

## **AIDSTAR-Two Project Trip Report – Hague 10/27/10**

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5 key words:

MARPS, HIV/AIDS, MSM, Eastern Europe, Jamaica

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## AIDSTAR-Two Project Trip Report

### 1. Scope of Work:

Destination and Client(s)/ Partner(s)	Hague, ILGA-Europe 14 <sup>th</sup> annual conference
Traveler(s) Name, Role	Anna Dovbakh, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine technical support Hub senior manager  Elden Chamberlain. Most at Risk Populations and Network Specialist AIDSTAR-Two
Date of travel on Trip	27-31 <sup>st</sup> of October, 2010
Purpose of trip	Present to conference participants results of assessment conducted in 8 countries of Eastern Europe under the framework of the project ” <b>Men having sex with men in Eastern Europe: Assessment of a hidden epidemic</b> ” and start the discussion on the essential package of services for HIV prevention among MSM components
Objectives/Activities/ Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation of the assessment results to regional LGBT activists;</li> <li>2. Start productive discussion on the essential package of services for HIV prevention among MSM in Eastern Europe region and to define the role of structural interventions in it.</li> <li>3. Build partnership relations with LGBT and MSM-service organizations and activists from Eastern Europe, members of ILGA Europe for further development of working and effective consensus on the package of services.</li> </ol>
Background/Context, if appropriate.	This activity is done in the framework of the project “Hidden epidemic of HIV among MSM in Eastern Europe” as a part of a presentation of the results of the first stage and starting the development of a package of services as an outcome of the second stage of the project

### 2. Major Trip Accomplishments: Should include the major programmatic goals realized, relevant metrics, and stories of impact from the trip.

During the 14<sup>th</sup> ILGA-Europe conference there were several informal and one formal presentation of the assessment results to regional LGBT activists from Eastern Europe. On the 28-29<sup>th</sup> of October there were several meetings with activists from Moldova, Armenia, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine where I presented the results of the assessment. We also discussed future regional consultations in Kiev on November 22-24<sup>th</sup> as an opportunity for the development of the essential package of services as well as an opportunity for building consensus of LGBT and MSM-service organizations in Eastern Europe.

The key conclusions which appear from all individual and group informal discussions is that there are no strong divisions between LGBT and HIV-service organizations providing prevention and care services from MSM in most countries of Eastern Europe. The example of Gender-DocM shows that human rights protection for LGBT in Moldova in the case of HIV-epidemic will lead to the building of care and support services for MSM with HIV-positive status. At the same time effective HIV prevention for MSM could be possible in this region only if services are provided by the community itself. Armenia and Lithuania GLBT organizations, which now play the role of watch dog for the official AIDS centers working for MSM, give a good illustration of this. For LGBT organizations, as well as for HIV-service joint areas of service, the following are the key issues:

- Legal advice and support in the cases of stigma and discrimination;
- Providing safe place (community centre) to insure MSM/LGBT community dialog and building health

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awareness;

- Providing social and psychological support on the sexual health and homosexual relations;
- Support for the “coming -out” of MSM who need this;
- Support for relatives and friends in understanding homosexuality to reduce stigmatization;
- Providing possibility for community mobilization and activities.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October a formal special session, where results of assessment were presented, was attended by approximately 50 participants. The powerpoint for that session is attached. .

Using the results of the Eastern Europe assessment participants analyzed how LGBTI organizations can work closer with HIV-focused organizations especially in Eastern Europe to address broader health issues for the LGBTI communities and advocate for LGBTI-inclusive health policies at the state level.

Questions for discussion in the workshop:

- How important do you think developing enabling environment programs are in the core package of services for HIV?
- What are the critical issues that we should be addressing?
- How do we ensure that LGBT organisations “benefit” from the core package of services?

