



Migration & HIV

Community Recommendations & Steps Forward

**on behalf of Civil Society Forum
For Think Tank, Nov 2007**

Civil society actions 2007

- Civil Society Forum unanimously adopted the Recommendation on **Universal Access to HIV Services for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities**

“Acknowledging the EU efforts to address the migration issue and acknowledging the calls upon the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council, the Council of Europe and the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area:

- To adopt concrete commitments on shared, coordinated decisions, plans and actions to ensure that universal access to HIV state of the art prevention, treatment, care and support is guaranteed to all persons living in EU and EEA countries and to promote these aims in all Europe, regardless of their legal status and ethnic group, <...>”

Civil society actions 2007

- European conference “The Right to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities in Europe: *The Community Perspective*”
 - >200 participants from around Europe; migrant and ethnic minority groups, PLWH, civil society organizations, experts and governmental officials
- Identified extremely affected vulnerable groups among migrants and ethnic minorities:
 - Black and African Diaspora,
 - prisoners from ethnic groups,
 - Undocumented migrants,
 - Roma and Sinti,
 - migrant sex workers,
 - Eastern Europeans outside their countries

Civil society actions 2007

- Producing recommendations
 - Steering Committee
 - Conference participants and broader communities commenting
 - 50 initial subscribers
 - First presented at the Portugal's EU Presidency NAC meeting "Translating Practices into Actions", October

Recommendations - content

- **Background**
 - why this topic,
 - what happens in the field
- **What works**
- **What should be done**
 - General recommendations
 - Specific recommendations for policymakers, health care systems, service providers, community groups, researchers/academia, international organizations

General recommendations

- **recognize the right to health** as a fundamental human right and **ensure universal access** to prevention, treatment and care for especially vulnerable and affected groups
- **meaningfully involve** migrants and migrant communities
- adopt **approaches** that are **sensitive to culture, religion and language** and **address intersecting needs**
- **stop harmful practices** such as deportation connected with HIV status, repression and criminalization of marginalized and stigmatized groups
- support **awareness-raising, advocacy and sharing of knowledge** concerning migration issues (and HIV)
 - EU agency on human mobility and migration is needed

Selected other recommendations

- **Recognize the manifold benefits** their countries gain **from migration** and cease to consider migrants a burden
- **Health and law enforcement** should be **separated** (Transfer the responsibility for health of populations to Ministry of Health)
- Remove **regulatory restrictions** on access to health care **which** currently **restrict the freedom of movement** of European citizens, residents and visitors
- Monitor and evaluate **access** to treatment and care **in countries of destination and origin** (continuity of treatment and care)
- **Sensitization of services** (starting from sensitization of staff)
- **Sensitization of media**
- **Broaden understanding of HIV, migration** (epidemiological monitoring, studies on cross-cutting issues)

Discussion in Civil Society Forum

- Three priorities:
 - Removal deportation to countries where HIV related treatment care (ARVs, 1st, 2nd line, hepatitis treatment etc) are not available
 - Capacity building of community based organizations
 - Focus on research, improving collected data
- Action plan to be developed by the Steering Committee
- Involvement of renewed AIDS & Mobility

Other upcoming steps

- December & January – wide distribution of the recommendations
 - English, Russian (hard copies)
 - Portuguese, German, French (electronic)
 - peter@eatg.org
- Expected presentations at major events in the region (EECAAC2008, AIDS2008 etc)
- Commitments of CSF members to have discussions regarding official adoption of the recommendations and further actions

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Performance of the Safer Sex
Comedy Show from Amsterdam



Migration and HIV/AIDS:

Community Recommendations



Миграция и ВИЧ/СПИД:

рекомендации сообщества

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