

Channels of implementation of EC programmes in the area of HIV/AIDS

The European Commission supports HIV/AIDS related interventions in developing countries mainly through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria to which the Commission contributes EUR 100 million annually. Several geographical and thematic instruments¹ give additional support to actions at country or regional level through national and regional indicative programmes and through support to civil society organisations.

Bilateral country support is the main approach towards improved health outcomes in developing countries; the EC supports health sector reforms and healthcare delivery approaches ensuring improved access to and sustainability of basic services, including HIV/AIDS related services and development of human resources for health (HRH). Due to the consequences of the HIV epidemic on people, control of HIV/AIDS is also a priority of the health system dialogue. As a result, HIV/AIDS is mainstreamed into other sector interventions of the EC, for instance, education, infrastructure and transport.

For the delivery of complementary support through civil society organisation and other non state actors, the Commission has established procedures for the selection of projects through calls for proposals. Such a system aims at greater transparency and publicity concerning the use of public funds while respecting the principle of the right of initiative of NGOs and international organisations.

Calls for Proposals are usually announced in March-May of each year in the Annual Work Programmes outlining the priorities set for that specific year.

The next call for proposals supporting HIV/AIDS actions in Eastern neighbouring countries² is indicatively scheduled for second half of 2010.

More information about thematic activities in the area of health is available on http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/health/index_en.htm

Information concerning calls for proposals is available on http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm

¹ The 'Investing in People' thematic programme, Non state actors'

² Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

General information on EC services (i.e. contacts in each DG, addresses, websites, important links, etc.)

DG Development Human and Social Development Unit

Rue de la Science 15
B-1049 Brussels
http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/9interventionareas/humandev_en.cfm

DG Research Infectious Diseases Unit

Rue du Champ de Mars, 21
B-1050 Brussels
http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/poverty-diseases/aids_en.html
http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/index_en.html

DG Health and Consumers Directorate Public Health and Risk Assessment

Rue Alcide De Gasperi
L-2920 Luxembourg
http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm
<http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/>

EuropeAid Co-operation Office

41 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm
<http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/>



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The European Union to confront HIV/AIDS

Prevention, treatment, research
and support

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

European Programme for Action to confront HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria through external action 2007-2011

In response to the rapid worldwide spreading of the three main communicable diseases linked to poverty, and in particular HIV/AIDS, the European Commission has developed a coherent policy framework to confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis through external action. This led in April 2005 to the adoption of a European Programme for Action covering all developing countries for the period 2007-2011.

The Programme for Action suggested collective European Union (European Commission and EU Member States) action to support country-led programmes confronting the three diseases as well as action at global level in areas where the EU can add value. It also argued for an increasing EU contribution to help fill the financial gap, thus reflecting Europe's weight as international partner in development.

A mid-term review of this EU program for action was conducted in 2008, with a wide stakeholder's consultation, both in Europe and in Africa. Based on this progress report the (European) Council Presidency adopted Conclusions on 17 November 2009 which urged the European Commission and the Member States to do more, better and together by deepening policy dialogue and collaboration with partner countries and other development partners including private sector actors. The common goal should be to develop a long-term effective response to the three diseases and achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, and the MDG targets related to HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis by 2015.

The (European) Council Presidency reiterated the necessity to further develop EU collective action to promote a rights-based approach addressing the three diseases. It includes e.g. a collective effort in improving the information campaigns against stigmatisation and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS; supporting the involvement of people and communities affected; accelerating the scaling up of access to evidence-based, comprehensive HIV prevention; ensuring access to the full range of services and commodities; strengthening global attention and action to address gender inequality, and integrating HIV prevention and services into Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) activities.

The Conclusions underline that budget support, either general or by sector, has the potential to improve health services, but should be accompanied by a strong policy dialogue to address these matters. The Council considered the need to strengthen the relevant expertise and competences in EU delegations in order to improve the impact of this political and policy dialogue in the scope of a more coherent and effective division of labour with EU Member States in countries.

HIV/AIDS Research Programmes

HIV/AIDS research is a top priority for the European Commission. Our strategic approach aims at improving the prevention of future infections and the treatment of people currently living with HIV/AIDS.

Under the Seventh Research Framework Programme (2007-2013) the European Commission is pursuing collaborative research on new vaccines, microbicides, novel therapeutic approaches and cohort studies. During the first three years of FP7, a budget of approximately EUR 70 million has been committed to support translational research on HIV/AIDS.

EC-funded research projects in FP7 address:

- a) **Development of new vaccines candidates. These projects cover basic and preclinical research up to early human testing (about EUR 10 million per project over a period of 4-5 years).**
- b) **Discovery and development of new microbicides from basic research up to phase I clinical trial. (EUR 12 million over 5 years).**
- c) **Drug discovery and pre-clinical development of new anti-HIV drugs. The projects include basic and/or preclinical research (about EUR 3 million over 3-4 years per project).**
- d) **A network for surveillance and research on HIV and anti-HIV drug resistance. (10 million euro over 5 years).**

Other EU-funded collaborative research addresses treatment of HIV infected children, treatment of HIV and HIV co-infections specific for low and middle income countries, and a platform to support harmonisation of vaccine adjuvant testing.

Further information on our call for proposals and funded projects is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/poverty-diseases/index_en.html

EDCTP

The European Commission is financing capacity building and advanced clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa through the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). The EDCTP is an independent organisation based in the Netherlands and partnering with 15 European Member States plus Norway and Switzerland.

Created in September 2003, the EDCTP finances research on new drugs, vaccines and microbicides against the three main poverty-related diseases, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

The EDCTP is financed with EUR 200 million from the European Commission and EUR 200 million from the participating countries, combining funds both the research and development agencies in Participating States.

So far, the EDCTP has funded about 150 contracts, out of which 50 are clinical trials on the three diseases. In addition to these phase II and III trials, and as part of its capacity building priority, the Programme is financing many training activities, both on clinical research and ethical aspects in sub-Saharan Africa.

Additional information on the EDCTP can be found at www.edctp.org

Combating HIV/AIDS within the EU and in the neighbouring countries (2009- 2013)

The best response to HIV/AIDS remains a combination of health specific and wider social interventions.

A Commission communication (COM/2009/569) on "**Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009 -2013**". This Commission communication is accompanied by an action plan.

The Commission communication sets out the European Union's aims and actions for the next years in order

- to achieve a reduction of new HIV infections;
- to work towards ensuring access to prevention, treatment, care and support;
- to improve the quality of life of people living with, affected by or most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS across Europe.

All EU Member States, EU enlargement countries, EFTA countries and countries belonging to the European Neighbourhood Policy area, the Russian Federation, civil society and international organisations are invited to contribute towards achieving these goals. It is important to mobilise all efforts and resources to prevent HIV transmission effectively, to promote the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and affected communities, and to deliver high quality HIV treatment and care to all who need it.

To this end, the current HIV epidemic and expected future trends should be addressed along the following lines:

- (i) scaling up the implementation of prevention strategies, which effectively target local realities and needs, while working towards ensuring universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support;
- (ii) supporting an effective response to HIV/AIDS in priority regions;
- (iii) reinforcing means to reach and support the populations most-at-risk and most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS across Europe.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/health/sexual_health/hiv_aids/index_en.htm
Full information on the health programme, a funding instrument, can be found on the website of the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC): <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/index.html>