

## News

- [Comprehensive AIDS Review 2011: Four things you need to know \(ICASO Action Alert\)](#)
- [Sign the petition of Hungarian NGOs for evidence-based drug policies](#)
- [New manager for ROST project](#)
- [AIDS Action Europe welcomes new team member](#)

## Other

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Members section: Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes](#)
- [News from the AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee](#)
- [Contact information](#)

## News

### Comprehensive AIDS Review for 2011: Four things you need to know

*(Icaso Action Alert)* In December 2010 the United Nations General Assembly approved a Resolution (A/Res/65/180) that sets out the process for the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress in implementing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

Please take into consideration the following decisions contained in the Resolution when planning your advocacy actions:

1. High level meeting to take place June 8-10, 2011 and to have plenary sessions and panel discussions
2. Civil society encouraged to participate (through an accreditation process or in government delegations)
3. Civil society hearing to take place in April 2011
4. Member states will negotiate an outcome document to be approved at the meeting

In the ICASO Action Alert you will find further information about the high-level meeting, civil society involvement and hearing, and the outcome document. The action alert also describes key advocacy actions that you can take now to ensure community sector involvement in the high-level meeting.



[Back to top](#)

[More](#) 

### Sign the petition of Hungarian NGOs for evidence-based drug policies



A few weeks before it takes over the EU presidency, the Hungarian government announced that it does not support the country's national drug strategy because they say it's based on "drug liberalization and harm reduction" - even though the document is supported by the vast majority of professionals and civil society organizations and it is fully in line with the EU drug strategy. In addition, the national drug coordinator was dismissed, the National Drug Prevention Institute was abolished and the drug budget was significantly cut. NGOs walked out from the meeting of the governmental drug coordination committee in protest.

*Would you like to see a government as a president of the EU that does not support harm reduction? If not, please sign the petition of Hungarian NGOs, service providers and activists and urge the government to return to the principles of a*

balanced, evidence-based drug policy!

## New project manager for ROST project

We would like to introduce to you Elena Zaitseva, who is the new manager of our project 'Responding to HIV through Organisational Support and Technical Cooperation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia' (ROST). Elena will be taking over this role from Elizaveta Berezina who will continue to work as a project officer for AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW). Elena has been working as Project Manager for AFEW since 2007. Elena has been responsible for developing and implementing two project streams as part of the GLOBUS project: prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and HIV counselling.

In her work, Elena is especially committed to contribute to the following global health issues:

- Developing sexual education programmes for young people;
- furthering rehabilitation programmes for drug users, including harm reduction projects;
- Working on HIV prevention among the general public;
- preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

If you have any questions about the ROST project, please contact Elena at [Elena\\_Zaitseva@afew.org](mailto:Elena_Zaitseva@afew.org)

## AIDS Action Europe welcomes new team member

Some of you might remember her from our good practice seminars on resource mobilisation and public policy dialogue, which she organised for AIDS Action Europe in October 2008 in the Netherlands. Jolan van Herwaarden now joined AIDS Action Europe as a full team member. On January 1st she started as the new Fundraising Coordinator for AIDS Action Europe. Jolan introduces herself below.



*I have been active in the not-for-profit sector for almost 18 years starting as the event manager for the Aids Fonds in 1991 in Holland. Walk for Life soon became a European event as well as a Hairdressers World Aids Day. I have been part of several 'movements' that wanted to change the world for example to make a better world for women, people living with HIV/AIDS and fight against cancer. As a Senior Fundraiser, as Head of Fundraising and Communications and as Major Donor fundraiser I was involved with Mama Cash, Simavi and Royal Cancer Society in Holland. After moving to the United Kingdom in 2003 I joined the International HIV/AIDS Alliance as the Donor Relations Manager and became an active board member at the Sussex Beacon, a local HIV hospice. World Aids Day 2005 was a special year as all Sussex-based HIV organisations participated in a HIV Postcard Campaign which I coordinated. The campaign resulted in an exhibition in local libraries and a booklet with a selection of the postcard entries.*

## Upcoming events

Upgrading NGO Lobbying practices

17-02-2011 - 17-02-2011 (Brussels, Belgium)

