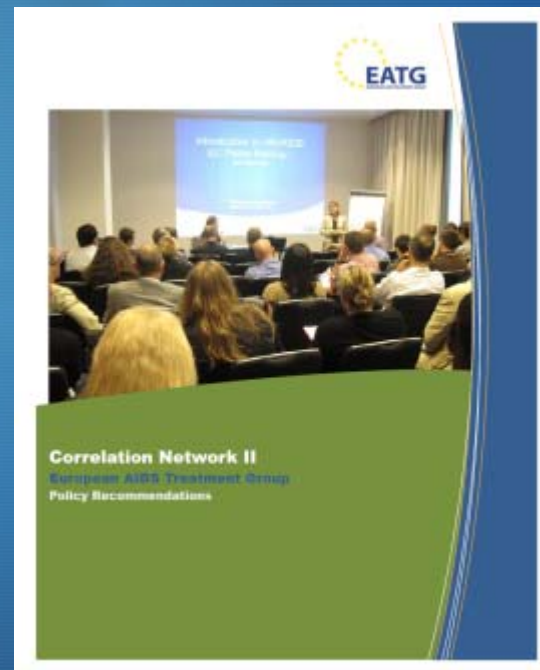




A FOCUSED RESPONSE TO HIV IN EUROPE

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SEXUAL HEALTH





Background

- 💧 Concerns about current EU responses to HIV epidemic: Inequity, high HIV prevalence in vulnerable groups, unequal access to services, lack of tailored services
- 💧 Methodology: identification, documentation, analysis, survey, and drafting
- 💧 Pan-European community-level experience of HIV among intravenous drug users, gay men, migrants, and sex workers



Recommendation 1: Basic Principles

Restate commitments to core set of basic principles, international conventions, and practical norms on a biannual basis

- Dublin, Vilnius, and Bremen Declarations, etc.
- Based on fundamental principles of public health, universal access and self-determination



Recommendation 2: Upholding Rights

Safeguard the human rights of populations most affected by HIV/AIDS

- 💧 Ratify/restate commitments to human rights for MSM, IDU, migrants, sex workers, prisoners, PLHIV
- 💧 Repeal laws that criminalize and increase vulnerability
- 💧 Act to eliminate discrimination



Recommendation 3: Civil Society Participation

Ensure civil society participation in all aspects of the national response

- 🟢 Civil society involvement in designing, implementing and evaluating the response, especially involvement of most affected populations and their representatives
- 🟢 Presupposes provision of sufficient funding
- 🟢 Promote partnerships between government and civil society



Recommendation 4: Policy Accountability

Provide greater accountability for national HIV policies

- ◆ Define HIV policy priorities in relation to core HIV commitments, human rights, epidemiology, and evidence of effectiveness
- ◆ Ensure coherence with other policy areas, e.g., public health, social welfare, and especially criminal justice and law enforcement



Recommendation 5: Ensuring Access

Ensure universal access to HIV services

- 🟢 Scale up efforts to reach most affected populations
- 🟢 Ensure equitable access to antiretroviral therapy and other services by most affected populations, regardless of legal status



Recommendation 6: Aligning Resources

Focus national HIV response on most affected populations

- 💧 Base programmes on epidemiological evidence
- 💧 Develop programmes to meet the needs of key populations: MSM, IDU, migrants, sex workers, prisoners and their sub-populations (IDU in prison or young, migrants from high prevalence countries or who are sex workers, bisexual men)



Recommendation 7: Effective Programmes

Ensure national HIV programmes are effective

- 💧 Invest in programmes that are evidence based
- 💧 Invest in programmes with a reasonable expectation of effectiveness where solid evidence not available, i.e., interventions more likely to reduce than increase harm
- 💧 Evaluate for effectiveness and tailoring to specific populations



Recommendation 8: Adequate Funding

Ensure adequate funding to implement the national response

- 🟢 Redeploy resources from programmes that criminalize and increase vulnerability of most affected populations
- 🟢 Concentrate resources on epidemic among most affected populations
- 🟢 Decisions based on effectiveness, including cost of non-action



