

Guidelines For Qualitative Key Informant Expert Interview as part of the Rapid Assessment and Response

In the frame of a
Fact Finding Mission (FFM) in NON-EU countries and EU
border Areas



Work package 4 Interdisciplinary cross-border Networking

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Structure of the Interview:

- I. **Time:** 45 min. up to 1 hour
- II. **Target key informants:** professionals (health care, social workers, psychologists, educators) and lay professionals (peer workers, cultural mediators) from NGO and GO medical and social services, involved in the management or provision of the services in the field of HIV/STI prevention, diagnostic and care for the FFM target group - relevant vulnerable groups/communities (e.g. female and male sex workers, Roma ethnic minorities, Roma sex workers, i.d. users, adolescents and young people at risk)
- III. **Conductors:** Skilled members of the team of the subcontractors (i.e. JAZAS, PROI, SALUS, CREDINTA), at best team of 2 (one moderating the interview and one note-keeper)
- IV. **Materials:** Guidelines for interview, notebook and pencils, tape recorder (in case the interviews will be recorder), BORDERNETwork flyer with information on the project, presentation materials of subcontractor's organisation
- V. **Activities:**
 - **Introduction:** present yourselves and the purpose of the Interview; present the Fact Finding Mission as part of the BORDERNETwork project and the outcome of it as an added value to the collaboration between EU countries and ENP region in the field of HIV/STI prevention. Present briefly your organisation and the role in the BORDERNETwork;
 - **Core part of Interview** – follow with a semi-structured open questions' talk, guiding it according to the topics the informants address and providing them free space for sharing their opinion and views. The questions beneath are an exemplary suggestion of which topics to cover, you do not need to follow them strictly in their order of listing. You are free to change/add and modify the questions and areas of interest, without skipping the main focus of the interview.

Areas of interest and questions

1. Information on HIV/AIDS/STIs, Perceptions of HIV/AIDS and Risk Awareness of the selected target groups, according to the expert's opinion:

- *According to your professional experience and knowledge of the "field", what is the level of information of the target group at issue, e.g. sex workers (Roma sex workers) etc. on HIV/AIDS?*
- *What do you think of their level of information on methods of protection against HIV/STIs and unwanted pregnancy?*
- *What do you think of their level of information on HIV testing? And on HIV treatment?*
- *Which are the prevailing information gaps and misperceptions of HIV/AIDS?*
- *Do you think that the members of this group feel at risk of getting HIV/AIDS? Which are their main fears in relation to it?*
- *Is there difference according to you in their vulnerability to HIV and to other STIs? How do you explain this?*

- Which are according to you the most vulnerable among this group? Is there a special gender/age/socio demographic/socioeconomic/cultural feature which defines them as the most vulnerable within their communities?
- What are the main social determinants of the health of this group according to you?
- Is there a wide spread fear of stigmatisation and exclusion from one's community among the group or their background community if they would be HIV infected?

2. Mobility and risk exposure

- How is mobility related to their risk exposure? Do you know something and what precisely about their patterns of mobility? Do they travel within the country? Do they travel abroad? Please specify EU countries and NON-EU countries, to which countries do they travel most often? How often do they travel? How long do they stay there? What is the main purpose of travel?

3. HIV/STI-related information, education and prevention and access

- Which are the main channels for HIV information?
Together with the informant make a list of the main actors/channel crucial to the dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS among the target group of the FFM:
- Discuss **strengths** and **weaknesses** of 2-3 actors from the list above in relation to their activity of information, education and prevention of the target group on HIV/AIDS?
- What is the quality of the culturally sensitive information materials produced by the actors under consideration for the target group? What kind of knowledge do they transfer? Is the transfer of knowledge enough?
- What kind of information should be given/what activity could be carried out in order to respond more appropriately to the information needs of the target group in relation to HIV/AIDS?
- Elaborate a list of suggestions and "guidelines" relevant to information activity on HIV/AIDS (general information, risk, protection, treatment, testing) to be presented in the plenary (and eventually to be included in the manual)

4. HIV/STI-related services – access to counselling, testing, diagnostic and treatment

- Could you please tell about your experience in your service with representatives of the target group?
 - Do the target group representatives enjoy same condition of access to counselling/testing/Diagnostic and treatment services as the other citizens in the country? If not due to what reasons?
 - What are the conditions for access to HIV/STI diagnostic for the target group representatives?
 - What are the critical areas, difficulties and barriers? Please specify accordingly, the **target group-driven barriers** and the **service-related barriers**?
 - It seems that if diagnosed with STI and/or HIV just a few would talk to a doctor. Do you agree with such a finding? Why? Many people, may not trust the confidentiality of the health services? What do you think about that? How would you explain that?
 - What are your ideas and recommendations for improvement of the access and the utilization of the services? Please specify, in **the short-term** and in **the long-term**?

VI. Conclusion part – general comments, appreciation of time and views shared and closing of interview