New challenges, New solutions

23-02-2011 - 25-02-2011 (Vienna, Austria)

International Symposium: Zero Tolerance on Domestic Violence: Towards a Comprehensive EU-Wide Strategy

03-03-2011 - 03-03-2011 (Brussels, Belgium)

Training event & presentation of a new social intervention tool for online outreach

17-03-2011 - 19-03-2011 (Padova, Italy)

E-health: A new holistic healthcare plan for Europe

23-03-2011 - 24-03-2011 (Brussels, Belgium)

HIV/AIDS policy recommendations, reduce existing health inequalities in the EU

POSTPONED to spring 2011 (Brussels, Belgium)

Harm Reduction 2011: IHRA's 22nd International Conference 'Building Capacity, Redressing Neglect'

03-04-2011 - 07-04-2011 (Beirut, Lebanon)

HIV in Europe - Unity and Diversity

23-05-2011 - 25-05-2011 (Tallinn, Estonia)

6th IAS Conference on HIV pathogenesis, treatment and prevention

17-07-2011 - 20-07-2011 (Rome, Italy)

Health in Prison and Throughcare: Provision and continuity of care for those in the criminal Justice System

05-10-2011 - 07-10-2011 (Abano Terme, Italy)

13th European AIDS Conference

12-10-2011 - 15-10-2011 (Belgrade, Serbia)

Men, Men, Sex and HIV - the future of European prevention among MSM

10-11-2011 - 11-11-2011 (Stockholm, Sweden)

[Back to top](#)

[More](#)

## Reports

### Report of the 12th meeting of the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

The HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF) has been established by the European Commission as an informal working group to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations, including those representing people living with HIV/AIDS, in policy development and implementation and in information exchange activities. This 12th meeting that took place on October 26-27 in Luxemburg, focused on a variety of issues, such as:

- Council conclusion on the Commission Communication on HIV/AIDS
- CSF Position Statement on Drugs Policies
- ILO recommendation on HIV and the world of work

You can read the full report of the meeting on the AIDS Action Europe website. Here you can also download the different presentations as well as a summary report.

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### Advancing Evidence and Equity: Report on the XVII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010)

The purpose of this report is to provide a concise summary of key findings and lessons learned from AIDS 2010 for those working in HIV and related fields. Focus is on new advances that are likely to have a significant impact on the global response to AIDS in the months and years to come. Highlights within each of the three conference programme areas – Science, Leadership and Accountability, and Community – and for the key topic of universal access and global HIV financing are presented, along with an analysis of the implications of conference outcomes on HIV practice, policy and research.

[More](#)

### The European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS) Community Report 1

Report of the first European internet-based research project on homosexuality, homosexual behaviour and sexually transmitted infections (STI) among men who have sex with men. More than 180 000 gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) filled in the questionnaire, making EMIS the largest study ever conducted on sex between men. The report is available in different European languages.

[More](#)

### Achieving universal access in Eastern, South-East Europe and Central Asia – 2010: An HIV community perspective

The report aims to inform global, regional and national efforts to improve work towards universal access from a civil society perspective. It assesses the processes of setting and reviewing national targets focussing on levels of involvement of civil society, particularly those most affected by the epidemic like people living with HIV, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, sex workers, prisoners and migrants. Commitment is assessed as is the allocation and use of funds. The report also reviews progress over the last 5 years as well as lessons learned from the levels of commitment; the development of services and how they respond to epidemiological trends; and the human rights situation and response. Finally a set of recommendations is provided for governments, UN bodies,

international organizations and donors as well as civil society organizations on what could be done to keep universal access on the policy agenda and speed progress towards achieving it. The report was prepared within the project of EHRN "Achieving Universal Access: supporting community sector involvement and advocacy" implemented in partnership with International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO). The report will become available soon. For more information please contact [marija@harm-reduction.org](mailto:marija@harm-reduction.org).

