

Berlin, 15th February 2011

Call for Tender

External Evaluation

In the frame of the EU-funded (Public Health Programme) project **BORDERNETwork**
n° 20091202,

Work Package 3

I. Background

The SPI Forschung gGmbH, Berlin coordinates the networking project **BORDERNETwork**, which receives co-funding from the European Commission (the Public Health Programme) and the German Health Ministry (BMG) for the period 2010-2012. The project has started on January 1, 2010 and will be ended on December 31, 2012.

BORDERNETwork is based on multi-sectorial commitment in the field of HIV/STI expanding upon two former projects BORDERNET (EU-funded, 2005-2007) and BORDERNETwork (financially supported in 2008 and 2009 by the German Ministry of Health). The network partnership aims at producing new practice-relevant models and their transfer to affected regions in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. 8 EU Member States (6 CEE countries) and 4 ENP countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) act as associated and collaborating partners, divided in 5 model cross-border regions.

The project's general objective is to improve the nexus between prevention, diagnostic and treatment of HIV/AIDS (incl. co-infections) and STIs through bridging gaps in practice, policies and cross-country cooperation and enhancing capacity in interdisciplinary response.

The project's action plan is structured in accordance to 6 specific objectives (presented below) and 9 work packages, coordinated by the SPI Forschung and other lead partners.

The work package 3 focuses on the project's evaluation, comprising the tasks of:

- **Internal evaluation** - implemented on regular basis by SPI as coordinator, with a priority focus on the process indicators, on the capacity and quality of network partnership;
- **External evaluation** – focus on the most relevant output and outcome indicators, subject of the call for tender at stake

II. Subject of Tender

Preparation, conduct and report on an external evaluation of the project BORDERNETwork.

Objective of the external Evaluation:

To measure the grade of success of the project against the formulated specific objectives and the most relevant output and outcome indicators.

All project indicators have been participatory developed by the co-ordinator and all work package leading partners during a special meeting with focus on the evaluation strategy. These indicators reflect the nature of the actions and cooperation under the core work packages and take reference to the milestones and deliverables to be produced.

Evaluation tasks:

On the basis of the output and outcome indicators to explore and evaluate the implementation of the project's overarching issues and outcomes in terms of:

- maintenance of balance between HIV/STIs prevention, diagnostic and therapy,
- scale up of combined prevention, reflecting the particularities of local contexts and target groups,
- mobilization of resources for civil society's participation
- involvement of diverse mix of public health stake holders.

Given the limited time and resources for the external evaluation a selection of the most relevant indicators to the project's general expected outcomes is suggested beneath. The application of the indicators ensues and is therefore interlinked with the achieved milestones and deliverables. Prerequisite for the measurement of particular indicator is the achievement of preliminary set milestone or produced deliverable (see the table below)

Project's specific objective, respective output and outcome indicators:

Specific objective 1: Interdisciplinary networks: 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		
Work Package 4	Output indicators	Outcome indicators
Relevant Milestones Regional committee meetings with stakeholders for presentation of report on health objectives (M25) Relevant Deliverable (D4) D4: Transferable concepts (good practice) for highly active prevention and list of common health objectives defined (M12)	2 concepts for highly active prevention (with foci according to the relevant core WPs) approved by the regional committees against the background of the common health objectives are available at M25	Concepts of highly-active prevention (D5) are planned to be introduced at local public health policy (e.g. letter of intent for support of the implementation signed) in M32-34;
Specific objective 2: Bridge research to practice: To advance by 2012 the state of research and evidence of HIV/STIs risks through outline of comparable risk behavioural indicators among vulnerable groups and to bridge findings to effective HIV combination prevention		
Work Package 5	Output indicators	Outcome indicators
Relevant Milestones -Compiling intermediate HIV/STI sentinel surveillance report in 4 EU countries (M22); - Reports on findings of HIV/STI sentinel (incl. behavioural) surveillance and qualitative survey in Sex Workers (incl. IDUs) in 6 EU countries, indicating the progress of implementation practice (M30) Relevant Deliverable (D6) D6: Recommendations for practical implementation of research findings updated by the regional network meetings (M30)	3 main relevant findings (from both second generation behaviour surveillance in SWs and HIV/STI sentinel surveillance) are formulated as research report in order to be discussed and updated by the regional network committees (WP4) in M23-24.	The updated action plans of at least 70% of partners participating in WP5 integrate prevention concepts based on research findings; communication of these to local health policy makers in M32.
Specific objective 3: Early diagnostic: To intensify efforts for two years in early diagnosis of HIV and STIs for most at risk groups based on human rights and gender equity and to decrease the number of those unaware of their infection status		