Recommendation 9: Political Leadership

Appoint a strong political and public authority to implement recommendations and address national HIV challenges

- ◆ Measure leadership by extent of resources targeted at key populations
- ◆ Tackle difficult policy issues, e.g., harm reduction for IDU in prisons, criminalization of HIV transmission
- ◆ Ensure ART for key populations



Recommendation 10: Regional facilitation and collaboration

Collaborate across national governments towards a joint response where appropriate and where added value

- ◆ Adopt a combined regional approach to UNGASS and Dublin reporting
- ◆ Standardise definitions, e.g., ‘migrant’
- ◆ Review HIV prevention interventions as well as current indicators for measuring HIV programme coverage and HIV-related knowledge among most affected

Voices

- ◆ **Portugal:** *“Prevention of HIV infection is not exactly a top priority among MPs.”*
- ◆ **Italy:** *“Over the last few years, prevention and awareness campaigns have been reduced due to the restricted financial and media attention.”*
- ◆ **Slovakia:** *“In Slovakia, we do not have budget for the National AIDS Programme.”*
- ◆ **Romania:** *“The funding is so limited that the scope and reach of prevention and support activities are very low.”*



Activism Today

- ◆ Getting the biggest and most long-term impact
- ◆ ***FOR MONEY INVESTED*** (in contemporary Europe)
- ◆ ***IN THE SHORTEST TIME*** (in a growing epidemic)
- ◆ ***USING NEW NETWORKING TECHNOLOGIES*** (in international dialogue)



Towards a State level HIV Policy 'Report Card'?

- ✓ Reaffirmed core set of basic principles
- ✓ Repealed criminalization
- ✓ Ensured policy coherence, esp. with law enforcement
- ✓ Removed barriers in access to services
- ✓ Focused on most affected
- ✓ Invested in evidence based interventions
- ✓ Ensured adequate funding for national response
- ✓ Designated strong political and public authority
- ✓ Involved civil society, especially most affected
- ✓ Addressed issues regionally and at European level



Three Super-Strategies?

💧 ***End stockouts!***

- 💧 Ensure consistent and sustainable access to HIV medications

💧 ***Maximize the availability of HIV testing!***

- 💧 Significantly expand options for HIV testing among most affected

💧 ***Repeal laws that criminalize and stigmatise!***

- 💧 Decriminalize HIV transmission, homosexuality, IDU, sex work

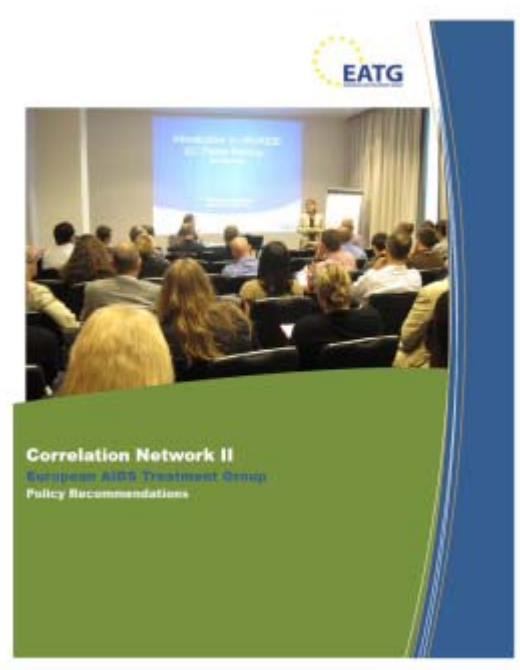


Conclusions

- 🟢 **Keep focus on our audience: European States and politicians**
- 🟢 **Have a clear sense of vision and priorities**
- 🟢 **Maximise the voice of the most affected**
- 🟢 **Innovate: keep refreshing**
- 🟢 **Follow up on the 10 Recommendations**



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