

Breaking the barriers, bridging the gaps:

Health-inequalities, the HIV/AIDS response and Political Leadership in the European Union

HIV/AIDS Correlation Policy Dialogue

**Brussels, Belgium
29 – 30 June 2011**

The overall objective of the HIV/AIDS Correlation Policy Dialogue meeting is to

- inform ongoing discussions as to what the response to HIV/AIDS in Europe at times of economic crisis should focus on to effectively address the epidemic and reduce health-inequalities in the EU
- galvanise focussed advocacy work, political leadership and commitment as to an comprehensive and effective response to the epidemic in Europe.

The meeting will bring together representatives from the HIV community from across Europe, HIV practitioners, practitioners working in harm reduction, national and international experts, as well as national and international policy makers involved in shaping the future response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Europe.

Background

This Correlation II event comprises three parts:

- i) a **training on HIV/AIDS policy making**
- ii) a **training on HIV/AIDS advocacy**
- iii) the **HIV/AIDS Correlation Policy Dialogue** meeting taking place in the European Parliament (29 June, 2-6 pm, Brussels)

The **training on HIV/AIDS policy making (i)** will provide an introduction to EU policy making in general, as well an introduction to HIV/AIDS relevant policy processes and institutions.

The **training on HIV/AIDS advocacy (ii)** provides an introduction into advocacy at EU level with a specific focus on HIV/AIDS policies, and shows opportunities on how to inform advocacy at European level from a national perspective. Furthermore, it will show how HIV advocates can leverage ongoing European processes to inform their advocacy work at national level and thereby contribute to shaping the reality of the HIV/AIDS response in their country.

The **HIV/AIDS Correlation Policy Dialogue meeting iii)** will take place in the **European Parliament** and will be **hosted by Maris Matias, Member of the European Parliament**.

The **HIV/AIDS Correlation Policy Dialogue** will provide

- a 'snap shot' about the state of epidemic in Europe
- an overview on progress made in the response presenting key results of the implementation of the Dublin Declaration on Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia

- an opportunity to discuss the HIV/AIDS Correlation Policy Recommendations to be presented
- an opportunity to learn from best practices at national level and European level in the HIV/AIDS response
- the starting point of a core group of Members of the European Parliament working on HIV/AIDS and co-infections in Europe

To whom is the seminar addressed?

Part i) and ii) are addressed to HIV/AIDS practitioners and practitioners from the harm reduction field working at national level, as well as public health advocates working on national and/or European level and keen to getting involved in HIV/AIDS advocacy at European level.

Participants to these parts will be expected to contribute to the development and implementation of an advocacy plan relating to policy recommendations to be presented and discussed during the HIV/AIDS Correlation Policy Dialogue meeting.

Part iii) is addressed to HIV practitioners, HIV advocates, representatives from the broader EU public health community and stakeholders keen to learn more about and actively shape the future of HIV/AIDS policy making in the EU.

Key topics:

The following issues will be addressed:

- What is the current **state of the epidemic** in Europe?
- What **approaches work and what doesn't seem to work**?
- What **principles** should an effective response be based on?
- What does **political leadership in the HIV/AIDS response** consist in?
- What **policy areas** should an effective and comprehensive response comprise?
- Why is a **European response** to the HIV/AIDS needed?

Practical information:

Participation to all three parts is limited to a maximum of **70 participants**.

A limited number of scholarships is available.

The costs of this two day seminar covering all three parts amount to 420 Euro which will cover accommodation, meals and conference participation.

Please pre-register to the meeting **by April 29 2011** indicating whether or not you are **applying for a scholarship to attend all three parts of the meeting**.

You can do so by sending an email to **Ruben.Alonso@eatg.org** describing how the seminar relates to your current work and area of expertise, your previous experience in advocacy at national and/or European level and how you expect to benefit from participating in the seminar.

Participation to the HIV/Correlation Policy Dialogue meeting in the European Parliament is limited to 120 participants and is free.

Deadline for registration to the public event only is 17 June 2011.