More

[Back to top](#)

## Members section: Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes

*The following section is devoted to the members of AIDS Action Europe. AIDS Action Europe currently unites more than 400 NGOs in 46 countries in Europe and Central Asia. In each e-news, one of our member NGOs presents its organisation and its activities to the rest of the network. We hope that this will inspire other NGOs throughout the region and that it will encourage further linking and learning between our members. Together we can work to a better response to the HIV epidemic! Do you want to present your organisation in our next e-news? Please contact our communications coordinator [Martine van der Meulen](#).*

### Our member: Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes Onlus

The Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes (CDCP) is a non-profit association that was founded in 1982 by sex workers. Its main objective is to provide assistance to sex workers. Activities of the Committee include:

- organising sensitisation campaigns aimed at raising public awareness about the dignity and rights of sex workers;
- promoting vocational training courses for the empowerment of female sex workers and improving their quality of life;
- advocating to change the law on prostitution (regarding issues such as de-penalisation of prostitution; abolition of mandatory health checks and card indexing; exploitation and trafficking of human beings; and protection of civil rights of sex workers);
- disseminating information campaigns on HIV/AIDS and harm reduction;
- helping trafficked persons by promoting self-emancipation.



### Working with partners

CDCP Onlus has carried out mobile street unit interventions with several Municipalities as well as the Province of Turin, aimed at mapping out the needs of sex workers and the difficulties they encounter. The Committee has worked with several prestigious institutions, such as the Health Ministry, during a campaign against the spread of HIV/AIDS. CDCP is also one of the founders of Tampep (European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers). To this end, CDCP organises training courses for peer educators, cultural mediators, street operators, and social and health workers aiming to raise awareness on intervention methods applied by Tampep. Moreover, CDCP is also a permanent member of the National Focal Point (NFP) of the AIDS and Mobility observatory board at the National Institute for HIV/AIDS prevention.

### Stella Polare Project

Progetto Stella Polare is the direct assistance project of the Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes ONLUS. It is a social protection project aimed at encouraging self-determination and giving support to women who wish to escape from severe slavery conditions and sexual exploitation. It has been active since 1999. Progetto Stella Polare has 2 protected shelters. Its team is made up of a coordinator, an educator and a cultural mediator. The project gets further assistance from a psychologist; cultural mediators (of various nationalities); medical and para-medical professionals; local job agencies; reception facilities and all what not. Being a border town in North-East Italy and consequently having a high percentage of illegal entrance into the country, Trieste is the ideal place to locate the project. Stella Polare is operative throughout the North-East region as it is a member of the North-East network of other projects present in the area. It is also one of the several stations in Italy where calls from the national help-line against trafficking 800 290290 has been activated.

For more information about the Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes or the Stella Polare Project, please visit the website [www.lucciole.org](http://www.lucciole.org) or contact us at [lucciole.pordenone@gmail.com](mailto:lucciole.pordenone@gmail.com)

## News from the AIDS Action Europe Steering Committee

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The next Steering Committee meeting is planned for April 18-19 in Zagreb, Croatia. If you wish to raise any issues for discussion by the Steering Committee, please inform us by email at [office@aidsactioneurope.org](mailto:office@aidsactioneurope.org) by mid March. [Minutes of the meetings](#) are always posted on our website.

AIDS Action Europe would like to welcome three new members to its Steering Committee while saying goodbye to some members.

We are very happy to announce that Assel A. Janayeva (Public Organization "Amulet", Kazakhstan); Daria Ocheret, (Eurasian Harm Reduction Network), and Lella Cosmaro (LILA Milano ONLUS, Italy) will join the Steering Committee for a period of 3 years. In addition, Harry Witzthum, current Chair of the Steering Committee, was re-elected for a one-year extension as Chair. The term of Ton Coenen from STI AIDS Netherlands, who has a fixed seat on the Steering Committee, was also extended with three years. We are positive that the new composition of the Steering Committee will bring fresh spirit to AIDS Action Europe in reaching our mission of creating a more effective response to the HIV epidemic in Europe!

We thank Nataliya Salabai from the All-Ukrainian network of PLWA, Aisuluu Bolotbaeva from the United Nations Development Programme in Kyrgyzstan and Ulrich Heide from the German AIDS Foundation for their commitment, dedication and contribution to the Steering Committee.

Click here for an overview of our [current staff and steering committee members](#).

[Back to top](#)

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