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Call for Tender

A Fact Finding Mission
In Republic of Serbia and border regions to EU in the frame of the EU-funded (Public Health Programme) project BORDERNETwork n° 20091202,

Area of Cooperation Interdisciplinary cross-border networking (Work Package 4) and Related to Community-based HIV/STI prevention among ethic minority/migrant groups (Work package 8)

I. General Objective of the Fact Finding Mission

To sort out gaps in and between the core strands HIV/AIDS/STI prevention, diagnostic and therapy in border areas between EU and ENP country, Serbia.

For the purpose of the assessment along the external EU border the BORDERNETwork project coordinated by SPI Forschung envisages subcontracting suitable organisation to conduct a *Fact Finding Mission.* In order to take advantage of the existing local expertise by the fulfilment of the task the project will involve subcontractor NGO in the ENP country Serbia.

This fact finding mission will take place outside of EU, but will implement the requirements of EU bearing direct benefit to EU citizens and will implement the methodology and instruments developed by the co-ordinator SPI Forschung responsible for the conducting of the tender and the selection of subcontractors.

II. Specific objective: Interdisciplinary networking

To scale up the implementation of highly active prevention through boosting network cooperation on national, model regional and cross-border level in CEE and SEE in a three-year period.

Involving civil society, public health and health care services in interdisciplinary networks the aim is to advance combination prevention, to coordinate bilateral health targets and assure their political and practical implementation in 5 EU model regions and in border areas to ENP countries.

Main focus of the fact finding mission will be on information on particularities of local epidemiological situation (e.g. HIV/AIDS/STI, HIV Co-infections, Tuberculosis) and patterns of risk related to social determinants of various vulnerable groups, e.g. young people at risk, mobile groups, representatives of most at risk groups (IDUs, Sex workers, ethnic minority/migrant groups), PLHIV. At same time the scope and barriers of the available prevention measures will be assessed. This will raise understanding about shortcomings of the measures undertaken so far and will study closer the needs related to prevention, medical and social offers, universal access to treatment, care and support for the affected communities

III. Subject of Tender

Preparation, conduct and report on Fact-finding Mission on situation in the EU border area to the Balkan region (Serbia) with regard to target group specific HIV/AIDS/STI prevention, with emphasize on

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ethnic minorities, and outline of social determinants and patterns of mobility in EU of special target mobile population groups.

Target groups to be addressed in the frame of the Fact Finding Mission:

- Mobile Young People (migrants or frequent travellers to EU) and representatives of ethnic minority communities in vulnerable situation (e.g. ROMA);
- Special focus will be put also on young women, working abroad, assessing the risk of trafficking in women.
- Additional focus will be on young PLHIV and their access to prevention, treatment and social assistance

Thematic priorities:

- Composition of the ethnic minorities in the country, most important ethnic minority group in terms of HIV/STI;
- Vulnerability of the group towards HIV, HIV/STI prevalence, affected regions;
- Access of the ethnic minority groups to information about HIV/STI prevention, diagnostic, counselling and treatment;
- Patterns of mobility, additional risks related to mobility;
- Access to services for HIV/STI prevention/HIV treatment, counselling and testing, sexual and reproductive health;
- Behaviour related to prevention of risks and risk-exposure;
- Needs related to information and skills for protection

Geographical scope:
Several regions in Republic Serbia with EU-border areas (e.g. to Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary)

IV. Tasks to be fulfilled

1.1. Desk review

- Review and systematic description of relevant information from background documents (reports, publications, presentations, web-sites) highlighting the particular context, incl. epidemiological situation and socio-demographic features of the most vulnerable groups and affected communities;

1.2. Small-scale field survey involving regional and community experts, stake-holders, target group representatives:

- The instrument based on *Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR)* method will be prepared in English by SPI Forschung as coordinator and AHW as responsible for the tender and delivered to the applicant for the analysis of the situation;

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- Data collection in the form of individual interviews or focus group discussions with target group representatives. The number of interviews and/or focus groups is to be defined by the applicant as part of the application and financial plan.

1.3. Data analysis and report writing

1.4. Submission of compiled Report on Fact Finding and summary (short version) in English to AHW and SPI Forschung

1.5. Participation in expert meeting and exchange on results of "Fact Finding Missions in different ENP countries in EU- border areas in Berlin in 2010 or 2011

Additionally experts from the ENP countries will be invited to participate in expert meetings, conferences and workshops in EU countries taking place in the frame of the relevant work packages of BORDERNETwork.

The budget for international travel is not part of this tender. AHW will cover the costs for participation in international expert workshops and meetings.

V. Financing

The total budget amount for the Fact Finding Mission, including all related expenses incurred in the country is 3 500 EUR.

VI. Time line

The time frame for the performance of the survey will be 3 to 6 months (between October 2010 and March 2011), including report, translation of report and submission to AHW.

VII. Criteria for selection of applicant:

- Relevance to the objectives and priorities of the call and solidity of the concept;
- Required competence in relation to the required thematic area and priorities;
- Cost-efficiency

Applications, including content description and detailed financial plan should be returned to AHW: eibl@aids.at and SPI Forschung GMBH: spi@spi-research.de only via e-mail by October 8, 2010 at latest:

The applications will be reviewed and feedback sent to the applicant by October 15, 2010.