

Implementation plan for the Commission Working Paper: Coordinated and Integrated Approach to Combat HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in its Neighbourhood

Task	Deliverable	Implementation
4.2.1. Public information		
Host open debate on EU wide umbrella information Campaign (December 2004).	Commitment: Introduce idea and discuss in the Think Tank on 19-20 January 2005 (Done)	Action: Discussion in the HIV/AIDS Think Tank meeting in January 2005 in Brussels with relevant DGs, NGOs and governmental representatives in order to define scope of the campaign and issues relating to it. Status: Done.
Develop on basis of open debate the scope and framework for information campaign.	Commitment: Develop proposal for the campaign and start to implement by June 2005	Action: Following the discussion of the Think Tank meeting a small group will continue to prepare decision of implementation of the Campaign. This will include practical issues such as financing, scope, etc. Status: Scope and issues were discussed in the Think Tank meeting in January 2005.
“Baseline” assessment of public awareness in the EU using the “Eurobarometer” survey (2005).	Commitment: Conduct and have results by May 2005	Action: “Eurobarometer” survey will be conducted in 2005 to assess the current awareness of HIV/AIDS in the EU Member States. Status: HIV/AIDS included in the planning documents for next survey.
Work with interested parties to include an HIV/AIDS component in their youth campaigns for 2005-06.	Commitment: Hold a meeting with current youth networks by the end of 2005	Action: To organise a meeting with current youth networks in order to explore opportunities for cooperation and including an HIV/AIDS component in their work. Status: In preparation.
Enhance access of young people to information through youth networks and related websites.	Commitment: Establish entry-point for HIV youth sites in the youth portal by May 2005	Action: To organise a meeting with youth networks and websites to explore opportunities for cooperation and linkages to the European Youth Portal. Status: Meeting between relevant Commission services has

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		been held to coordinate action on this task
4.2.1. Tailor-made strategies for vulnerable groups		
Special focus on work with vulnerable groups among priorities for the Public Health Programme in 2005.	Commitment: Include focus on vulnerable groups in the work plan for 2005. (Done) Follow-up: Evaluate projects focusing on vulnerable groups by June 2005. Finalize contracts for the projects by Feb 2006.	Action: Commission will focus on vulnerable groups in the 2005 Work Plan of the Public Health Action Programme. Status: In the 2005 Work Plan the focus on vulnerable groups has been identified as it has been in previous Work Plans. Activities in this area will depend on the applications received in the 2005 call for proposals.
Follow-up of the Member States' implementation of the 2003 Council Recommendation on the prevention and the reduction of health-related harm associated with drug dependence.	Commitment: Member States will provide information on their implementation of the recommendation by June 2005. Follow-up: Prepare report and draft/update recommendations by end 2006.	Action: The Commission has decided to enlist the services of a company or a body to get a <u>preparatory work</u> for a report the Commission has to draft in order to revise and update the 18 June 2003 Council Recommendation Status: EC launched a call for tender in July 2004, deadline for replying was 09/2004; the project started on 23/12/2004 and the post-information notice will be published at the OJ : - N° 5 33 on 16/02/2005
European/EU best practises on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission.(2005)	Commitment: Prepare status report by March 2006 and on the basis of the report draft Council recommendation by end of 2006, if needed.	Action: Based on discussion in the HIV/AIDS Think Tank in January 2005, a status report will be drafted to assess the current situation and estimate what would be needed at European level. Outcome of this could be best practise recommendations for the EU/Europe and/or Council Recommendation proposal. Status: In preparation
4.2.2. Sustainable health care systems		
High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care will consider including HIV/AIDS need	Commitment: Introduce the Working Paper to the group (done) and help it identify	Action: Based on the 'room document' presented at the meeting on 4 December 2004 a further discussion will be held at the April 2005 meeting of the group.

