

Dear BORDERNETwork partners, dear colleagues,

Dear reader,

Our project advances already into its second half. After a busy reporting period at the end of the summer we are glad to state on the whole that project development is on the course for success.

The concentrated working programme throughout the first project's half brought first specific outcomes:

- *Intermediate report on STI-Sentinel surveillance in 4 EU countries (WP5)*
- *Assessment of the barriers to early HIV/STI diagnostic for vulnerable groups (WP6)*
- *Stock-taking survey on country-specific conditions for treatment and referral of HIV and Co-infections (WP7)*
- *Assessment of good practice models in participatory HIV prevention with minorities and migrant groups (WP8)*
- *Development and trial of on-line quality development and improvement tool QUIET for youth HIV prevention and SRHR (WP9)*

All these can be reviewed at: www.bordnet.eu

Herewith we like to focus your attention on some of the most recent events and the oncoming highlights till the end of the year.

What has been up in the network over the summer? *Cross-border cooperation (WP4)*



◆ In July 2011 Austrian and Slovak Partners (Model Region III) met in Vienna. Present were collaborators of PRIMA, Bratislava, AHW and SOPHIE-A Place of Education, Vienna.

The main topics of exchange were HIV/STI prevention among MSM,

the work in the gay scene in Vienna and the services for sex workers. The partners made an on-site visit to the premises of SOPHIE and got impressions from the outreach work and the other services offered there.



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November 18, 2011, Berlin (DE)

November 23-24, 2011, Rostock (DE)

November 29, 2011, Stettin (PL)

BORDERNETwork and networking at European level



◆ In **September 2011** Estonian and Latvian partners (Model Region IV) met in Riga. Two colleagues from Estonian **National Institute for Health Development** visited **Latvia's Association for Family Planning and Sexual Health „Pāpārdes zieds”** and **Infectology Center of Latvia**. The meetings included also on-site visits to low threshold VCT centres located in Kuldīga and a drug treatment and rehabilitation house. Besides the Latvian co-ordinator of the bio-behavioural surveillance among sex workers from the AIDS Counselling Centre in Riga had a great opportunity to get acquainted with the Estonian experience, as the survey's data collection has already been successfully completed in Tallinn.



Photo: Ms Inga Bulmiste, the specialist of AIDS Counselling Centre introduces Estonian colleagues with the clients registration system



◆ In **October 2011** cross-border working meeting (Model Region I) of German (MAT, Rostock) and Polish (SPWSZ, Stettin) partners took place in Stettin (PL). Main topics

of discussion were the oncoming two expert workshops in Rostock in November (read more below), the conduction of pilot communication trainings with medical students at the University of Rostock and the train-the trainers-courses (WP4).



Intergrated bio-behavioural surveillance among Sex Workers (WP5)

The field phase of the international second-generation sentinel surveillance among sex workers in 6 EU capital cities and one border area is close to an end. 211 sex workers were recruited for the survey in Tallinn, in Bratislava and Bucharest 200 each, in Sofia, 120 female and 80 male sex workers. In Riga 100 respondents have been reached so far, the data collection has just been completed. The field phase in the last survey location

Berlin/Brandenburg/Polish border area will be prolonged till March 2012, due to structural difficulties in the recruitment. Therefore the data collected in Germany and

Poland will not be part of the first international comparative assessment.

Piloting HIV/STI Diagnostic for key vulnerable groups (WP6)

In the period between June and December 2011 the partners collaborating under BORDERNETwork WP6, who are at same time prevention and diagnostic service providers, have the task to conduct a pilot HIV/STIs diagnostic campaign among selected most-at-risk group according to the local contexts. Thus in Estonia, partner notification and referral to STI services is being offered for IDUs and their sexual partners. In Latvia, male partners of female sex workers are addressed with STI testing offers (HIV, HCV, HBsAg, Syphilis). In Bulgaria male sex workers from marginalised Roma community are reached with diagnostic offers for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea. In Germany female sex workers in the German-Polish border area will be offered Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea testing also. In Romania and Slovak Republic low threshold HIV/STI testing (mobile ambulance) is offered to i.d. SWs and their partners and to homeless people. In Poland the access to HIV, HCV and Syphilis

diagnostic will be increased for the local community of young people and for women working in sex business.

A special pilot MSM campaign is conducted in Vienna

In the frame of WP 6 Aids Hilfe Vienna had started already in June 2011 outreach counseling and testing offer for MSM. The services were advertized with flyers, distributed in the gay scene, which were well accepted. Still the need for more advertisement and information was seen and therefore a new campaign is launched in November. Additionally to the flyers, special posters, matches, condoms, internet buttons and beer coasters will be disseminated. The slogan of the campaign "Nimm es selbst in die Hand. Kommst Du?" (in English "Take it in your Hand") stands in German also for the initiative to take the responsibility and should encourage the target group to take care of themselves and to be aware of one's own HIV status.

For more information visit: www.aids.at



What else is on BORDERNETwork's agenda by the end of 2011



November 8-10, 2011, Rostock (DE) and Stettin (PL)

The BORDERNETwork project and the Aids-Hilfe Potsdam implement the second 3-day medical training workshop and exchange visit for HIV treatment practitioners and infection disease specialists on HIV and Hepatitis B and C co-infections (WP7). For more information:

al@aidshilfe-potsdam.de



November 14-16, 2011, Vienna (AT)

The BORDERNETwork project, the Aids Hilfe Wien and the Health and Social Development Foundation Sofia conduct the second 3-days training seminar in effective participatory models for community based HIV prevention among

migrants/ethnic minorities (WP8). Three effective European and national models (A&M, PaKoMi, POL) will be illuminated in interactive workshops. For more information:

s.vassileva@hesed.bg
and lex@aids.at



November 18, 2011, Berlin (DE)

Robert-Koch Institute (RKI) organises the BORDERNETwork sentinel surveillance stakeholder meeting (WP5). The aim of this meeting is to present the first results from the STI- Sentinel surveillance in the four survey countries Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovak Republic. With participation of ECDC, WHO, further international and national experts, epidemiologists and clinical professionals difficulties and options for improvement of the sentinel system will be outlined. For more information: HaarK@rki.de

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*November 23-24,
2011, Rostock (DE)*

The mobile AIDS and sexual education team (MAT) Rostock conducts an expert meeting: "Sexuality and Communication", celebrating also the 20th anniversary of the organisation (WP4). A cross-border working meeting of German and Polish partners (MRI) will follow discussing the development of Curriculum in communication and counselling competence for medical university students.

For more information:

info@mat-mv.de



*November 29, 2011,
Stettin (PL)*

The BORDERNETwork Polish partners organise Youth Film Days on the occasion of the World AIDS Day 2011, for more information: malgorzatakr@wp.pl



BORDERNETwork and networking at European level

From 12 to 14 December 2011 the Coordination team of BORDERNETwork (SPI Forschung) will attend the Final Conference of the EU-funded project *Correlation* in Ljubljana (SLO). The project will moderate a workshop at the conference " **From culturally – sensitive to community based? The long way to participatory HIV/STI prevention with and for ethnic minorities and migrant communities**"

For more information:

http://www.correlation-net.org/correlation_conference_programme.html

*On behalf of the
BORDERNETwork Co-
ordination team we wish
you successful and fruitful
autumn time!*

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BORDER|NET work

