospital units and civil society associations from Belgium, Spain and Portugal, as well as European

projects such as the *European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers* (TAMPEP) and the *Correlation Network*, led by the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG, also an a&m project partner) presented various approaches.

Last but not least, IOM presented a set of recommendations to improve HIV policies and programmes at the national and EU levels, drawing on adopted policy documents primarily at EU level, stakeholders' preferred practices as well as on a&m project practice and IOM's own expertise. IOM provided the recommendations to all participants for consultation and feedback.

The recommendations call for EU Member States to specifically include migrants and ethnic minorities in National HIV/AIDS Plans, to promote participatory and migrant-empowering approaches in HIV prevention (including peer communication and mediation models), to institutionalise successful approaches in public healthcare systems, and to foster capacity building for organisations and professionals working with migrants through training and coaching on intercultural communication. Recommendations addressed to the EU institutions demand support for full access to healthcare for migrants in Europe and greater collaboration and coordination of HIV related policies and programmes at the EU level.

UNAIDS and IOM agreement on HIV Services for Migrants

This new agreement aims to integrate human rights and the needs of migrants and mobile populations into national and regional HIV responses and to ensure



universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

“Healthy migrants contribute significantly to achieving healthy economies,” said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “States and other actors in the AIDS response have a fundamental duty to ensure the safety and well-being of migrants—this must include access to HIV services.”

Under the new agreement, IOM and UNAIDS will focus on enhancing social protection for migrants affected by HIV: stopping violence against migrant women and girls as well as removing punitive laws, policies, practices, stigma and discrimination related to HIV and population mobility that block effective responses to AIDS.

"Government and civil society are becoming increasingly concerned about the potential vulnerability of migrants to HIV infection. By strengthening our partnership and pooling our respective expertise on HIV and migrants, our two organisations can address this critical issue more effectively," said IOM Director General William Lacy Swing.

In addition, UNAIDS and IOM will work on strengthening technical support to help governments, regional institutions and civil society reduce vulnerability to HIV among mobile and migrant populations. The two organisations will also continue cooperation on research to deepen the understanding of HIV and population mobility.

UNAIDS is committed to improving access to HIV services for migrants and has included mobility in its Strategy 2011-2015, stating that HIV responses must involve the

marginalised and disempowered, including migrants.

HIV projects are a significant part of IOM's work and part of its broader efforts to ensure migrant access to health services regardless of migration status.

(source:

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2011/january/20110121iomfs/>)

Master Toolkit Advisory Board

The second meeting of a&m's Master Toolkit Advisory Board (MTAB) took place in Brussels on November 29th 2010, preceding the policy hearing at the European Parliament. This advisory group guides aids&mobility's transcultural mediator model for health education, shares best practice and makes recommendations on health education. Members of the MTAB represent different European regions and have extensive experience in developing training materials and implementing training on STIs and HIV. The second MTAB meeting was an important milestone for the project: it fine-tuned the development of and decided on an initial set of resources to be included in the Master Toolkit, one of the main project deliverables.

The toolkit will be a collection of good practice interventions for HIV prevention with migrants and ethnic minorities, based on existing toolkits and materials for STI and HIV training.

Participants presented examples of good practice from their organisations and discussed practical questions related to the toolkit (format, structure, criteria for inclusion of materials). The group also provided feedback to the documents developed by aids&mobility: the guidebook



and the slide kit used for community information sessions.

The third MTAB meeting will take place in March and a&m will launch the final Master Toolkit in May 2011. We will distribute it among organisations planning and implementing mediator training on HIV prevention across Europe and make it available online, e.g. through AIDS Action Europe's HIV clearinghouse. We hope your organisation will find it a useful resource. If you have training materials that you would like MTAB to consider including in the toolkit, please contact Ana Lúcia Cardoso at analucia.cardoso@eatg.org.

In the spotlight: HIV testing – know, treat, prevent

To mark this year World AIDS Day, The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has launched its latest "Spotlight" on HIV testing. It highlights the HIV situation in Europe, the impact of undiagnosed HIV infection and the importance of HIV testing. Click on the link below and you will find their latest reports on HIV, an animated clip, downloadable presentations and links to related ECDC resources.

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/spotlight/spotlight_aids/Pages/index.aspx

As part of the focus on testing, the organisation has now released the Guidance Document

"HIV testing: increasing uptake and effectiveness in the European Union"

There is increasing evidence that early treatment reduces morbidity and mortality. However, many people remain undiagnosed. This "Guidance" introduces core principles for the development and implementation of national HIV testing

strategies. The report is also available in a shorter "In Brief" format and is accompanied by a Technical Report (see below) with the evidence base for the Guidance for public health officials, policymakers and people engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention. To find out more, go to

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/Forms/ECDC_DispForm.aspx?ID=588

"TECHNICAL REPORT

HIV testing: Increasing uptake and effectiveness in the European Union. Evidence synthesis for Guidance on HIV testing"

This review of scientific literature highlights the need to expand testing across Europe and the necessity to ensure that HIV programs are monitored and evaluated rigorously.