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in the scope of its work.	general health service issues that are important in HIV/AIDS by June 2005.	Status: Under review by Member States.
Explore possibilities to support health care infrastructure development through the Structural Funds.	Commitment: Include aspects of health as one of the priority areas for funding in projects under the structural funds by end of 2005.	Action: The Commission is currently in a process of drawing up Strategic guidelines in cooperation with the Member States. These will be presented at an informal Council in May and will outline the priorities of the funding allocated to projects under the structural funds. Status: Ongoing
4.2.2. Education of health care personnel		
In the priorities of the Public Health Programme in 2005 will be a focus on development of tailor-made training curricula for health care personnel/other professionals work on the issue	Commitment: Include training in HIV/AIDS in 2005 Work Plan (Done). Follow-up: Evaluate projects focusing on HIV/AIDS training by June 2005. Finalise contracts for the projects by Feb 2006.	Action: In the 2005 Work Plan of the Public Health Action Programme special reference is made to HIV/AIDS related training. The Commission will also explore opportunities to encourage training for people involved in services to HIV/AIDS infected individuals as well as vulnerable groups. Status: The 2005 Call for proposals has been published.
4.2.2. Access to affordable anti-retroviral treatment		
Convene meeting of industry and government representatives to explore options available to support access to affordable ARV (November 2004).	Commitment: Convene roundtable meeting with Baltic States, industry and Commission services by end of Nov 2004. (Done) Follow-up: Working group will report to the	Action: To follow- up the conclusions of the Think Tank meeting in January 2005 to take work forward in a working group to review and develop actions regarding the comprehensive management of HIV/AIDS treatment. In addition, dialogue with the Baltic States will continue to seek feasible options to improve access to ARV-treatment. The Commission is also considering practical ways to bring together further international stakeholders such as the World Bank, EIB,

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	Think Tank by the end of 2005, their preliminary reports.	<p>UNAIDS and others with the Baltic States on this topic. The Commission will also follow- up reflections by other EU Member States and the Candidate Countries on availability of affordable ARV-treatment.</p> <p>Status: The Roundtable meeting on improving ARV-treatment in the Baltic States took place on 30 Nov 2004 in Brussels. Discussion on current situation on access to ARV-treatment in Europe was discussed in January 2005 in the HIV/AIDS Think Tank meeting.</p>
Implementation of specific legislative measures in the context of recent revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation, to facilitate and speed-up the regulatory process for the authorisation and marketing of innovative medicines against life-threatening diseases, such as ARV treatments	<p>Commitment:</p> <p>By Nov 2005 have adopted Commission Regulation on the conditional marketing authorisation for medicinal products.</p>	<p>Action: To adopt a Commission Regulation on the conditional marketing authorisation for medicinal products.</p> <p>Status: In preparation. Public consultation in November – December 2004.</p>
4.2.2. Social inclusion, employment, and health and safety at work		
The Committee of the European Social Fund could have a meeting with national HIV/AIDS experts to examine if and how Social Fund within its legal framework could be used for actions to combat HIV/AIDS.	<p>Commitment:</p> <p>Organise meeting of the Committee of the European Social Fund end of 2005.</p>	<p>Action: HIV/AIDS issues will be presented and discussed in one of the next Committee meetings</p> <p>Status: Representative from the Fund introduced the Fund and possibilities for funding to HIV/AIDS projects in January 2005 Interservice group on HIV/AIDS in Europe meeting.</p>