Work Package 6	Output indicators	Outcome indicators
<p>Relevant Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview report on available early HIV/STI diagnostic and VCT services for the respective high risk groups in the partner countries (M15); - Practical recommendation guide comparing up-take, outcomes and cost-effectiveness of different approaches to early HIV/STI diagnostic (M30) <p>Relevant Deliverable (D7) D7: Exchange workshop on best practices in early HIV/STIs diagnostic for most at risk groups, i.e. IDUs and SWs (M17)</p>	<p>20 professionals exchange expertise in different models of early HIV/STIs diagnostic for most-at-risk groups (SWs, IDUs, Roma) in M17.</p>	<p>10% increase in rates of HIV/STIs diagnostic service utilization by clients from most-at-risk groups among the participating services in WP6 in M32.</p>
<p>Specific objective 4: Referral and treatment systems: To augment by mid 2012 the country-specific evidence on treatment and care of HIV and co-infections and to enhance interlinks in referral systems for diagnostic, treatment and care of STIs, HIV/AIDS and co-infections</p>		
Work Package 7	Output indicators	Outcome indicators
<p>Relevant Milestones Report on stocktaking survey on country-specific medical conditions in diagnostic and treatment of HIV and Co-infections, incl. organigram (M15)</p> <p>Relevant Deliverable (D8) D8: Guidelines for referral and management of HIV Co-infections (M26)</p>	<p>Country-specific guidelines for referral and management of HIV Co-infections are drawn up (D8) in M26</p>	<p>The elaborated guidelines for referral and management of HIV Co-infections are applied by 70% of partners participating in WP7 for improved linkages between treatment systems in M28.</p>
<p>Specific objective 5: Participatory approaches: To improve HIV/STIs in two-and-a half-years period community based prevention and sexual health for ethnic minorities (e.g. ROMA) and migrant groups through capacity building in participatory prevention models</p>		
Work Package 8	Output indicators	Outcome indicators
<p>Relevant Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Report on survey and peer review on models of participatory HIV prevention among migrants/ethnic minority groups (M13); -Manual on effective 	<p>20 multipliers are trained (2 training seminars, D9) on 3 good practice models of participatory HIV prevention among ethnic minority/migrant groups in M15 and M23.</p>	<p>Training programmes in community HIV prevention among ethnic minority and migrant groups are available, developed by 70% of partners participating in WP8 based on the published manual in</p>

<p>intervention models for participatory community based HIV/STIs prevention published and disseminated (M30)</p> <p>Relevant Deliverable (D9) D9: 2 training seminars in 3 good practice models in participatory HIV/AIDS prevention for ethnic minority/migrant groups (M15)</p>		M34.
<p>Specific objective 6: Quality assurance in youth prevention: To enhance accountability and evidence-based evaluation in youth HIV/STIs prevention, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) programmes by end of 2011</p>		
<p>Work Package 9</p>	<p>Output indicators</p>	<p>Outcome indicators</p>
<p>Relevant Milestones Online evaluation tool for assessment of quality of youth prevention actions piloted, evaluated and available in Internet (M18)</p> <p>Relevant Deliverable (D10) D10: A conference satellite to the World AIDS Conference 2010 with visibility act for dissemination of evaluation results (M7)</p>	<p>- Draw up of guidelines for evaluation of various methods and measures of youth prevention in M3; - 30 youth prevention workers and peer educators from 10 countries trained (D10) in quality improvement in HIV/STI prevention and SRHR in M7</p>	<p>70% of partners participating in WP9 apply the online youth HIV prevention evaluation tool to improve accountability of youth prevention models in M24</p>

II. Action plan of external evaluation

Phase I

- Desk review of project relevant materials, reports, meetings and visits protocols
- Participation in Steering Committee Meeting of the project in Berlin and/or meeting with project's coordinator SPI
- Elaboration of evaluation guidelines and instruments

Phase II

- Conduction of evaluation through organisation of virtual (skype/telephone) meetings with selected partners and participation in on-site evaluation team meetings/workshops,
- Conduction of 5 on-site visits to the different model regions and partners;
- Application of various methods – questionnaires, observations, interviews, focus groups, narrative reports;
- Maintaining regular feedback with the coordinator and the work package leaders upon necessity to support the evaluation process

Phase III

- Writing and submission of Evaluation report in August 2012, which will be part of the projects final technical report.
- Presentation of evaluation report and recommendations at the project Evaluation Conference in Berlin in October 2012

III. Time line

The time line for the performance of the external evaluation covers the period from March 2011 (Project Month 15) until October 2012 (Project Month 34), including report, submission to SPI and presentation of results at project's Evaluation Conference.

IV. Financing

The budget subject of tender for external evaluation is 12 000 EUR.

In addition the travel costs related to participation in international meetings and on-site evaluation visits will be covered by SPI Forschung.

V. Criteria for selection of applicant:

- Relevance to the objective and thematic priorities of the call and solidity of the concept;
- Required competence in relation to the subject of tender;
- Cost-efficiency

Application, including content description, detailed financial plan and relevant expert experience in the field (attach CV) are requested to be returned to SPI Forschung GMBH only via e-mail until 1st of March 2011 at latest: spi@spi-research.de. In case of questions, please contact Tzvetina Arsova Netzelmann (arsova-netzelmann@spi-research.de) and Elfriede Steffan (e.steffan@spi-research.de)

Applications will be reviewed during a co-ordination team meeting and the applicants will be informed personally about the result of selection at latest until 15th March 2011