To access the report, go to

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/Forms/ECDC_DispForm.aspx?ID=591

Both publications will be available in print. You can order them directly from the EU-Bookshop:

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/uri?target=EUB:AUTHOR:ECDP:EN>. Alternatively, send an email to publications@ecdc.europa.eu

Other web-based publications on the topic of testing include:

Know, treat, prevent – HIV testing, a key strategy in the prevention and control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=19736>

and



RAPID COMMUNICATIONS

HIV and AIDS in the European Union, 2009
<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=19737>

Latest ECDC SURVEILLANCE REPORT on HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe 2009

The rate of newly diagnosed cases of HIV infection in the EU and EEA has remained relatively stable since 2004, although HIV continues to be a major public health concern for the region with evidence of continuing transmission in Europe. This report, prepared jointly with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, presents data on HIV and AIDS for the whole European Region, including the EU and EEA countries. Analyses are provided for the EU and EEA regions, and also by geographical area of the WHO European Region. You can access the report at:

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/Forms/ECDC_DispForm.aspx?ID=590

A Goldmine of Information: The AIDS Action Europe Clearinghouse

If you haven't looked already, make sure you browse through [AIDS Action Europe's website](#). This organisation is a great hub for NGOs active in HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia. The website, in particular its "[clearinghouse](#)" - an online database of relevant information - is a fantastic repository of valuable research, discussion documents, projects, reports and links to NGOs and other stakeholders. It deserves your support and consideration. You can contribute by registering your organisation and by uploading important documents that

should be shared with others working in the field.

The more we support and promote the use of the AIDS Action Europe clearinghouse, the better our chances are to have all important information on HIV in Europe, especially for NGOs, centrally available in the one place. This will be increasingly important as NGOs develop more and more projects, particularly in Eastern Europe.

Let's support and use this great NGO-led website to improve our own work, increase the capacity of others and strengthen our network. Last year, a dedicated trainee at AIDS Action Europe researched the "old" a&m documentation centre and uploaded more than 100 of the most important and relevant materials to the clearinghouse. This means you are able to access all important a&m documents and materials at www.hivaidsclearinghouse.eu as well as through the a&m website.



WWW.HIVAIDSCLEARINGHOUSE.EU

UNAIDS adopts new strategy 2011-2015

The new UNAIDS strategy for 2011-2015 supports universal access to HIV treatment and prevention for marginalised and vulnerable populations. The NGO delegation to the governing board of UNAIDS (the PCB) was pleased with the strong human rights language used in the document - despite the lack of direct reference to 'criminalisation', a key issue that NGO representatives advocated for.



The Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) is the governing body of UNAIDS. It is made up of 22 voting Member States, the 10 UN Co-sponsors that make up the UNAIDS program, and a NGO delegation (consisting of one delegate and one alternate from each of 5 regions).

You can access the four-page report of the NGO delegation to the 27th meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) in Geneva, Switzerland, December 6-9, 2010 at the delegation's website www.unaidspcbngo.org, where you can also find all presentations, decision and talking points of the meeting.

UNAIDS Executive Director Michael Sidibe described the strategy as a way to “galvanize international political leadership at this difficult time by focusing on better results and improving the return on our investments.” You can look at the strategy at http://unaidspcbngo.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/UNAIDS-Strategy_rev1_en.pdf in detail.

a&m Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year Ceremony in Hanover: Dynka Amorim

Dynka Amorim, the 26 year-old activist from São Tomé and Príncipe and coordinator of ‘Bué Fixe’ (‘very cool’) who works with young Africans living in Portugal (grupobuefixe.blogspot.com), received his a&m Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year award for 2010 at a ceremony at the International Migrants’ Day celebrations in Hanover, Germany. We have reported on Dynka’s personal background and projects in the two previous issues of this newsletter.

Ramazan Salman, a&m Project Leader and Gesine Meißner, member of the European Parliament, spoke of his achievements at the ceremony. Dynka attended with fellow colleague and activist Raquel Moreno, who confirmed how important this recognition was for their work. She said that it was not easy to educate young African migrants living in Lisbon “slums” about HIV, mainly due to the stigma, but that it was very important for young people to know about it.



Reporting back from one of the workshops offered to participants in the afternoon, Dynka also emphasised that their project used the media (a radio show, an interactive website and a magazine) as well as workshops as tools in the fight against HIV and that the media played a crucial role in breaking the taboo of talking about HIV. He told the many migrants and migrant activists in the audience that Portugal was home to about 500 000 migrants and that it was important to make sure that young migrants were involved in the political process.



After the ceremony, Dynka said he felt good and very happy about being acknowledged through receiving the award. He said that his plans for the future were to finish his degree in political science in Lisbon and then move back to his home country São Tomé and Príncipe. He said he wanted to build cooperation between Europe and his country in the field of youth work. When asked about the project in Portugal, he said he was sure it would continue working with young people on a range of issues that concern them, including youth empowerment, care for the environment and HIV prevention. He said the special thing for him about working with young people was that it opened possibilities of making society more inclusive and that he did learn a lot in the process.

The organisers and the audience very much liked having Dynka and Raquel Moreno present on the day and many used the opportunity to ask him about his work and the situation for young African migrants in Portugal.

If you want to learn more about Dynka Amorim's activities, check out the features on MTV and Staying Alive Foundation online (<http://foundation.staying-alive.org/en/stories/portugal>).

And if you know someone who you think should become the a&m Young Social Entrepreneur in 2011, please contact us at ethno@onlinehome.de

For your information: 4th Conference on Migrant Health in Europe - Facts beyond Figures: Communi-Care for Migrants June 2012

Date: 21 - 23 June 2012, Place: Milan, Italy
Organiser: EUPHA and EUPHA Section on Migrant and Ethnic Health
"Carlo F. Donde" Centre – "L. Bocconi" University, Milan, Italy
CERGAS - Centre for Research on Health and Social Care Management – "L. Bocconi" University, Milan, Italy
More information: Prof. Francesco Billari, Director of "Carlo F. Donde" Centre (francesco.billari@unibocconi.it);

Contact us

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.

You can contact us by email at:

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or for news stories:

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Contact us by phone on:

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