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4.2.3. Enhance the development of epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS		
Host a meeting among Member States, relevant surveillance networks, WHO, UNAIDS, and interested neighbouring countries in order to review the existing HIV/AIDS surveillance and a need to develop it towards more comprehensive surveillance, including data on behaviour and social issues (November 2004).	<p>Commitment: Host expert meeting in November 2004 to review current surveillance and identify further needed developments. (Done)</p> <p>Follow-up: Develop proposal of inclusion of data on behaviour and social issues by end of 2005.</p>	<p>Action: Commission will convene a meeting of the representatives of relevant EU-supported surveillance networks, Member States, EMCDDA, WHO, UNAIDS and other organisations with competence in these matters in order to review the work of existing HIV/AIDS surveillance networks, identify gaps and practicable steps to fill them up with special reference to behaviour and social issues and consider the desirability and added value of binding Community measures on national HIV/AIDS surveillance methods and reporting.</p> <p>Status: On 24 November consultative meeting with 10 external experts took place in Luxembourg. The goal of consultation was explained. The list of 18 actions have been invented and primarily discussed. The further work is pursued on e-mail.</p>
Establishment of European CDC and transfer of surveillance responsibilities to it.	<p>Commitment: Establishment of ECDC (done) and transfer of surveillance activities by end of 2007.</p>	<p>Action: To facilitate the process of transferring HIV/AIDS surveillance activities to the ECDC by the end of the current disease specific network contract.</p> <p>Status: The task will be completed in the framework of the EuroHIV project. One of the objectives is: "to prepare for the integration of HIV/AIDS surveillance into the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control". The contract is in final stage preparation.</p>
4.2.3. Research		
Promote the participation of the new Member States, Russia and countries from EU neighbourhood in networking activities related to HIV/AIDS	<p>Commitment: Encourage the involvement of researchers from the new Member States and from the EU neighbourhood in all calls for research proposals in 2005.</p>	<p>Action: Commission will make special efforts to involve researcher in the field of HIV/AIDS in research networks and Europe-wide research projects.</p> <p>Status: A call for research proposals has been published to finance networks of HIV/AIDS clinical trials in Europe. A similar call, focussed on vaccine networks, is under preparation</p>

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		for year 2005. In both calls the participation from new Member States and from the EU neighbourhood is specifically encouraged.
4.2.3. Involvement of Civil Society		
Include HIV/AIDS in the public health open forum conference 2005 to support the development of civil society's awareness and capacity to address HIV/AIDS related issues throughout the EU and in the neighbourhood (2005).	Commitment: Include civil society in the public health open forum conference 2005 (Done) Follow-up: Create framework for informal consultation with Civil Society (Done). Formulate the practical aspects of the Civil Society Forum and hold first meeting by June 2005.	Action: The Commission will inform and invite the Civil Society to all appropriate meetings on HIV/AIDS. Status: The leading NGOs on HIV/AIDS in Europe attended the Think Tank meeting on 19 and 20 January.
4.2.3. Neighbouring countries and Russia		
Taking into account Action Plans within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as the relevant Country Strategy Papers the Commission will encourage inclusion of HIV/AIDS activities as priority in instruments that are already in place in the neighbouring countries such as TACIS.	Commitment: Include HIV/AIDS in action plans under the formal cooperation with neighbouring countries by end of 2005.	Action: Russia: establishment of political relationship at all appropriate levels between EC and relevant authorities with regard to HIV/AIDS. Neighbourhood, in particular Ukraine and Moldova: follow-up of HIV/AIDS activities in the Action Plans. Status: Commissioner Kyprianou visited Moscow on 14 and 15 February.
Make the best use of existing instruments, in a coordinated manner, to better address the needs of the partner countries in the	Commitment: Hold a meeting of relevant Commissioners to identify appropriate use of existing	Action: High level meeting of the Commissioners will be held to define the political leadership challenge in addressing HIV/AIDS in the neighbouring countries. Status: In preparation

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neighbourhood respecting the external aid procedures and mandate for action agreed in the relevant Country Strategy papers.	instruments to assist partner countries in combating HIV/AIDS by September 2005.	
Host informal discussion on HIV/AIDS cooperation among interested parties in neighbouring countries (particularly Ukraine).	Commitment: Host a meeting with interested neighbouring countries by the end of 2005.	Action: Meeting will be held in Brussels or elsewhere with representatives of Ukraine, possibly in cooperation with Moldova and international or regional organizations to take place back-to-back with relevant Sub-committee covering public health issues. Status: To be discussed, in connection with next relevant PCA Subcommittee - date still to be announced.