

**BORDERNETWORK KICK-OFF MEETING****MINUTES****Thursday, 01.07.2010, 16:30 – 18:00 h****Working Group on WP8: Community-based prevention among ethnic minority/migrant groups****Moderators: Milena Mihaylova, Radostina Antonova, HESED/Sofia****Participants:** Isabell Eibl/AHW, Jury Kalikov, Irina Mironova/AISC, Liliana Velica /ARAS, Barbora Kucharova, Slavomira Vojtekova/PRIMA, Tanja Gangarova, Sergiu Grimalschi/DAH,**Protocol:** Tzvetina Arsova Netzelmann/SPI Forschung

The moderators greeted the participants and presented the agenda of the working group:

1. Brief presentation of the activities of WP8
2. Brief presentation of the desk review findings with a Power Point;
3. Presentation and discussion in detail of the instrument for situation analysis in the area of cooperation of WP8
4. Next steps

Handouts had been prepared from both desk review report and survey instrument.

Firstly, the desk review findings have been concisely presented by Radostina Antonova. All in all 167 sources have been studied, whereby articles, reports, materials and project have been closely reviews. 6 websites have been additionally reviewed for relevant materials: ECDC, AIDS ACTION EUROPE, CORRELATION, Aids & Mobility, Euromanet and a research site for survey results on Roma survey in Spain.

The tow basic findings of the desk review:

- The collected data about the Roma communities in Europe are insufficient and rarely met
- The majority of the reviewed materials are reports and action plans for HIV prevention work among migrants (with African origin) in Europe

A printed material with relevant findings has been illustrated as an example of good quality action plan for prevention among migrants, i.e. "The knowledge, the will and the power", a document concerning African migrants in Europe of NAHIP, National African HIV Prevention Project in UK.

The working group participants added also further sources of information, e.g. SOROS survey on the situation of Roma communities and the European level conference on HIV and Roma in Budapest in 2007.

Secondly, the task of the situation analysis in each of the partner regions has been introduced by Milena Mihaylova. The objectives of the survey is to outline good models of community prevention among ethnic minorities and migrant groups, which each partner should see as chance to promote their experience and to bring it to European level.

As the desk review revealed there are very few resources targeting ethnic minority groups, and especially the group of Roma is underrepresented in the studies and action plans. Considering the major experience field of HESED being the community development work in Roma communities, the moderators suggested that it will be the one community addressed with the interventions. All partners were then invited to define which target community will they address both with the survey and later with the interventions of WP8.

There are differences in the partner contexts as for the major target groups/communities. In Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia the Roma communities will be the main group envisaged when collecting data on effective practices for community-based prevention. In Estonia the partners will address the ethnic minority group of the Russians in the country, counting for 40% of the population, which is however very different in their socio-demographic profile than the groups of Roma. In Austria and Germany (collaborating partner: DAH) the focus is on migrant groups not on ethnic minorities and the most difficult task in the situation survey as expressed by the Austrian partner is how to select only one community to focus on. In the discussion it was clarified and agreed upon that the migrant communities, considered as most vulnerable with regard to HIV/STIs in the particular country context will be selected and not those with biggest proportion in the country's population.

The instrument was reviewed and discussed in details, some of the questions have been specified, some new questions added. The team of HESED will update the version and mail it to all associated and relevant collaborating partners for review.

Next steps in 2010:

- Rework survey's instrument with amendments from the working group and circulate it to all associated partners in July 2010 (M7);
- DAH as collaborating partner expressed readiness to circulate the instrument in their national network of projects addressing ethnic minorities and migrant groups. The feedback questionnaires from DAH-branch organisations will be also considered in the process of peer review of best practices in participatory prevention work with ethnic minorities and migrants,
- The partners will be requested to return questionnaires by end of September 2010 (M9) as the results of those are the basis for the first Exchange seminar to take place in M10 , see below,
- 2-days exchange seminar on community involvement and participation in HIV prevention – focus on needs assessment and good practices – the seminar is planned for October 18-20 2010 in Sofia in the Roma neighbourhood "Fakulteta". Two representatives of each associated partner from Austria, Estonia, Slovak Republic, Romania and Latvia (in case new partner will be identified and signs a contract for BORDERNETwork) active in WP8 will attend the meeting. Besides DAH's representative will be invited as collaborating partner. Further experts from NON-EU countries will be invited from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina/Republic Srpska. The co-ordinator SPI Forschung will be also present at the seminar.
- The survey's report will be submitted in English by HESED by end of January 2011 (M13).
- The first training workshop in good models for community based prevention will take place in Bucharest in March 2011 (M15). There the HESED team will offer training in the evidence-based method of POL (Popular opinion leader) for community based prevention.
- As a result of the exchange seminar in Sofia and the survey 2 further models of good practice will be outlines and the teams will be invited to conduct training sessions during the 2<sup>nd</sup> training workshop on WP8, to take place in Vienna in November 2011 (M23).