Key points of the discussion included:

- There is a big difference in the cooperation of HIV-service and LGBT organizations in Western Europe and in Eastern European (post-soviet) countries. In Western Europe HIV service is sponsored and organized properly on the local level and professionally targeted to MSM. In Eastern Europe the LGBT movement does not have any local resources for development of HIV-services targeted to injecting drug users and MSM. Prevention and care is not targeted to MSM. In most countries LGBT organizations become the only strong advocates to include MSM as a most at risk population.
- The need for human rights and structural interventions as a component of essential HIV prevention and care package of services for MSM should be promoted as this need is basic for any MSM coming for services in Eastern Europe (“*They are coming not for condoms or lubes, but to find people like themselves*”).
- HIV prevention and care services in Eastern Europe often are the only source of income for LGBT organizations allowing them to survive and develop their organizations’ program and technical capacities.

This workshop with participation of more than 50 LGBT activists from European LGBT organizations was the start of productive discussions on the essential package of services for HIV prevention among MSM in Eastern Europe and on defining the role of structural interventions in it. Further discussions will continue during the Regional consultation on MSM coordination planned in Kiev in November 2010 with support from UNDP.

As a result of the fruitful discussions during the conference AIDSTAR II/ Alliance was able to project a positive image of the regional project and initiated partnership relations with LGBT regional and national organizations for further development of the package of services.

### **3. Next steps:** Key actions to continue and/or complete work from trip.

Description of task	Responsible staff	Due date
To insure invitation of ILGA-Europe representatives on Regional consultation on MSM and TG services (Kiev,	A. Dovbakh	3rd of November

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November)		
To include the structural component in essential service package in the concept of package	A. Dovbakh	10th of November
To develop working relations with national LGBT organizations from Albania, Moldova, Georgia – to support their participation in Regional Consultation in Kiev	V. Rabinova	15th of November
To insure organizing and facilitation of further discussion of the structural component of MSM targeted services during the Regional Review committee meeting with experts from all Eastern Europe organization covered by the project	A. Dovbakh	25 <sup>th</sup> of November

**4. Contacts:** List key individuals contacted during your trip, including the contacts' organization, all contact information, and brief notes on interactions with the person.

Name	Contact info	Home organization	Notes
Maxim Anmeghichean	Programmes Director Phone: + 32 2 609 54 15	ILGA-Europe	Ways of the further cooperation between organization on the methodology of the legal support and stigma reduction activities in Eastern Europe countries
Kristi Pinderi	aleanca.al@gmail.com; kristipinderi@hotmail.com	Albanian LGBT initiative group	Possible working contacts with Albania HIV prevention for MSM experts
Aleksey Mawrov	Moldova, Kishenew	GenderDocM	Building cooperation, preparation of the Regional Consultation in Kiev, providing organizational and technical support for HIV service programs in Moldova
Kiamran Rzaev	Azerbaijan, Baku	Gender and Equality	Building cooperation, preparation of the Regional Consultation in Kiev, providing organizational and technical support for HIV service programs in Moldova
Oleh Aliohin	+380677851495	LIGA, Mykolaiv, Ukraine	Discussing possibilities of regional TS
Sergey Malkin	+310206234596 smalkin@coc.nl	COC Netherlands, program coordinator MATRA	Analyzing the 5 years regional project for HIV prevention and community mobilization implemented in seven countries of the region. Discussing possibilities of further programs development and TS provision on the bases of the AIDSTAR project results.

**5. Description of Relevant Documents / Addendums:** Give the document's file name, a brief description of the relevant document's value to other staff, as well as the document's location in eRooms or the MSH network. Examples could include finalized products and/or formal presentations, TraiNet Participant List, Participant Contact sheet, and Meeting/Workshop Participant Evaluation form are examples of relevant documents.

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File name	Description of file	Location of file
MSM_AIDSTAR _Presentation_HIV session_ILGA_v2. PPT	Presentation of the results of assessment and short presentation of the structural component of prevention, care and support services for MSM in Eastern Europe. Includes list of discussion questions. Prepared by Anna Dovbakh and Elden Chamberlain,	