

Dear BORDERNETwork partners, national and international experts, dear colleagues, dear reader,

We are glad to inform you that the project advances in its second year of implementation, intensive with exchange, competence building and training events under various thematic areas. All of them are united by the effort to improve the links between HIV and STI prevention, diagnostic and therapy and to produce synergies from the multidisciplinary cooperation across 5 model regions in Europe.

Herewith we offer you an overview on the most recent developments and invite you to share the information about the oncoming events in 2011 in your regions.

Highlights of the work in 2011

Second European Experts Meeting on HIV youth prevention (WP9)

Vienna

The Meeting „Accountability and evidence based evaluation in youth prevention, sexual and reproductive health and rights“ took place on February 21 and 22, 2011 in Vienna, Austria and was hosted by Aids Hilfe Wien, who is the lead partner of WP9.

16 youth HIV prevention and sexual health promotion experts from 6 EU and 4 ENP countries participated. 9

NGOs, 1 national institute, 1 university, 1 regional clinic and the project co-ordinator SPI Forschung were represented. The meeting's objective was to test, discuss in detail and improve the online version of the Quality Improvement and Evaluation Tool QUIET, which has been jointly adapted in the frame of WP9 cooperation. Beforehand the partners had been asked to fill out the print version of the QUIET and to share their experiences at the meeting.

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Project's external evaluation



Upon completion of the testing phase by end of 2011 the online tool will be officially published and will be accessible to the interested youth HIV prevention actors throughout Europe.



Second Project Committee Meeting (WP1) Berlin

The second steering committee meeting of the project took place in Berlin on March 10 and 11, 2011. The project coordinator SPI, Work Package Leading partners and selected associated partners came together in Berlin in order to present, discuss and assess the stage of progress of the individual work packages, review the completion of the most relevant milestones and deliverables and preparation for the project's interim report. The tasks of project dissemination and evaluation were additionally discussed.



The meeting was attended by 22 participants from 6 EU countries and from the EAHC's Scientific Project Officer Mrs. Cinthia Menel – Lemos.

International Capacity Building POL Training Seminar (WP8) Bucharest



In the frame of the community-based participatory prevention among migrant and ethnic minority groups (WP8) a second important meeting took place, which is one of the project's Deliverables (D9). The 2-days training seminar in the method POL (Popular Opinion Leader) for Participatory Community-based HIV/STI Prevention for ethnic minorities (Roma) and migrant groups took place on March 28 till 30, 2011 in Bucharest. Hosted by the Romanian partner ARAS, the training was facilitated by Radostina Antonova and Boyan Vasilev from the

Bulgarian Foundation HESED, lead partner of WP8.



The participants of the training represented a wide range of different professional backgrounds, e.g. psychologists, doctors, social workers and nurses, currently working as HIV/STI prevention community-based workers, cultural mediators, community health workers, social assistants and youth prevention worker. In total 20 participants from 7 EU and 2 NON-EU countries representing 8 civil society organizations and the co-ordinator SPI attended the training. Next build up training on the method of POL and other proved effective community-based prevention methods will follow in November 2011 in Vienna.



*Still to come in 2011.
Save the Date!*

BORDERNETwork at the European HIV Conference 2011 in Estonia (WP6)

The European HIV Conference 2011 "HIV in European Region – Unity and Diversity"; will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, **from 25th to 27th of May, 2011.**

The National Institute for Health Development, Estonia, organises jointly with SPI Forschung a BORDERNETwork Satellite Workshop to discuss and share experiences in improving access to early diagnostic of HIV/STI for key populations and referral to treatment services.



Alongside with presentation of first BORDERNETwork assessment findings in that area and examples of good practice, several related topics will be tackled. Further international speakers at the Satellite represent ECDC, WHO Regional Office for

Europe, Ghent University, the HIV-COBATEST Project, the Imp.Ac.T. Project.

The Satellite Workshop takes place in **26 May 2011, 4–8PM, Nokia Concert Hall, Tallinn, Estonia.** For more detailed agenda please visit the conference Web site at <http://www.aids2011.com/en/Related-events/The-BORDERNETwork-project->



Medical Training Workshop and Exchange Visit on HIV and Hepatitis B/C Co- infections (WP7)

Potsdam

In the frame of the cooperation on management of HIV and Co-infections, AIDS-Hilfe Potsdam, lead partner of WP7 conducted a stocktaking survey in 7 countries (6 EU and 1 NON EU) on country-specific medical conditions in diagnostic and treatment of HIV and Hepatitis B/C Co-infections.

In a next step a 3-days medical workshop will be held in **June 27-29, 2011 in Potsdam, Germany.** The

workshop addresses HIV-treatment experts and medical specialists from various treatment settings and will be attended by practitioners from Germany, Estonia, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. A second medical workshop will follow in Rostock, Germany in November 2011, organized jointly by MAT, the Medical University in Rostock and AIDS-Hilfe Potsdam.



Cross-border Youth Film Days in Swinemünde, Poland (WP9)

The German-Polish BORDERNETwork model region organises a next serie of youth HIV prevention events.



The cross-border Youth Film Days (YFD) on the topic of Love, Sexuality, Contraception and AIDS will be hosted **on June 9, 2011** by the town of **Swinemünde in Poland**. Total of 800 16 to 20 years-old students from 10 schools, both secondary and vocational schools, together with teachers, educators and social workers will attend the event. The organising committee includes all important relevant partners in the region: SPWSZ, Stettin, the city health authority in Swinemünde, the civil society organisations DADU and TADA, MAT and the public health office Anklam from Germany.



Project's external Evaluation (WP3)

The tender for external evaluator of the project has been successfully completed. BORDERNETwork is glad to present to the project's network and to the further stakeholders Prof. Dr. Sibylle Nideröst. Representing the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, School of Social Work she will conduct the external evaluation between May 2011 and August 2012.



Prof. Dr. Sibylle Nideröst studied sociology, social work and constitutional law at the University of Zurich, Switzerland and received a

PhD in sociology in 2007. Since 2009, she is a full professor at the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, School of Social Work, in Olten. She is the responsible of the research foci "people in the context of HIV/AIDS" of the Institute Integration and Participation.

Over the last 10 years, she realized numerous qualitative and quantitative research projects, in cooperation with European partners (EUROSUPPORT Studies 4 and 5) as well as nationwide.

We wish successful collaboration!!!!

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